



New York State Balance of State Continuum of Care

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

January 4, 2024

9:30am-11:00am

### **Steering Committee Attendees**

Adam Anderson, Cattaraugus  
Jodi Fuller, Cattaraugus  
Commissioner Erin Whitcomb, Cattaraugus  
Commissioner Christine Peters, Clinton  
Crystal Narducci, Clinton  
Commissioner Anne Solar, Fulton  
Randy Viele, Fulton  
Pam Gardinier, Herkimer  
Commissioner Matthew Beck, Montgomery  
Janine Robitaille, Montgomery  
Kelley Gilligan (on behalf of Mary Carpenter), Montgomery  
Ashley Brody, Putnam  
Ann Ellsworth, Putnam  
Commissioner Donna Becker, Schoharie  
Christy Houck, Schoharie  
Meg Parsons, Schoharie  
Colleen Haberzettl (on behalf of Commissioner John Liddle), Sullivan  
Deb Worden, Sullivan  
Sarita Green, Sullivan

### **Guests**

Jenn Braun, Alliance for Positive Health  
Denise Galloway, CARES of NY  
Megan Clark, CARES of NY  
Gretchen Crowningshield, Clinton DSS  
Amanda Haley-Beaudette, ETC Housing  
Mary Ann Oliver, HUD Buffalo  
Stephen Munford, Schoharie DSS  
Savannah Lazroe, Sullivan DSS  
Giselle Steketee, Sullivan DSS  
Desmond Washington, Sullivan DSS

### **Ex-Officio Members**

Sonia Tate, OCFS  
Timothy Bethea, OTDA  
Linda Camoin, OTDA  
Heather Diamond, OTDA  
Arden Estep, OTDA  
Sarah Watson, OTDA

## **Welcome and Introductions**

### **Steering Committee Voting Actions**

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

The December 7<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee meeting minutes were reviewed. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Ashley Brody and seconded by Jodi Fuller. All attendees were in favor, none opposed.

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

The 2024 PIT Count will be held on the night of Tuesday, January 30, 2024. The PIT Count is a count of sheltered and unsheltered people experiencing homelessness on a single night in January. A PIT Count refresher training will be held January 18<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am.

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

### **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 plans to increase committee membership.

#### ***HMIS***

CARES of NY will be emailing HMIS users regarding data clean up prior to the FY2023 Longitudinal Systems Analysis (LSA) submission. System Performance Measure reporting is expected to open for submission mid-January.

#### ***Open HMIS System/Balance of State Vulnerability Assessment Tool***

The NYS BoS CoC will move to an open HMIS system January 15<sup>th</sup> and the Balance of State Vulnerability Assessment Tool (BoS-VAT) will be utilized as the Coordinated Entry (CE) assessment tool. The HMIS and CE consent form was updated accordingly. An email will be sent out with the associated documents.

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

The final installment for EHV expenditures is due to CARES by January 15<sup>th</sup>.

#### ***Stability Vouchers***

The NYS BoS CoC was awarded five additional Stability Vouchers, which brings the CoC's total to 14. Vouchers are split between Cattaraugus, Fulton, Putnam, and Sullivan counties. Schoharie and Montgomery Counties are not included because they do not fall within NYS Homes and Community Renewal's (HCR) coverage area.

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

The NYS Bar Association is developing a report that focuses on homelessness and how it interacts with legal services across the state. The Bar Association is looking for feedback and potential review of ideas. The Bar Association is also partnering with other CoCs in this effort. The first meeting will be held on January 11<sup>th</sup> at 1pm.

## **HUD and State Agency Updates**

### ***Grants Gateway to State Financial System (SFS) Transition***

On January 16<sup>th</sup>, NYS will transition contracting activities from Grants Gateway to the Statewide Financial System (SFS). Grants Gateway will no longer be operational as of January 9<sup>th</sup>. SFS will go live January 16<sup>th</sup>.

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

NYS Homes and Community Renewal (HCR) released a Request for Proposals 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. The threshold application was due Friday December 22<sup>nd</sup>, and the full application is due Friday February 16<sup>th</sup>. There may be several rounds of funding released.

### ***Housing Our Neighbors with Dignity Act (HONDA) Funding***

HONDA is an HCR program that provides capital development funding to convert hotels into Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) and affordable housing. Capital Development Funding can be awarded up to \$150,000 per unit. There is approximately \$200 million in funding available. To date, only one award has been made.

### ***Office of Mental Health (OMH) Comprehensive Psychiatric Emergency Programs (CPEP) Funding***

OMH released an RFP for the development and operation of 12 Comprehensive Psychiatric Emergency Programs (CPEPs). CPEPs provide triage, observation, evaluation, care, treatment, and referral services for individuals experiencing mental health crises. All NYS BoS CoC counties are eligible to apply. There is an online informational session on January 10<sup>th</sup> with applications due February 20<sup>th</sup>.

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

### ***Cattaraugus***

Genesis House opened a five-bed Warming Center in December. The Warming Center is well-utilized, and operations are going well thus far.

### ***Clinton***

An architect examined the proposed Warming Center space and provided recommendations which were submitted to the town of Plattsburgh.

### ***Fulton***

The Warming Center in Fulton County opened on December 1<sup>st</sup> and will be open until mid-April.

### ***Herkimer***

The Loaves and Fishes Warming Center opened for the season in October. The Warming Center is looking to expand in the future.

### ***Montgomery***

The Warming Center opened in December and is open every day. It has a capacity of ten and has been near or at capacity since opening.

***Putnam***

The Warming Center is full nightly and there is evidence of people still living outside. 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 Warming Center opened in November and typically houses six or seven individuals nightly but has been at full capacity (10) on several nights.

***Sullivan***

Both Sullivan County Warming Centers opened in November and have been serving seven to ten individuals per night. Rainstorms caused minor flooding in one of the Warming Centers, but the issue was rectified quickly. Both Warming Centers will be open until April 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Schedule of Upcoming Meetings**

Cattaraugus – January 17

Clinton – January 18

Fulton – January 16

Herkimer – January 22

Montgomery – January 22

Putnam – January 31

Schoharie – January 8

Sullivan – January 30

Lived Experience Advisory Board – January 22

Steering Committee – February 1

Meeting adjourned at 10:23 am.