

# Auburn Homeless Taskforce

## Board meeting

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**DATE**

November 8, 2023

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**TIME**

11:00 am

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**LOCATION**

Auburn City Hall, 24 South Street, Auburn, NY

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**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY**

Renee Jensen

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### **IN ATTENDANCE**

Renne Jensen, City of Auburn; Sherrain Clark, Housing and Homeless Coalition; Megan Stuart, Housing and Homeless Coalition; Miranda Spencer, Housing and Homeless Coalition; Gary Mann, Rescue Mission; Arlene Ryan, Community Member; Timothy Donovan, Community Advocate; Alexa Hicks, Chapel House; Kim Dunn, Chapel House; Mary Rathbun, Cayuga County Dept of Social Services; Nicole Gee, Cayuga Community Health Network; Shari Weiss, Cayuga Community Health Network; Liz Vuillemot, Auburn Housing Authority; Mike Slomski, Chapel House; Meadow McDowell, Soldier On; Kathryn Dennis, United Way of Cayuga County; Agatha Sandra Kingsley-Emeh, Legal Aid Society of Mid-NY; Liz Burke, Cayuga County Mental Health; Guy Segorus, Legal Aid Society of Mid-NY; George Juduere, Gavras Center; Kristen Wilson, Unity House; Denise Nevidomsky, CAP;

### **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

The meeting was called to order at 11 am. Introductions were made.

### **LEGAL AID SOCIETY OF MID-NY**

Attorney Agatha Kingsley- Emeh did a presentation on eviction prevention and homelessness. She is the client representative for people facing evictions. They help with negotiations between landlords and tenants. There is a poverty guideline threshold for their sliding scale of representation to determine eligibility. They offer free legal advice and counseling, once eligibility is verified, free representation in court, and landlord and tenant mediation, along with linking tenants to additional resources. The help desk line is 315-793-7083.

### **HHC UPDATES**

Sherrain Clark shared that the Coordinated Entry policies are open for feedback. They will be open until February. Miranda Spencer shared that there is active recruitment for the Racial Equity Diversity and Inclusion committee. As always, the HHC is always recruiting for the Client Advisory Board and Youth Action Board. There is some planning happening for the upcoming Point In Time Count. Volunteer recruitment will start in December. The proposed date is January 24<sup>th</sup> with a possible snow date of January 31<sup>st</sup>.

### **COC FUNDED AGENCIES**

Chapel House: Both shelters are full, consistently, especially since the start of Code Blue. STEHP program year is back up, RRR is slow because finding apartments with a reasonable price has been the biggest struggle. PSH is at 18 households. Chronic people are the only people being matched. There were some legacy clients from the ARISE that were grandfathered in. They are working toward landlord engagement outside of the city. They are still in need of blankets. They just received a \$250 donation from the rotary club, and they will be putting that toward it.

CAP: Denise Nevidomsky shared HUD RRH has one opening, serving 13 households. There are some funds to help with remaining arrears. HEAP is open and the hours are Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9-5, Tuesday, Thursday 9-6 and Saturday 9-12 pm. There is a volunteer Medicaid transport program that is in need of volunteer drivers, based on volunteer availability. The Christmas program is 315- 255-1703 (ext 102) You have to call in order to register.

## **AGENCY UPDATES**

Rescue Mission: Gary Mann shared that there will be a forum to discuss the upcoming shelter construction. It will be held on November 30<sup>th</sup>. There will be a commenting period along with some public education.

DSS: Mary Rathbun shared that CHES Program is out of funds for the year. They are currently housing 119 individuals, 27 in shelter, 64 hotel rooms. 34 families, 27 are in hotels, Code Blue: they are working with the former Auburn Inn. They will be forced to double bunk because they are running out of hotel space, which can create some additional interpersonal issues. There was some talk about a warming center, but there is no staff for the overnight hours yet.

Cayuga County Mental Health: They are 100% up-and-running, walk-ins are accepted. They are connected to 911, but you can still call the main line or 988. SPOA is also in use.

Cayuga Community Health Network: PIT Count is coming up. They have started putting their resource bags together. There was a successfully housed person at Sennet Meadows. There will be some units opening up soon. Nicole has received some calls about people coming up from Georgia.

City of Auburn: CDBG RFP will be opening soon. Rental Assistance is an eligible expense.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS/NEW BUSINESS**

Tim Donovan will be holding his coat drive starting in December. He is still trying to locate a drop-off location.

He also provided a Thanksgiving meal flyer that people will need to register for and there will be volunteer opportunities for the community. There was also a resource sheet that was created for the community, along with food bank information for the surrounding areas.

United Way has kicked off their campaign season. Most non-profit agencies have spoken to Julisa. They are getting ready for the 2024 funding year which will be opening in December. Tomorrow night is Flight Night at Prison City downtown location from 5-8 pm.

## **NEXT MEETING**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:57 am. The next meeting will be held on January 10, 2024. There will be a property tracking software presentation.