



New York State Balance of State Continuum of Care

50th New York State Balance of State CoC Steering Committee Meeting

July 6, 2023
9:30am-11:00am

Steering Committee Attendees

Adam Anderson, Cattaraugus
Jodi Fuller, Cattaraugus
Liz Carpenter, Clinton
Crystal Narducci, Clinton
Commissioner Anne Solar, Fulton
Amanda Anderson, Fulton
Randy Viele, Fulton
Pam Gardinier, Herkimer
Mary Tubia (on behalf of Maureen Petrie), Herkimer
Commissioner Mike Piazza, Putnam
Ashley Brody, Putnam
Ann Ellsworth, Putnam
Janine Robitaille, Montgomery
Commissioner Donna Becker, Schoharie
Christy Houck, Schoharie
Meg Parsons, Schoharie
Colleen Haberzettl, (on behalf of Commissioner John Liddle), Sullivan

Guests

Kelli Clark, CARES of NY
Megan Clark, CARES of NY
Amanda Haley-Beaudette, ETC
Duane Miller, Fulton Friendship/Helio Health
Jennifer Schultz, Albany VA
Mary Ann Oliver, HUD Buffalo
Stephen Munford, Schoharie DSS

Ex-Officio Members

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

Welcome and Introductions

Steering Committee Voting Actions

Previous Meeting Minutes

The June 1st Steering Committee meeting minutes were reviewed. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Jodi Fuller and seconded by Ashley Brody. All attendees were in favor, none opposed.

New Steering Committee Representative

Sarita Green, Deputy Executive Director of Fearless! in Sullivan County, was nominated to the Steering Committee by the Sullivan Local Planning Body. A motion to accept Sarita to the Steering Committee was made by Ann Ellsworth and seconded by Jodi Fuller. All attendees were in favor, none opposed.

HUD Monitoring

Mary Ann Oliver from HUD Buffalo is scheduled to monitor the Sullivan Catholic Charities Permanent Supportive Housing program from July 31st to August 4th and will be visiting the Fearless DV-RRH program and the Putnam/Northern Westchester Women’s Resource Center DV-RRH program.

FY2023 NOFO

The Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) was released by HUD on July 5th. The amount of new funding available has not yet been released. In previous competition years, the Tier 1 amount for guaranteed renewal projects was funded at 95%. This year’s NOFO states Tier 1 amounts will be funded at 93%. This year’s NOFO expands the definition of domestic violence and eligible activities to include rural-specific costs. This year’s NOFO competition also increases the amount of funding available for the CoC’s planning grant.

Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHV) Program and Funding

The EHV program is currently on pause for referrals. As of June 1st, the NYS BoS CoC has submitted 473 referrals to New York State Homes and Community Renewal’s (NYS HCR) EHV program, 103 participants have been housed, an additional 52 vouchers have been issued with tenants searching for housing, 4 people have been verified eligible, and 29 are pending verification. There are 117 people on the waiting list. The program is still accepting referrals through September 2023 even though the program is on pause.

HCR solicited interest to CoCs for additional EHV funding. The NYS BoS CoC was eligible to apply for up to \$100,000. The BoS CoC applied for and was awarded the full \$100,000. This will be utilized by CARES for administration of the program, as well as shared between the eight counties in the CoC for continued referrals and case management associated with the program.

Stability Vouchers

The Stability Voucher initiative makes Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) assistance available to Public Housing Agencies (PHAs) in partnership with CoCs and/or Victim Service Providers to

assist households experiencing or at risk of homelessness, and those fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence. HUD provided nearly 4,000 Stability Vouchers nationwide. NYS HCR received 69 vouchers and nine of those vouchers have been allocated to the NYS BoS CoC. These nine vouchers will be split between Cattaraugus, Clinton, Fulton, Putnam, and Sullivan Counties. The Herkimer Housing Authority received its own allocation of 5 vouchers.

