



New York State Balance of State Continuum of Care

**49th New York State Balance of State CoC
Steering Committee Meeting**

June 1, 2023
9:30am-11:00am

Steering Committee Attendees

Adam Anderson, Cattaraugus
Toni Taylor, Cattaraugus
Liz Carpenter, Clinton
Gretchen Crowningshield (on behalf of Commissioner Christine Peters), Clinton
Crystal Narducci, Clinton
Commissioner Anne Solar, Fulton
Amanda Anderson, Fulton
Randy Viele, Fulton
Maureen Petrie, Herkimer
Commissioner Mike Piazza, Putnam
Ashley Brody, Putnam
Ann Ellsworth, Putnam
Mary Carpenter, Montgomery
Theresa Cranker (on behalf of Commissioner Tom Lippie), Montgomery
Janine Robitaille, Montgomery
Commissioner Donna Becker, Schoharie
Angie Smith (on behalf of Christy Houck), 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
Mary Tubia, Catholic Charities of Herkimer County
Amanda Haley-Beaudette, ETC
Mary Ann Oliver, HUD Buffalo

Ex-Officio Members

Sonia Tate, OCFS
Linda Camoin, OTDA
Arden Estep, OTDA
Rick Umholtz, OTDA
Sarah Watson, OTDA

Welcome and Introductions

Steering Committee Voting Actions

Previous Meeting Minutes

The April 3rd Steering Committee meeting minutes were reviewed. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Ashley Brody and seconded by Commissioner Becker. All attendees were in favor; none opposed.

The May 4th Steering Committee meeting minutes were reviewed. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Commissioner Solar and seconded by Adam Anderson. All attendees were in favor; none opposed.

Educational Responsibilities Policy

The Educational Responsibilities policy was reviewed. The Educational Responsibilities policy aims to ensure that participants in NYS BoS CoC programs are assisted in understanding their educational rights established under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act and Every Student Succeeds Act. A motion to approve the policy was made by Janine Robitaille and seconded by Deb Worden. All attendees were in favor; none opposed.

Open HMIS System

Commissioner Becker made a motion to open discussion regarding the resolution to adopt an open HMIS system. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Liddle.

Discussion commenced regarding switching from a closed to an open HMIS system. The benefits discussed, an open system is more trauma-informed as clients do not have to repeatedly retell their story to different providers, intake data would not be duplicated, administrative efficient for end users of HMIS, and better care coordination among providers. An open HMIS system can also reduce errors and improve data quality. The Lived Experience Advisory Board spoke favorably of an open system.

Some questions were raised regarding how an open system might affect the safety of victims of domestic violence (DV). The Steering Committee was reminded that DV participants are not entered in to HMIS, but in a comparable database, and participants are never entered into HMIS without their consent. It was suggested that training for staff and messaging for participants be clear and highlight client choice and informed consent. CARES has an anonymization policy for HMIS that will be updated to include language regarding the open HMIS system. CARES will work with Foothold on how this may affect current HMIS participants and those that have been previously discharged from the system.

A motion to adopt the resolution was made by Janine Robitaille and seconded by Randy Viele. All attendees were in favor; none opposed.

CoC Monitoring

All CoC-funded programs have been monitored by OTDA as the Collaborative Applicant. A scorecard highlighting results of the site visits was shown. Programs will be monitored each year by OTDA as part of NOFO process.

FY2023 NOFO

The FY2023 NOFO has not yet been released by HUD. A tentative timeline for NOFO response includes:

- June 2: Renewal Project Applications due
- June 23 and 28: Review Team Meetings
- July 7: 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

Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHV)

As of June 1st, the NYS BoS CoC has submitted 463 referrals to New York State Homes and Community Renewal's (NYS HCR) EHV program, 103 participants have been housed and an additional 54 vouchers have been issued with tenants searching for housing. The program is still accepting referrals through September 2023.

HCR solicited interest for additional EHV funding. The NYS BoS CoC was eligible to apply for up to \$100,000. If approved, CARES will receive 15% (\$15,000) to continue administering EHV and the remaining will be divided between the counties to incentivize continued follow up with EHV recipients.

Committee/Program Updates

Regional Racial Justice Advisory Committee (RRJAC)

The Data Subcommittee of the RRJAC continues to work on the Diversity Assessment Matrix to ascertain if the leadership of the CoC is representative of those accessing services in the CoC. The Data Subcommittee is also looking at Coordinated Entry systems to ensure there is no disparate treatment of participants.

Lived Experience Advisory Board (LEAB)

The Lived Experience Advisory Board (LEAB) continues to meet and review CoC policies.

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. Putnam and Fulton Counties each have one referral in process. Commissioner Solar requested information on the process and timeframe once the PCWA has referred a youth. OTDA will provide the Steering Committee with additional information.

HMIS

CARES has been working on updating data standards. They have also been working on their timeline for Longitudinal Systems Analyses. CARES will be updating inventory in June and will begin working with agencies on data cleanup in July.

Services Coordinating Committee

The Services Coordination Committee met on May 30th. Several new members have joined the committee. The Committee will be reviewing the new Permanent Supportive Housing Policy Standards Manual and updates to the Rapid Rehousing Policy.

Rank and Review Committee

The Rank and Review Committee met on May 10th. The Committee reviewed the scoring tool. Members are currently evaluating two options for scoring “Not Applicable” elements on Renewal projects and will vote on their preferred method.

Schedule of Upcoming Meetings

- CoC 101 Training – June 8
- Coordinated Entry Refresher – June 9
- Schoharie – June 12
- Fulton/Montgomery – June 20
- Cattaraugus – June 21
- Clinton – June 22
- Lived Experience Advisory Board – June 26
- Herkimer – June 26
- Sullivan – June 27
- Putnam – June 28
- Steering Committee – July 6
- HMIS, Data, and Performance Committee – July 27

Meeting adjourned at 10:58am.