



New York State Balance of State Continuum of Care

48th New York State Balance of State CoC Steering Committee Meeting

May 4, 2023
9:00am-2:00pm

Steering Committee Attendees

Commissioner Tony Turano, Cattaraugus
Adam Anderson, Cattaraugus
Jodi Fuller, Cattaraugus
Commissioner Christine Peters, Clinton
Crystal Narducci, Clinton
Commissioner Anne Solar, Fulton
Randy Viele, Fulton
Debbie Smith (on behalf of Commissioner Tim Seymour), Herkimer
Mary Carpenter, Montgomery
Theresa Cranker (on behalf of Commissioner Tom Lippie), Montgomery
Janine Robitaille, Montgomery
Commissioner Michael Piazza, Putnam
Ashley Brody, Putnam
Christy Houck, Schoharie
Steven Munford (on behalf of Commissioner Donna Becker), Schoharie
Meg Parsons, Schoharie
Commissioner John Liddle, Sullivan
Deb Worden, Sullivan

Guests

Jenn Braun, Alliance for Positive Health
Kelli Clark, CARES of NY
Liam Nugent, CARES of NY
Erin Reale, CARES of NY
Gretchen Crowningshield, Clinton County DSS
Joshua Kennedy, HUD Buffalo
Ken Naples, HUD Buffalo
Mary Ann Oliver, HUD Buffalo
Colleen Haberzettl, Sullivan County DSS
Desmond Washington, Sullivan County DSS
Nichele Carver, United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH)

Ex-Officio Members

Sonia Tate, OCFS
Julie Duncan, OMH
Linda Camoin, OTDA
Heather Diamond, OTDA

Arden Estep, OTDA
Jason Gallacchi, OTDA
Rick Umholtz, OTDA
Sarah Watson, OTDA

Welcome and Introductions

Steering Committee Voting Actions

Previous Meeting Minutes

The April 3rd Steering Committee meeting minutes will be voted on at the June Steering Committee meeting.

Steering Committee Members

The current slate of Steering Committee Members was reviewed. A motion to approve the slate of members was made by Ashley Brody and seconded by Deb Worden. All attendees were in favor, none opposed.

FY2022 NOFO Debrief

The NYS BoS CoC scored well on the NOFO application in all areas except System Performance Measures (SPMs). Agencies have been working to clean up data in HMIS for the next SPM submission.

Annual NOFO

The CoC was awarded funding for all projects applied for under the regular NOFO including all renewals, new expansions to the Putnam and Sullivan DV-Rapid Rehousing programs, and the new IPH Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) Program that will serve Fulton, Herkimer, Montgomery, and Schoharie Counties. The new and renewal projects funded under the regular NOFO total \$1.56 million.

Special NOFO

Connecting Communities in Action (CCA) and IPH were also awarded roughly \$879,000 and \$1.6 million respectively under the Special Rural NOFO.

FY2023 NOFO Timeline

The FY2023 NOFO has not yet been released by HUD. A tentative timeline for NOFO response has been established. Upcoming milestones include:

- May 10: Monitoring and Selection Committee meeting
- May 24: NOFO Kick Off webinar
- June 2: Renewal Project Applications due
- June 23: New and Expansion Project Applications due
- July: Project applications reviewed, ranked, and entered into e-snaps
- August: Steering Committee to review and approve the Consolidated Application and Priority Listing
- TBD based on due date: Submission of NOFO to HUD

Point-in-Time (PIT)

HUD requires all CoCs to conduct a Point-in-Time (PIT) Count of homeless individuals and families annually during the last ten days of January. The date of the NYS BoS CoC's count was January 30th, with a service-based count in the seven days following. Both the PIT and the Housing Inventory Count (HIC) were submitted to HUD on April 27th, 2023. A detailed PIT report by county is in development and will include trends related to PIT data.

CoC Monitoring

The majority of CoC-funded programs have been monitored by OTDA as the Collaborative Applicant. The Alliance for Positive Health DV-RRH program monitoring will take place in May, as well the Clinton County PSH and DV-RRH site visits. Each program will be sent a follow-up letter with any program recommendations. Additionally, three programs have been selected to be monitored by HUD in the coming months, including the Catholic Charities PSH program in Sullivan County, the Clinton County PSH program, and CARES HMIS.

Committee/Program Updates

Regional Racial Justice Advisory Committee (RRJAC)

The Data Subcommittee of the RRJAC has been working on a Diversity Assessment Matrix to ascertain if the leadership of the CoC is representative of those accessing services in the CoC. The new tool will be more flexible, is not as limited in its scope, and is more equitable. The RRJAC also has short- and long-term recommendations which include updating the language in the CoC's written standards or bylaws to reflect diversity and equity, including a formal commitment to racial equity in the CoC's mission statement, and trainings for CoC staff that reflect cultural competency and sensitivity, as well as being trauma-informed. There will be an RRJAC Summit again this fall.

Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) Vouchers

The Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) initiative makes vouchers available to Public Housing Agencies (PHAs) in partnership with Public Child Welfare Agencies (PCWAs). The vouchers are intended for youth ages 18 to 24 who aged out of foster care or were formerly in foster care and at risk of homelessness. Sullivan and Putnam Counties have identified several candidates to refer.

HMIS

The CARES Regional HMIS Advisory Committee participated in a discussion with the HMIS vendor, Foothold, regarding switching from a closed to an open HMIS system. The benefits of an open system include that it is a more trauma-informed approach as clients do not have to tell their story repeatedly to different providers, allows intake data to be duplicated into different projects which is less time-consuming and more efficient, and allows for better care coordination between providers. This can also reduce data errors and improve data quality. In order to do this, CARES will be updating the language regarding client consent and release forms to reflect having an open HMIS. A resolution regarding opening HMIS in our CoC will be drafted for consideration at the June Steering Committee Meeting.

Lived Experience Advisory Board (LEAB)

The Lived Experience Advisory Board (LEAB) completed a letter regarding the harmful effects of DSS sanctioning that was sent to OTDA management. The LEAB also discussed participants struggling with being asked to answer the same questions at various program intakes, causing them to repeatedly relive past trauma. The LEAB will be reviewing and providing feedback on the CoC's Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) policy, which is currently in development.

Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHV)

The EHV program is still accepting referrals and participants are being selected from the waitlist as openings become available. As of May 4th, the NYS BoS CoC had a total of 103 people housed, 48 vouchers issued, 10 people verified as eligible, 32 people pending verification, 99 people on the waitlist, and 455 total referrals.

United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH)

Nichele Carver, Regional Advisor for USICH, presented on "ALL IN: The Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness". *All In* is the federal roadmap for how the federal government plans to prevent and end homelessness holistically and can be used as a blueprint for CoCs. Through *All In*, the federal government aims to reduce homelessness by 25% by 2025. More information on *All In* can be found at https://www.usich.gov/All_In.pdf.

NYS Office of Mental Health (OMH)

Julie Duncan from OMH presented on recent funding awarded for Supportive Crisis Stabilization (SCS) centers and Intensive Crisis Stabilization (ICS) centers across New York State. There are 21 providers across the state that have been awarded funds to develop eleven ICS centers and ten SCS centers. Both Clinton and Herkimer counties have been awarded grants for ICS centers. The long-term goal is to have one of each type of stabilization center in each region of the state.

Flexible Fund for Family Services (FFFS) & Shelter Supplement

OTDA emailed a survey to social service districts asking if the district has an approved Shelter Supplement Plan and how the districts use FFFS funding. These two resources could be used to further housing opportunities in each community.

Local Planning Body (LPB) Updates

Cattaraugus

Forty-nine percent of Cattaraugus's homeless population is being housed out of county due to lack of resources within the county. There is some interest amongst local business owners in the area to work towards finding solutions. DSS is working with two local providers to establish warming centers with the goal of opening in the fall.

Clinton

Christine Peters was appointed as the new DSS commissioner of Clinton County.

Fulton

The Warming Center has closed for the season after a successful first year. Seventy-one people were served including eight that entered permanent housing.

Herkimer

The Loaves and Fishes Warming Center was open for five weeks during March and April and is planning to open again in the fall. They will be hosting an Open House on May 18th from 4pm-6pm at the Salvation Army in Herkimer.

Montgomery

IPH will be reapplying to HHAP for a sixteen-bed project in Montgomery County. Eight of the beds will be for emergency shelter and the remaining eight for permanent housing. Montgomery DSS and Catholic Charities are working to establish a warming center for the next Code Blue season.

Putnam

The district reports seeing a slight increase in evictions, which is causing an increase in the motel population. Rental costs continue to increase in the area and are largely unaffordable to people seeking assistance from the district. Brewster Cares is looking into tiny homes as a potential housing source.

Schoharie

Rental costs are high and housing availability remains low in Schoharie. Officials in the county are exploring the possibility of utilizing a former Public Safety Building for emergency and/or permanent housing, as well as office space.

Sullivan

Sullivan has 67 Rental Supplement Program (RSP) applications approved, and the Coordinated Entry list is down from 80 individuals to 60. This Code Blue season was the first that DSS had warming centers open consistently, which served one hundred unique individuals.

Schedule of Upcoming Meetings

Schoharie – May 8th
Ranking Committee – May 10th
Clinton – May 15th
Cattaraugus – May 17th
Fulton/Montgomery – May 16th
Herkimer – May 22nd
Lived Experience Advisory Board – May 22nd
Sullivan – May 23rd
Putnam – May 25th
Services Coordinating Committee – May 30th
Steering Committee – June 1st
HMIS, Data, and Performance Committee – July 27th

Meeting adjourned at 1:39pm.