

**Continuum of Care Meeting**  
**August 18, 2022 @ 9AM**  
**via Zoom**

PRESENT: Dawne Belfon, Heather Coleman, Janelle Johnson, Malika Morris, Whitney Stewart, Madelyn Sutton, Mecca Mitchell, Abees Clotter, Louis Tedesco, Catherine Galesky, Brandon Markowski, Maureen Fahey, Cynthia Ferguson, Priscilla Smith, Anne Greenwood, Dawn Harvey, Rovenna Overton, Kim Gilmore, Margaret Reddick, Cinthia Gonzalez, Jenny Allen, Mark Harding, Lauen Simone-Carpenter, Deacon Richard Ferreira, Darryll L. Johnson, Claudine Archer, Frank Cumbo, Janet Philips, Marissa Costantin, Inell Sutton, Nia Perry, Sam Rudd, "FHA", "r wall", Monica Rego, Jennifer Hiros, Patricia Lake, Jaclyn Robinson, Timothy Howard.

1. Call to order  
The meeting was called to order at 9:04 am by Monica Rego.
  
2. Approval of June's Meeting Minutes  
The minutes of the June 16, 2022 meeting were moved to approve by Louis Tedesco, seconded by Priscilla Smith. Motion carried.
  
3. Spotlight Presentation – VET Center- Darryll Johnson gave a presentation on the VET center.  
VET Center is a community-based counseling center providing a wide range of social and psychological services, including professional readjustment counseling to eligible veterans, active duty members, including the National Guard, and the Reserves and their families. Readjustment counseling is offered to make a successful transition from military to civilian life after a traumatic event experience in the military.  
VET Center offers family, group, individual, and couple services at no cost to the veteran or the family. VET Center is located throughout the United States through the Veterans Administration. Referral services for medical services and employment are available through VET Center. Eligibility requirements do apply, but veterans should apply and will be referred to other services if needed. VET Center can be reached at (877 )927-8387, [www.vetcenter.va.gov](http://www.vetcenter.va.gov).
  
4. HMIS – Cinthia Gonzalez stated the last two (2) site administrator training sessions are occurring in September and October. It is recommended to attend and complete training. The Household Composition training will be on September 30, 2022. On October 28, 2022, there will be HMIS Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) training. HMIS Bed Inventory training is scheduled for October 27, 2022. Cinthia Gonzalez stated HMIS has a Youtube channel accessible on the Awards

home page providing training sessions as well. Household Composition training will now be year-round. If agencies are having data quality issues, please contact the Help Desk.

5. Veterans Sub-Committee – Mark Harding reported that the subcommittee met on August 17, 2022, and at that time 2 new veterans have been identified. Mark Harding reported that within the last 90 days, 13 veterans have been housed. The next meeting will be Wednesday, October 19, 2022.
6. Board of Social Services – No report given.
7. Housing Hub – Malukah Morris reported that the Housing Hub is open from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. The building remains appointment preferred. The Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) I is only accepting pre-applications at this time. The Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) II is not accepting any applications at this time. The Hub outreach completed two (2) housing events at local libraries in coordination with Oaks Integrated and Legacy. The Housing Hub’s Lunches, Information For Tenants, and Underserved populations (LIFT UP) events in Pemberton served 54 households and 149 individuals, and in Mt. Holly served 91 households and 242 individuals. The Housing Hub along, with the Division of Children and Families, is scheduled to make a presentation on September 14, 2022, at the Crisis Interventions Trainings (CIT) Tour.  
Malukah Morris stated walk-ins at Housing Hub remain very high. The referral process remains the same; The Housing Hub should be contacted at the following link: [housinghub@co.burlington.nj.us](mailto:housinghub@co.burlington.nj.us)  
Jennifer Hiros asked about the Housing Hub’s response time once contacted. Malukah Morris responded the referrals are prioritized, however, most are answered within 24 hours.
8. Community Development and Housing
  - a. Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) – Jennifer Hiros stated the monthly meetings of the General Advisory Committee are going well. The Division of Community Development and Housing continues to monitor the progress of projects in the communities.
  - b. CDBG-CV – Jennifer Hiros reported projects are moving forward, and are continuing to bill down. It was requested that agencies be mindful of the time limit for spending, and continue to bill down on projects.
  - c. HOME-American Rescue Plan (HOME-ARP) – Timothy Howard stated Burlington County was tentatively awarded \$3,061,241. The Division of Community Development and Housing must submit a plan to HUD for approval on the projects that are selected. The HOME-ARP addresses specific projects:
    - Supportive Services

- Acquisition/Development of Non-Congregate Shelter
- Tenant-Based Rental Assistance
- Development of Affordable Rental Housing
- Non-Profit Operating
- Non-Profit Capacity Building
- Administration/Planning

The Division of Community Development and Housing conducted four (4) focus groups consisting of agencies for veterans, Public Housing Authorities, Americans with Disabilities; homeless service providers, domestic violence providers; developers; and public and private agencies addressing fair housing and civil rights. Information from focus groups helped implement the 2022 HOME- ARP Plan. The Division of Community Development and Housing is in the revision stage of the Plan. A Public Participation period and a Public Hearing will be scheduled.

