



New York State Balance of State Continuum of Care

57th New York State Balance of State CoC Steering Committee Meeting

February 1, 2024

9:30am-11:00am

Steering Committee Attendees

Adam Anderson, Cattaraugus
Toni Taylor, Cattaraugus
Nicole Zink (on behalf of Commissioner Erin Whitcomb), Cattaraugus
Commissioner Christine Peters, Clinton
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
Kelley Gilligan (on behalf of Mary Carpenter), Montgomery
Ashley Brody, Putnam
Ann Ellsworth, Putnam
Stephen Munford (on behalf of Commissioner Donna Becker), Schoharie
Meg Parsons, Schoharie
Commissioner John Liddle, Sullivan
Sarita Green, Sullivan

Guests

Jennifer Schultz, Albany VA
Jenn Braun, Alliance for Positive Health
Gretchen Crowningshield, Clinton DSS
Amanda Haley-Beaudette, ETC
Mary Ann Oliver, HUD Buffalo
Carmen Cortes, Legal Aid Society
Jen Heidemann, Department of Health

Ex-Officio Members

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

Welcome and Introductions

Steering Committee Voting Actions

Previous Meeting Minutes

The January 4th Steering Committee meeting minutes were reviewed. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Ashley Brody and seconded by Adam Anderson. All attendees were in favor, none opposed.

FY2023 Continuum of Care (CoC) Funding Awards

The NYS BoS CoC was awarded funding to address homelessness under HUD's Annual CoC NOFO. In total, \$2,110,327 was awarded for FY2023. Two new projects were funded, the Alliance's Domestic Violence Rapid Rehousing Expansion and ETC's Permanent Supportive Housing Expansion. All renewal projects were funded.

Point-in-Time (PIT) Count

The 2024 PIT Count was held on the night of Tuesday, January 30, 2024. OTDA will collect and compile the data from the PIT Count to submit to HUD by March. Once the data is compiled, OTDA will draft a report that shows PIT Count information by county.

Open HMIS and BoS-VAT

The NYS BoS CoC moved to an open HMIS system on January 15th and the Balance of State Vulnerability Assessment Tool (BoS-VAT) is now being utilized as the Coordinated Entry (CE) assessment tool.

CoC Action Plan

The CoC Action Plan sets goals and guides the activity of the CoC. OTDA is updating the CoC Action Plan in partnership with the Steering Committee and the Services Coordination Committee.

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 plans to administer the Diversity Assessment Tool in the first quarter of 2024 and hopes to illicit a robust response to better understand the representation gaps in CoC leadership. The BoS CoC utilizes their own Diversity Assessment tool outside of the RRJAC and expects to solicit responses in the spring.

Lived Experience Advisory Board (LEAB)

The LEAB is currently working on a Tenant's Rights and Responsibilities training for program participants. The LEAB is also working to increase general membership.

Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)

CARES of NY submitted the Longitudinal Systems Analysis to HUD in January. System Performance Measures open in February and will be submitted to HUD in March. The Housing Inventory Count is due in April.

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 has met with CoC members to discuss CoC functionality and homelessness.

HUD and State Agency Updates

Grants Gateway to State Financial System (SFS) Transition

The SFS transition occurred on January 16th. Most contracting activities will now take place in SFS. Any Requests for Proposals (RFPs) released in Grants Gateway prior to the transition will still utilize Grants Gateway for applications.

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 of funding available which will primarily be utilized for the development of affordable rental housing. The first round of applications was due in December but there will be several rounds of funding released.

Local Planning Body (LPB) Updates

Clinton

Construction has begun on the Warming Center and is expected to be finished in the next four to six weeks.

Fulton

The Warming Center in Fulton County will be open until mid-April. Fulton County DSS is looking into how to meet the daytime needs of individuals as the Warming Center is not open during the day.

Herkimer

The Warming Center continues to serve individuals but, like many other counties, there are limited places for individuals to go during the day when the Warming Center is not open. There were approximately 19 unsheltered individuals identified on the night of the PIT Count.

Montgomery

The Montgomery County Warming Center continues to be at, or near capacity (10 beds) each night. Catholic Charities hosted a Warming Center Open House which was well-attended by community members.

Putnam

Putnam/Northern Westchester Women's Resource Center (DV-RRH) program is going well with several program participants moving on from RRH to an Emergency Housing Voucher (EHV). This will allow the RRH program to utilize funds to house additional individuals or households. The PIT Count numbers in Putnam are expected to be consistent with last year. Search for Change and Cove Care are meeting to discuss strategies around how respond to funding opportunities as they become available.

Schoharie

The Warming Center continues to serve six to seven individuals per night. There were no unsheltered individuals identified on the night of the PIT Count. The housing survey in Schoharie County is underway. The first meeting regarding the housing survey was held in January with 20-30 community members in attendance.

Sullivan

The Warming Centers in Sullivan County are hosting ten to fifteen individuals per night. There were approximately three unsheltered individuals identified on the night of the PIT Count. Sullivan County has established a \$2 million dollar fund earmarked for housing. Details regarding how this money will be utilized are forthcoming.

Schedule of Upcoming Meetings

Cattaraugus – February 21

Clinton – February 15

Fulton – February 20

Herkimer – February 26

Montgomery – February 26

Putnam – February 28

Schoharie – February 12

Sullivan – February 27

Lived Experience Advisory Board – February 26

Steering Committee – March 7

Meeting adjourned at 10:42 am.