

Continuum of Care Meeting
June 16, 2022 @ 9AM
via Zoom

PRESENT: Dawne Belfon, Donald Brown, Heather Coleman, Janelle Johnson, Marge McGinley, Malika Morris, Monica Rego, Whitney Stewart, Madelyn Sutton, Mecca Mitchell, Jennifer Hiros, Patricia Lake, Darlene Trappier, Abees Clotter, Ashni Mathew, Louis Tedesco, Catherine Galesky, Christine Douglas- Columbo, Brandon Markowski, Naomi Hearn, Paula Witcher, Lynn McLaughlin, Maureen Fahey, Pat Booker, Cynthia Ferguson, Vivienne Stewart, Priscilla Smith, Nikia Johnson, Jaclyn Robinson, Heather Cook, Pat Booker, Anne Greenwood, Timothy Howard, James McClain, Carol Clark, Candy Brewster, Elmia Walker, Lila Myers, Dawn Harvey, Ratona Robinson-Stokes.

1. Call to order
The meeting was called to order at 9:03 am by Marge McGinley.
2. Approval of April's Meeting Minutes
The minutes of the April 21, 2022 meeting was moved to approval by Donald Brown, seconded by Madelyn Sutton. Motion carried.
3. Special Spotlight Presentation – Community Development HOME American Rescue Plan (ARP) – Timothy Howard
Timothy Howard spoke regarding the HOME American Rescue Plan (ARP). Burlington County has been pre-awarded \$3,061,421.00. This funding is contingent on HUD approving Burlington County Community Development and Housing's Allocation Plan. The Allocation plan will be based in part, on data received during public participation from specific agencies in the county that support the qualifying populations.
Timothy Howard asked the Continuum to participate in a survey.
HOME ARP Short Survey
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZMC68KB>

Spotlight Presentation- Veterans Multi-Services Center (VMC) Paula R. Witcher

Veterans Multi-Services Center serves veterans in several counties in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and the State of Delaware.

Services include:

- Veteran employment opportunities and employment training services
- Permanent supportive housing programs
- Outreach access and recovery of veteran benefits assistance
- Financial counseling; bankruptcy services and basic living resources are available.

Veterans Multi-Services Center slide presentation was shared with the continuum.

Any questions, please call Paula Witcher at 1-888-385-1250

4. HMIS – Candy Brewster

Candy Brewster reminded all HMIS users to clean up their data before The Systems Performance Measures and Longitude Systems Analysis are due in the Fall. A reminder to HMIS users, beginning July 1, 2022, that HMIS will be updated with new software. Candy Brewster stated that New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency (NJ HMFA) is operating through American Rescue Plan, helping people who fell behind on their mortgages.

Candy Brewster discussed NJ HMFA Low Income Tax Credits and Affordable Housing units. Candy Brewster explained that HMIS is in discussions regarding Burlington County being able to view available beds or units in HMIS for the coordinated entry program.

5. Veterans Sub-committee – Monica Rego gave the Veterans Sub-committee report.

The subcommittee met on June 15, 2022; at that time, 5 new veterans have been housed, and 2 new veterans have been identified.

The committee is currently meeting 2 of the 4 benchmarks to end Veteran homelessness. The next meeting will be Wednesday, July 20, 2022.

6. Board of Social Services – Lila Myers

The Board remains open on a limited basis from 8 am to 5 pm for face-to-face interviews for the homeless for cash assistance and emergency housing.

Beginning July 1, 2022, the Board will begin normal operations. Workforce NJ activities are resuming; recipients will now need to comply with work activity requirements.

Sanctioning for non-compliance had been suspended during Covid. Emergency housing clients who are over the time limit and do not meet extension criteria will receive a 60-day notice. If found non-compliant, clients' housing will be terminated on August 31, 2022.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Benefits waivers have been lifted. Customers are still allowed emergency allotments at this time. These allotments may last through August or September 2022.

7. Housing Hub – Malika Morris

The Housing Hub is open from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. The building remains appointment preferred. The Housing Hub has seen a steady line of walk-ins. In May 2022 the Housing Hub reported the following: 94 motel bed nights; 31 rental assistance calls; 13 security deposits; 107 new intakes.

8. Rapid Rehousing

A new form is available to assist all the agencies in providing a rapid rehousing report to the CoC. The form should be submitted five days before the CoC meeting and should report for the preceding two months.

