



New York State Balance of State Continuum of Care

## 55<sup>th</sup> New York State Balance of State CoC Steering Committee Meeting

December 7, 2023

9:30am-11:00am

### **Steering Committee Attendees**

Adam Anderson, Cattaraugus  
Jodi Fuller, Cattaraugus  
Toni Taylor, Cattaraugus  
Michelle Zellefrow (on behalf of Commissioner Erin Whitcomb), Cattaraugus  
Commissioner Christine Peters, Clinton  
Crystal Narducci, Clinton  
Amanda Anderson, Fulton  
Randy Viele, Fulton  
Pam Gardinier, Herkimer  
Maureen Petrie, Herkimer  
Janine Robitaille, Montgomery  
Commissioner Sara Servadio, Putnam  
Ashley Brody, Putnam  
Ann Ellsworth, Putnam  
Stephen Munford (on behalf of Commissioner Donna Becker), Schoharie  
Christy Houck, Schoharie  
Cheryl Plant (on behalf of Meg Parsons), Schoharie  
Commissioner John Liddle, Sullivan  
Deb Worden, Sullivan

### **Guests**

Jennifer Schultz, Albany VA  
Jenn Braun, Alliance for Positive Health  
Denise Galloway, CARES of NY  
Kelli Clark, CARES of NY  
Mary Tubia, Catholic Charities of Herkimer County  
Gretchen Crowningshield, Clinton DSS  
Duane Miller, Fulton Friendship House/Helio Health  
Mary Ann Oliver, HUD Buffalo  
Kaeli Baxter, Recovery Options Made Easy  
Jennifer Heidermann, Department of Health

### **Ex-Officio Members**

Sonia Tate, OCFS  
Timothy Bethea, OTDA  
Linda Camoin, OTDA  
Heather Diamond, OTDA  
Arden Estep, OTDA  
Jason Gallacchi, OTDA  
Dana Greenberg, OTDA  
Sarah Watson, OTDA

## **Welcome and Introductions**

### **Steering Committee Voting Actions**

#### ***Previous Meeting Minutes***

The November 2<sup>nd</sup> Steering Committee meeting minutes were reviewed. A motion to approve the minutes was made Jodi Fuller and seconded by Amanda Anderson. All attendees were in favor, none opposed.

#### ***New Steering Committee Representative***

Putnam County DSS Commissioner Sara Servadio was nominated to the Steering Committee. A motion to accept Commissioner Servadio to the Steering Committee was made by Commissioner John Liddle and seconded by Ashley Brody. All attendees were in favor, none opposed.

#### ***Resolution to Replace the Coordinated Entry Tool***

A resolution was made to replace the Vulnerability Index-Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (VI-SPDAT) with the Balance of State Vulnerability Assessment Tool (BoS-VAT) as the BoS CoC's prioritization tool for Coordinated Entry. A motion to accept was made by Deb Worden and seconded by Jodi Fuller. All attendees were in favor, none opposed. The resolution will take effect upon incorporation into the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) and associated trainings.

#### ***Affirmation of Policies Approved by Email***

The Rapid Rehousing and Permanent Supportive Housing policies were approved by majority vote via email on November 16<sup>th</sup>. The Emergency Shelter Grant-Coronavirus (ESG-CV) Transfer Plan was approved by majority vote via email on November 30<sup>th</sup>. All policies will be available on the OTDA website.

### **Point-in-Time (PIT) Count**

The 2024 PIT Count will be held on the night of Tuesday, January 30, 2024. A refresher training will be held prior to the night of the PIT Count. An email will be sent out with details in the next few weeks.

Planning for local PIT Count strategies will occur at upcoming Local Planning Body meetings.

### **COVID Mitigation Supplies**

CARES of NY and the Department of Health (DOH) have funds to provide backpacks to distribute during the PIT Count. This will include the backpack as well as hygiene items (shampoo, deodorant, bodywash, toothbrush, etc.). There are also blankets available for purchase. Orders are due by December 15<sup>th</sup>. Those interested should email OTDA to be connected with CARES.

