

Housing Continuum of Care-Bucks County Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

(March 20, 2015)

Present: Stefanie Hendel, Marti Woglom, Tracy Mellor, Don Detweiler, Joelle Pitts, Marlene Piasecki, Rich Aichele, Deb Neidhardt, Erin Lukoss, Joyce Schug

Not Present: Roger Collins

Minutes regarding the February 20, 2015 meeting: (Don Detweiler) Don called for the approval of the February 20, 2015 minutes. A motion for the approval of the minutes was made by Marti Woglom, and the motion was seconded by Tracy Mellor. Rich Aichele noted that the next meeting date indicated at the end of the minutes, should be March 20, 2015, not April 17, 2015.

HCoC-BC Committee Officer Elections: (Marlene Piasecki) Marlene reported that efforts had been taken to identify someone to fill the vacant secretary position; however those who were contacted had not been interested. (Anne Bishop, who is the current secretary for CSSH and Chris Shannon, residential Director at Penn Foundation, had been contacted.) Marlene stated that she felt a concentrated effort needed to be taken to identify someone to fill this position. A couple of suggestions were made regarding possible candidates including, Matt Uhler of United Way, or Mo Gillan, as a representative of one of the VA Agencies. It was decided that the committee would reach out to each of these individuals to determine their interest in serving as Secretary for the HCoC-BC Committee.

Section 8 Housing Voucher Local Preference Update: (Rich Aichele) Rich reported that the BCHA did not receive an expansion of its funding for the Section 8 Housing Voucher Program, as was anticipated however, the BCHA has agreed to issue two Section 8 Housing Vouchers per month dating back to October 2014, as a local preference program for homeless families. The two vouchers constitute a monthly percentage of the vouchers, (or two out of fifteen vouchers) that are turned over, or freed up by individuals leaving the Section 8 Program. Rich noted that the Section 8 Homeless Family Local Preference Review Committee should convene shortly, so that the twelve families requiring identification from the six month period, from October 2014 to the present, may be reviewed and confirmed by the committee. Moving forward, it is anticipated that the committee would meet on a quarterly basis, in an effort to identify families who would most benefit from this housing opportunity.

2015 Point in Time Count: (Stefanie Hendel) Stefanie reported that although, there was an increase in the count of the unsheltered homeless, the overall count was slightly lower than the number that was reported in 2014. Apparently, there was a food pantry, which had identified eight homeless individuals, which significantly increased the unsheltered count. There was a discussion by the committee that the data that is gleaned through the point in time count needs to be communicated so that the general public understands what it means. Additionally, it was agreed that the committee should be more

public about its successes, along with the data that is collected for the point in time count. It was suggested that community impact reports regarding various programs, should be shared especially when people exit programs positively. It was also suggested that an info- graphics report be developed regarding the point in time count. Stefanie has agreed to create such a report.

Stefanie also reported that the Data Management Committee would like to do a summer/fall unsheltered point in time count. Stefanie agreed to determine what the purpose of this count would be, when that committee meets on March 26, 2015. She will report that back to the Executive Committee, before a final decision is made about conducting this count.

Housing Advisory Board Listening Sessions with Jason Alexander: (Don Detweiler) Don requested an update regarding the Listening Sessions with Jason Alexander. Marlene reported that the sessions were well attended, and that an aggregate of the information obtained from the sessions will be posted to the Housing Advisory Board Website. It is anticipated that Jason will conduct an analysis of the wide variety of information that was offered at the sessions. It was also noted that it is anticipated that there will be some Listening Sessions scheduled with guests at the Bucks County Shelter, and the other county shelters in the future, and that there might also be some collaboration with the Mental Health CSP Committee around this process.

In a brief update regarding the Housing Advisory Board, Marlene noted that there had been presentations to the committee regarding the Housing Link, and funding that was available through Bucks County Housing and Community Development.

Finally, it was noted that the Bucks County Commissioners expect a report by Jason Alexander by September 2015, and that in most other counties where the Strategic Planning Process has occurred, the process took two to three years for completion.

Community Conversations: (multiple committee members) Although, not on the agenda a significant conversation came about regarding “Community Conversations.” This is a series of Listening sessions, which had been funded by Bucks County, which is being facilitated by United Way, around a variety of topics. Because, the funding for these sessions was through Human Services, John Ruben has been assigned the task of monitoring the results of the process, acquiring feedback from participants, making note of the numbers in attendance, and of those who had been in attendance. The next session is scheduled for April 27, 2015, in Southampton. More information is available about this on the United Way Website.

Subcommittee Updates:

Outcomes Committee: Erin Lukoss reported that the committee is looking to create Impact Reports, through HMIS Data. Additionally the committee is looking at developing performance measures for Transitional Housing, through the use of a performance calculator that had been introduced at the National Alliance to End Homelessness Conference. The calculator evaluates assets and outcomes, and is utilized to assist programs to improve moving forward.

Data Management Committee: Stefanie reported that the Data Management Committee is reviewing the results of the Point in Time Count.

HCoC-BC Website: Stefanie re- introduced a conversation regarding a request by Sara Miller of BC Children and Youth, for approval to place a description of the Bridge/Transition program on the HCoC-BC Website. Apparently, HUD is encouraging this. It was decided that this information should instead go onto the County Website.

LHOT: Joyce Schug reported that the LHOT had met, and that the meeting was a smaller group, which focused was on Mental Health. Joyce mentioned that the Local lead agency process is on hold pending the identification of a developer who would build tax credit housing. Joyce also reported that there is an Advancing in Recovery Conference, scheduled for May 22, 2015, at Delaware Valley College, and that she will get a Save the Date Flyer out to the committee.

Agenda for March 26, 2015 HCoC-BC Committee meeting: During the course of putting an agenda together for the March 26, 2015 HCoC-BC meeting, the Executive Committee decided that there were not enough items for the agenda, requiring a meeting, and that an email with various updates would be sent to the committee members in lieu of a meeting. A notice would be sent out cancelling the meeting, followed by the email containing the updates.

The email with updates would contain:

- A document about the PIT - "Homeless Snapshot" (Stefanie)
- The HCoC-BC Nominations slate (Marlene)
- An update regarding the Section 8 Local Preference for Homeless Families (Rich)
- The save the date flyer for the Mental Health Advancing in Recovery Conference (Joyce)
- A Housing Advisory Board-BC Listening Sessions update (Stefanie)

Recorded by Deborah P. Neidhardt, HCoC-BC Secretary

The next HCoC-BC Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for April 17, 2015 @ 8:30 AM, in the Library of the Almshouse