9. 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. BCCAP – Cynthia Ferguson reported there being 49 clients; 2 discharges; 2 pending move-in; 10 pending approval.
- b. Christian Caring Center – Madelyn Sutton reported 9 households with 9 individuals searching for affordable housing; 4 families with 12 individuals; discharged 8 individuals and 4 families into housing totaling 21 individuals.
- c. Village Resources-ICM – Whitney Stewart stated Village Resources are assisting 35 clients. 11 households actively searching for affordable housing. 14 have been approved for housing vouchers. 4 clients’ approved vouchers have been submitted to the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) for approval; 1 client has moved into a new unit; 1 client has been approved for housing, working on getting a security deposit.
- d. Belmont Homes – No report was given

10. Continuum of Care Updates

- a. Governance Board met on July 19, 2022. Madelyn Sutton stated that the Governance Board was able to approve two (2) Letters of Consistency.
- b. Social Services Homeless Update- Monica Rego reported that the agency continues to assist the residents in need in the county. The Division of Community Development and Housing is currently reviewing the second quarter report before submitting it to the Division of Family Development. Monica Rego reported the HUD McKinney-Vento Notice of Funds Opportunity (NOFO) was

announced. The Division of Community Development and Housing is working with an Ad Hoc committee to score and vote on the local applicants and finalize the budget. All applicants should receive a letter via email within the next few weeks.

- c. Data Quality and Coordinated Assessment – Jaclyn Robinson reported that the Data Quality and Coordinated Assessment workgroup met on Tuesday, June 21, 2022. All site administrators were informed they are required to have their HMIS training up to date. The Continuum of Care continues to improve in data quality, and error percentages have decreased. Updates to the housing inventory numbers and funding sources are being made in HMIS to assist in the Longitudinal Systems Analysis (LSA) report. 11 consumers have been removed from the Housing Prioritization list, and 9 have found permanent housing. The next meeting will be on October 18, 2022.

- 11. Discussion – Madelyn Sutton stated Christian Caring Center is giving away Back to School backpacks on August 18 and August 19, 2022, 10 AM – 3 PM. Families need to show identification and proof of children residing in the home. Madelyn Sutton stated with the number of increased consumers coming in, there are problems finding vacancies in motels. Madelyn Sutton stated Red Roof Inn in Westampton accepts vouchers, however, Red Roof Inn in Maple Shade does not. Madelyn Sutton stated both Brendan T. Byrne and Atsion State Parks are accepting clients with animals with rabies shots for \$20/night for up to two (2) weeks' stay. Janet Philips from Rutgers Behavioral Health stated the office is fully in-person for mental health and co-occurring addiction needs with no waiting list. Rutgers Behavioral Health also provides an Acute Partial Care Program, as well as an Intensive Outpatient Program. For further information please contact [janet.philips@rutgers.edu](mailto:janet.philips@rutgers.edu). Claudine Archer from The Beloved Project assists single women (with children), veterans, and children who have aged out of the youth systems. Claudine Archer agreed with Madelyn Sutton regarding the lack of motel space. Claudine Archer was advised by Catherine Galesky that she can partner with SoldierOn and Community Hope. For further information, you can contact Claudine Archer at [ProjectContact@thebelovedproject.org](mailto:ProjectContact@thebelovedproject.org). Maureen Fahey of Catholic Charities agreed with Madelyn Sutton and the lack of housing along with the cost of Fair Market Rent (FMR). Maureen Fahey requested assistance in collaboration finding landlords that work within Fair Market Rent (FMR). Contact information is [Mfahey@cctrenton.org](mailto:Mfahey@cctrenton.org) or (609) 386-8653 ext. 2815. Dawne Belfon responded she may have a list of landlords. For further information, please contact Dawne Belfon at [dawne@affordablehomesgroup.com](mailto:dawne@affordablehomesgroup.com) or (609) 261-4585. Jenny Allen inquired about a Mandarin interpreter for a trauma therapy provider.

There were no further comments.

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:02 am.

*Respectfully Submitted*

PL/MR

cc: JLH  
MM