### **New York State HOME American Rescue Plan Program (NYS HOME-ARP)**

NYS Housing and Community Renewal (HCR) has released an RFP for HOME-ARP funding. Eligible activities include development of affordable rental housing, supportive services, and acquisition and development of non-congregate shelter. There is approximately \$90 million in funding available which will primarily be utilized for the development of affordable rental housing.

There will be a webinar on Tuesday December 12<sup>th</sup>. The threshold application is due Friday December 22<sup>nd</sup> and the full application will be due Friday February 16<sup>th</sup>.

## **Committee/Program Updates**

### ***Regional Racial Justice Advisory Committee (RRJAC)***

The RRJAC continues to discuss strategies to improve the Diversity Assessment Tool and to elicit more participation in the survey. The RRJAC also discussed upcoming plans for 2024.

### ***HMIS***

CARES of NY is currently working on FY2023 Longitudinal Systems Analysis (LSA) data which is due to HUD on January 17<sup>th</sup>. CARES is expecting to submit this information prior to the due date. CARES is also preparing for the PIT Count and Housing Inventory Count (HIC) and is reviewing the inventory information for all projects. System Performance Measure reporting is expected to open for submission mid-January. CARES anticipates starting work on system performance measures as soon as they become available.

### ***Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHV) Funding***

A reallocation of EHV nationwide is upcoming and the NYS BoS CoC may receive more vouchers. It is expected that these will be reallocated by HUD in February.

### ***Stability Vouchers***

The NYS BoS CoC was awarded an additional five Stability Vouchers, which brings the total the CoC has received to fourteen. The Herkimer Housing Authority also received its own allocation of five vouchers.

### ***New York State Bar Association Liaison***

The NYS Bar Association is developing a report that focuses on homelessness and how it interacts with legal services across the state. This report will be used for advocacy purposes. The Bar Association is looking for feedback and potential review of ideas. If anyone is interested in providing feedback or reviewing the Bar Association report on homelessness, they should contact OTDA.

### ***Empire State Supportive Housing Initiative (ESSHI) Project Applications***

ESSHI provides services and operating funding for Permanent Supportive Housing for an identified eligible subpopulation. This grant comes through the Office of Mental Health (OMH) but is an interagency initiative that includes OTDA. CoC letters of support are required as part of the ESSHI application. Six letters of support were provided across the CoC for this round of funding.

## **Local Planning Body (LPB) Updates**

### ***Cattaraugus***

Genesis House will be opening a five-bed Warming Center on December 12, 2023.

### ***Clinton***

Renovations at the Warming Center are underway with plans to open in January or February of 2024.

***Fulton***

The Warming Center in Fulton County opened on December 1<sup>st</sup>.

***Montgomery***

IPH was awarded \$5.6 million in Homeless Housing and Assistance Program (HHAP) funding to build an emergency shelter and supportive housing program in Amsterdam.

***Putnam***

Search for Change and CoveCare are meeting to discuss strategies around how to seek additional services and supports through the next round of Solutions to End Homelessness Program (STEHP) funding.

***Schoharie***

The Homeless Housing Committee (lead by the Schoharie County Board of Supervisors) is planning to work with a developer to discuss the process of developing affordable housing in Schoharie County. Rehabilitation Support Services (RSS) will be meeting with a developer on December 22<sup>nd</sup>. There is also a meeting scheduled for December 18<sup>th</sup> to discuss the progress that has been made on the Housing Study that La Bella Associates is conducting for Schoharie County.

***Sullivan***

The Unite Us services referral application is operational in Sullivan County. One hundred twenty-four (124) referrals have been made through Unite Us, 25% of those being housing related. Sullivan is experiencing a massive spike in homelessness, up 20% month to month. OMH awarded scattered-site apartments to HONOR EHG. The Sullivan Warming Centers have opened for this year.

**Schedule of Upcoming Meetings**

- Schoharie – December 11
- Fulton – December 19
- Sullivan – December 19
- Montgomery – December 20
- Putnam – December 27
- Cattaraugus – January 17
- Clinton – January 22
- Herkimer – January 22
- Steering Committee – January 4

Meeting adjourned at 10:40am