NYS BoS CoC

New York State Balance of State Continuum of Care

**59th New York State Balance of State CoC
Steering Committee Meeting**

May 2, 2024
9:00am-2:00pm

Steering Committee Attendees

Adam Anderson, Cattaraugus
Jodi Fuller, Cattaraugus
Commissioner Erin Whitcomb, Cattaraugus
Commissioner Christine Peters, Clinton
Crystal Narducci, Clinton
Commissioner Anne Solar, Fulton
Amanda Anderson, Fulton
Randy Viele, Fulton
Shauna Cone (on behalf of Maureen Petrie), Herkimer
Mary Carpenter, Montgomery
Janine Robitaille, Montgomery
Ashley Brody, Putnam
Ann Ellsworth, Putnam
Commissioner Sara Servadio, Putnam
Commissioner Donna Becker, Schoharie
Meg Parsons, Schoharie
Sarita Green, Sullivan
Commissioner John Liddle, Sullivan
Deb Worden, Sullivan

Guests

Jennifer Schultz, Albany Veterans Affairs
Jenn Braun, Alliance for Positive Health
Megan Clark, CARES
Michelle Sandoz-Dennis, CARES
Kelley Gilligan, Catholic Charities of Fulton and Montgomery Counties
Gretchen Crowningshield, Clinton County DSS
Jennifer Heidemann, NYS Department of Health
Mary Ann Oliver, HUD Buffalo
Carmen Cortes, Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York
Stephen Munford, Schoharie County DSS
Talya Shulman, The Ryan Project

Ex-Officio Members

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

March Meeting Minutes

The March 2nd Steering Committee meeting minutes were reviewed. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Commissioner Donna Becker and seconded by Randy Viele. All attendees were in favor, none opposed.

NYSHADE Participation Vote

The New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) administers a data warehouse, the New York Statewide Homeless Assistance Datawarehouse Environment (NYSHADE) which accepts information uploaded from the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) from Continuums of Care (CoCs) across the state to analyze de-identified data at the state level. For the Balance of State (BoS) to participate, the BoS and OTDA must enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). A motion to sign the NYSHADE Participation MOU was made by Jodi Fuller and seconded by Deborah Worden. All attendees were in favor, none opposed.

HMIS

NY Focus Data Request

NY Focus, a nonprofit investigative journal, requested data from the NYS BoS CoC, as well as local Social Services Districts. The information requested is robust and not easily accessible in HMIS. The CoC, while not required to provide the requested data, is interested in learning more from NY Focus about how the data will be used and how the CoC can assist in providing meaningful homeless assistance data. A member of the Steering Committee will contact NY Focus to set up a meeting to discuss the request.

HMIS Costs

CARES reported that the CoC's HMIS vendor, Foothold, is increasing the cost of HMIS licenses and the overall cost of HMIS services will increase in the coming years. Options to cover the increased expenses were discussed.

Other Updates

Discussion occurred noting Emergency Solutions Grant–CARES Act (ESG–CV) projects will be discontinued in HMIS by CARES in the coming months. Historical data will still be accessible. If an agency does not want a project to be discontinued, reach out to CARES.

CoC Monitoring and 2024 NOFO

CoC program monitoring will continue over the next several weeks. Follow-up letters for programs already monitored will be sent in the beginning of May.

The 2024 NOFO may be released earlier this year than last year. Additionally, the NOFO will be moving to a two-year cycle. There will be more information to come once the NOFO is released.

Point-in-Time (PIT) and Housing Inventory Count (HIC)

The 2024 PIT and HIC are due to be submitted to HUD by May 10th. Preliminary data suggests the sheltered and unsheltered counts increased by 38% and 33% respectively. This increase can be explained by staff conducting the PIT Count expanding their knowledge of where individuals stay outdoors. Once the reports are submitted to HUD, OTDA will create a report that shows PIT Count data by county.

Regional Racial Justice Advisory Committee (RRJAC)

The RRJAC is developing a Board Matrix using data from the Diversity Assessment Tool to examine any leadership/representation disparities. Steering Committee Members responded to the Diversity Assessment Tool during the meeting.

Committee/Program Updates

Data Committee

The Data Committee continues to review monthly data quality reports and recently began discussing Eva, a web-based application that is utilized to track and assess data quality. The Data Committee is also reviewing System Performance Measures in relation to the NOFO.

New York State Bar Association Task Force

The NYS Bar Association is developing a report that focuses on homelessness and how it interacts with legal services across the state. They are working on a final draft of their report.

Miscellaneous Opportunities and Updates

Solutions To End Homelessness Program

The STEHP Request for Proposal (RFP) has been released by OTDA.

Local Planning Body (LPB) Updates

Cattaraugus

Cattaraugus County has a new housing project scheduled to open at the end of May. It will include 18 Empire State Supportive Housing Initiative (ESSHI) units serving those fleeing domestic violence. There is another project in early stages of development with a target population of Severe Mental Illness (SMI), frail/elderly and veterans.

Clinton

Friends of the North Country is exploring Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding and will be responding to the STEHP RFP, in partnership with ETC Housing Corp.

Fulton

The Family Counseling Center is applying for a certified community-based health certification which will garner more resources for Fulton County homeless individuals. IPH will be operating the Fulton County YMCA. This program has 40 units, with 19 current vacancies.

Herkimer

There is availability in the Rental Supplement Program, but suitable and affordable units are difficult to locate. Several sites have been identified for potential rehabilitation to create new housing stock.

Montgomery

The Warming Center had a successful year and will be trying to expand to serve more people next year. The DV-RRH program has served more than 15 households, but housing stock is limited. IPH is continuing to work towards a contract with HHAP for a co-located shelter.

Putnam

Search For Change (SFC) and CoveCare are working together to apply for STEHP funding. SFC is also responding to the NYS Office of Mental Health (OMH) RFP for 15 additional scattered-site supportive housing beds, as their current program is full and has a waitlist. The Putnam Northern Westchester Women's Resource Center's DV-RRH program currently has one opening.

Schoharie

The Warming Center closed for the year, having served up to nine people on any single night. The Schoharie Board of Supervisors approved a Letter of Intent to demolish the former Public Safety Building to develop affordable housing units. Rehabilitation Support Services (RSS)will be the service provider.

Sullivan

Sullivan County is exploring the Housing Our Neighbors with Dignity Act (HONDA) funding to convert hotels into housing. Action Toward Independence (ATI) will be applying for STEHP funding. SUNY Sullivan has dorms that are no longer in use and are being considered for homeless housing. The Fearless DV-RRH program has two openings that are in the process of being filled. Sullivan Catholic Charities may apply for ESSHI funding, as they have had space open that could potentially house a PSH program.

Schedule of Upcoming Meetings

Cattaraugus – May 15
Clinton – May 16
Fulton – May 20
Herkimer – June 24
Montgomery – June 24
Putnam – May 22
Schoharie – May 13
Sullivan – May 28
Steering Committee – June 6

Meeting adjourned at 1:28 pm.