- a. BCAP reported 42 clients; 2 discharges; 2 pending moving; 3 searching for affordable housing. BCAP has helped 2 families with furniture vouchers. BCAP is working with the Homeless Initiative Program – 6 clients waiting for documents; 3 clients are pending approval. BCAP is still accepting applications for this program.
- b. Christian Caring Center reported 13 clients; 22 were discharged into housing; 3 households pending move-in to Rolling Hills, Cinnaminson, NJ. Madelyn Sutton noted that emergency housing vouchers are beginning to expire.
- c. Village Resources-ICM stated they are assisting 22 clients searching for affordable housing. 10 have been approved for housing vouchers. 3 clients' approved vouchers have been submitted to the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) for approval; 1 client has been approved for a voucher; 2 clients have found housing, awaiting approval; 1 client waiting for inspection. The remainder of the clients requires document collection to apply for vouchers.
- d. Belmont Homes reports, for now, there are 26 units comprising 25 households, consisting of 95 total persons. There were 2 intakes and 0 discharges. There are still Veteran vouchers available. Donald Brown reminded everyone that there are still Homeless Prevention Program (HPP) reimbursement funds available. United Way funds are also available.

9. Continuum of Care Updates

- a. Governance Board met in May 2022. Jennifer Hiros stated that there are applications available for Shelter Support Programming. Madelyn Sutton reminded everyone that if your agency needs a Letter of Consistency, it is on the County's website along with instructions.

<http://co.burlington.nj.us/1424/Continuum-of-Care-CoC>.

- b. Social Services Homeless Update- Monica Rego reported that the agencies have continued working hard to provide services to all. Monica Rego expressed gratitude to all for their continued hard work. The Community Development and Housing Office recently announced the local Request of Letter of Intent of HUD/McKinney-Vento Notice of Funds Opportunity (NOFO) for FY2022, in anticipation of HUD making an announcement. This information can be found on the Continuum of Care website. <http://co.burlington.nj.us/1424/Continuum-of-Care-CoC>.
Monarch Housing will be holding a Technical Assistance (TA) Session regarding the anticipated HUD McKinney-Vento Notice of Funds Opportunity for FY2022. Attendance is strongly suggested.
- e. Data Quality and Assessment – Jaclyn Robinson reported that the next meeting will be on Tuesday, June 21, 2022, at 10 AM. The Continuum plans to be more vigilant with the coordinated entry process and how it correlates to data quality. Currently, there are over 100 individuals and families on the priority list. Please email Jaclyn Robinson, jebrobinson@co.burlington.nj.us, Monica Rego, mrego@co.burlington.nj.us, and Malika Morris mmorris@co.burlington.nj.us if someone needs to be removed from the waiting list. Thank you all for your support and updates in HMIS.

10. Discussion

Marge McGinley discussed cases of disabled clients caught in a stop-gap of services. The SSI/SSDI Outreach Access and Recovery Program (SOAR) was discussed, and if our county has a SOAR representative. Jennifer Hiros explained becoming SOAR certified is a long process. Monica Rego attached the links to SOAR in the chat. <https://soarworks.samhsa.gov/>. New Jersey SOAR State Team <https://soarworks.samhsa.gov/states/new-jersey>

Madelyn Sutton asked a question regarding an outreach motel in Burlington County which is also housing Ocean County clients. Madelyn Sutton questioned should Ocean County terminate payment, or should Burlington County pay even though the persons are Ocean County residents.

Jennifer Hiros stated that Madelyn Sutton should consult the Division of Family Development's Regulations from Social Services for the Homeless for guidance. The cases may need to be transferred to the Burlington Board of Social Services and clients may need to reapply.

Dawn Harvey posed a question regarding transferring a client to the Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) program.

Mecca Mitchell advised Dawn Harvey to temporarily transfer the client from one county to another, so the client's services do not lapse.

Jennifer Hiros commented about CDBG-CV projects. Jennifer Hiros noted, that if an agency has not billed past the scope of service, please call The Community Development and Housing Office for technical assistance. HUD is expecting projects to have an 80% mark spent in three years, this benchmark occurs in 18 months.

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:14 am.

Respectfully Submitted

PL/MR

cc: JLH
MM