

Auburn Cayuga County Homeless Taskforce

Meeting Minutes

March 8, 2023

Present: Renee Jensen, City of Auburn; Mary Rathbun, Cayuga County DSS; Kim Dunn, Chapel House; Nicole Gee, Street Outreach; Ed Pickard, Auburn PD; Shari Weiss, Cayuga Community Health Network; Mike Slomski, Chapel House; Alexa Hicks, Chapel House; Liz Vuillemot, Auburn Housing Authority; Liz Burke, Cayuga County Mental Health; Rosemary Radley, Auburn Rescue Mission; Amy Heintz, Auburn Rescue Mission; Christina Bennett, CAP; Meadow McDowell, Soldier On; Jordan Marsh, 211; Tory Thomas, 211; Judi Magee, Unity House; Arlene Ryan, Community Member; Timothy Donovan, Community Member; Drew Urbanek, Seymour Library; Megan Stuart, Housing and Homeless Coalition; Miranda Spencer, Housing and Homeless Coalition;

Next meeting: May 10th , 11 am, Auburn City Hall, 3rd Floor

1. Welcome and Introductions

Chair Renee Jensen called the meeting to order at 11:02 am. Introductions were made.

Renee called for approval of the previous meeting minutes with the proposed edits under Agency updates DSS proposed edit was made from 10 out of 15 beds at Rescue Mission to Chapel House. New Business correction was requested by Tim Donovan traditional soup kitchen, not conditional.

Renee asked for a motion to approve the previous meeting minutes with the edits. The motion to approve meeting minutes with edits was given Mary Rathbun, Tim Donovan seconded. Previous meeting minutes were approved. The last several years of previous meeting minutes will be posted on the Housing and Homelessness Coalition's website within the week.

www.hhccny.org

2. HHC Updates

Megan Stuart shared that the CoC successfully completed PIT count. The HHC staff is currently working on the county specific numbers. The unfinalized data is showing a 30% increase Coc-wide which is very significant. It is the highest single night number we have seen in 10 years. Unsheltered tripled from 9 to 32. We had been expecting an increase because of the pandemic and now we are seeing it reflected in our numbers.

HUD SNAPS representatives stated that the regular CoC NOFO will be coming earlier than normal and the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project will be released this month. we will have a workgroup to write the application so anyone who is interested in helping the HHC apply, please contact the HHC staff. NOFO competition will be starting in May, even though we

don't have the funding decision from last year yet. There will also be several other funding opportunities coming later in the year.

Miranda Spencer shared that the Youth Action Board finally has Cayuga youth representative. She thanked all the people who have gotten the word out among the Cayuga youth.

The HHC has an Instagram. Please follow @ hhccny

The HHC has a newsletter that is now bi-weekly. If people are interested in being added to the list serv, please let Renee know.

The finalized PIT report will be presented at the next meeting, and it will be paired with Housing Vision's presentation.

There is commitment from the governor for more ESSHI funding to coming out.

3. CoC Funded Programs

Chapel House: Kim Dunn shared they are in the process for applying for several grants as the Franklin Street updating is going to take a lot of funds. Beds are full at both shelters. They have begun seeing a small increase in positive outcomes. CDBG helped 6 individuals last month. Their RRH program is up and running and they just placed their 1st person in an apartment. This program will have 25 openings. STEHP program on hold as they are looking to move around some funding. DSS sends referrals for STEHP. Rental application fee funding has been difficult to find. They are still finding good changes from their restructuring. They are currently working on scheduling more meetings with DSS in the future.

CAP: Christina Bennett shared that HUD RAP is currently full with 16. They are at the top of the list for section 8 so there will be some graduations. ESG-CV RRH & prevention will be ending in September, so there will be some weaning off that program. HEAP is ending March 15th so now is the time to apply for those funds.

4. Agency Updates

DSS: Mary Rathbun shared they are currently housing 25 families: 18 hotels, 6 at the Rescue Mission. They are housing 102 single individuals, in 7 hotels and which also does not count Chapel House's Mens Shelter and ROLES. The CHES program is a flexible spending program to help families, started in February. This program has already prevented 6 families from entering homelessness. Cayuga County DSS should be able to serve 30 families with this funding. The eligibility is families with children under 18 or if a parent is pregnant and has to be working. It can provide up to \$2,000 for rental arrears and security deposit, one time only.

CC Mental Health: Liz Burke shared that there has been discussion about starting daytime mobile crisis program. They are a month away from kick-off. It will run like Liberty's current program. They will have a social worker working hours 9 am-5 pm. Liberty will do after hours. The biggest challenge has been finding staff. Right now, engagement will be through contacting main telephone number (315-253-0341) with a possibility in the future of going through 988. There will be some educational community meetings. Jordan March shared that there is some 211 intake ability for Seneca County from the Finger Lake's 211.

Street Outreach: Nicole Gee shared that she seen some success. Her first client will be moving into Sennett Meadows from living in his truck. She was also able to help prevent a family from eviction with a mainstream voucher. There have been a lot of challenges with landlords and some substance use.

City of Auburn: CBDG received \$7k less than last year. The City is working toward submitting the action plan to HUD for approval. July is when those applications will go out. Housing Visions working with them for emergency shelter. Micron will be bringing some affordable housing options to Auburn as well.

Soldier On: Meadow McDowell shared that they can now assist veteran clients up to 80% AMI. They can help with eviction prevention, or funding for utilities. She wanted to ensure that other agencies know their assistance capabilities so that other agencies can use their funds for civilians and Soldier On can focus on the veterans.

AHA: Liz Vuillemot shared section 8 vouchers will be opening next Wednesday at 8 am, on the Auburn Housing Authority's website.

Chapel House: Kim shared that Chapel House's longest employee Shawn Lynch was presented with Proclamation from the Mayor. Mayor Quill also declared a Chapel House Day (Feb 23rd).

5. PIT Update

Nicole shared Point In Time Count went really good. They had 16 volunteers. They came across 3 individuals in total. Two sheltered through a landlord contact. They had two dogs and the landlord decided to rent to them long term, not just for the night. One individual decided not to shelter. Volunteers found several dumpster divers and Dollar General donated several items to Street Outreach that they were planning on throwing away.

6. New Business

Cayuga Community Health Network is doing Landlord Training for landlords in city of Auburn, Saturday, March 25th from 8 am to 1 pm. Fire safety, lead, hoarding, and fair housing. CCHH is partnering with several other agencies for these trainings. Landlords can sign up on their

website (<https://www.cayugahealthnetwork.org>) or call the office at (315) 252-4212. The location of the training will be at Café 108 so seating is limited.

Tim shared his coat drive was a success. One hundred and eighty coats along with winter accessories were collected. CAP received 90 coats. The other 40 coats to Westminster Presbyterian Church. Several local businesses and churches such as the Reuse Refuge store and Heirlooms Salon, Methodist and Presbyterian churches contributed. Tim also brought samples of Central New York Healthcare magazine which is carried in Wegmans and can be a helpful resource.

7. Adjournment

The next meeting will be May 10th and will be meeting in one of the rooms above the City Hall meeting room.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:41 am.