Apartment Treatment RFP

The NYS Office of Mental Health (OMH) announced an RFP for the development and operation of up to 450 Treatment Apartment Program (TAP) housing units statewide. Cattaraugus, Clinton, Herkimer, and Sullivan Counties are each eligible to apply for up to 15 units and Schoharie County is eligible to apply for up to 10 units. Proposals are due to OMH by August 9th.

Committee/Program Updates

Regional Racial Justice Advisory Committee (RRJAC)

The RRJAC Data Subcommittee reviewed HUD’s FY 2024 HMIS Data Standards that will take effect in October of this year. Significant updates include combining the Race and Ethnicity data elements, a new response option for “Middle Eastern or North African” and including a text box to add any additional race and/or ethnicity detail from participants.

The Diversity Assessment Tool has been finalized and will be deployed at upcoming Local Planning Body meetings. This survey was developed to assess the diversity and representation of identities and knowledge sets of the CoC.

The Outreach Subcommittee is reviewing Coordinated Entry policies and procedures and best practices to ensure there is no disparate treatment of participants. The RRJAC will be hosting its second annual Summit on October 3rd at the Hilton Garden in Troy.

Lived Experience Advisory Board (LEAB)

The Lived Experience Advisory Board (LEAB) continues to meet and review CoC policies. The LEAB recently reviewed and provided feedback on the CoC’s new Coordinated Entry assessment tool, the Balance of State Vulnerability Assessment Tool (BoS-VAT) and the BoS Housing Program Agreement.

HMIS

CARES has started preparing for the Longitudinal System Analysis (LSA) report which is typically due to HUD in the fall. CARES staff are also updating intake and discharge forms to reflect the new data standard updates that take effect in October of this year. Additionally, releases and forms are being revised to prepare for the CoC’s move to an open HMIS system.

Services Coordinating 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

New and renewal project applications are in review by the committee's independent review team. Once scores are finalized, the CoC's project ranking will be produced and sent to the Steering Committee for review and approval.

Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) Vouchers

Putnam and Sullivan Counties each have one referral in process and Fulton County has two in process. The MOU for Schoharie is in process of being finalized. The Montgomery County MOU has been finalized.

Local Planning Body (LPB) Updates

Cattaraugus

There are a few new housing projects in development. One will have units earmarked for domestic violence survivors with Connection Communities in Action (CCA) as the victim services provider. These units are expected to be available in early 2024. A second new housing project is being developed and will have units dedicated to veterans and those with a mental health diagnosis.

Erin Whitcomb has been appointed as the new Commissioner of Cattaraugus County Department of Social Services.

Montgomery

Interfaith Partnership for the Homeless (IPH) will be submitting their HHAP application soon.

Putnam

Brewster Cares, who manages the warming center during the Code Blue season, was bequeathed land and is exploring the potential of utilizing the land to benefit the Putnam homeless population.

The DV-RRH program has housed three families (with 7 children) and two more families are looking for units. The Putnam RSP program has struggled to find apartments for eligible households as rents are extraordinarily high in Putnam County. The RSP program staff continue to look for solutions and out of the box strategies so this program can be utilized.

Schoharie

Schoharie County is conducting a housing study to better understand what housing is available and what is needed to best serve the community. Additionally, local officials are exploring the opportunity to utilize the former Public Safety Facility for housing and services. County Legislature has solicited an engineering report on the feasibility of use of the Public Safety Facility and is awaiting results.

Sullivan

Sullivan County is working on a digital application to connect various community service providers.

Schedule of Upcoming Meetings

Schoharie – July 10

Clinton – July 17

Fulton/Montgomery – July 18

Lived Experience Advisory Board – July 24

Herkimer – July 24

Sullivan – July 25

Putnam – July 27

HMIS, Data, and Performance Committee – July 27

Steering Committee – August 3

Cattaraugus – August 16

Meeting adjourned at 10:57am.