



November 17 2020 Full Meeting 10:00-11:30am
Via Zoom Video Conference

Minutes

Attendance:

Angel Ackerman -- ASPIRE to Autonomy
Rob Nicolella -- Catholic Charities Allentown
Kaitlin VanBuskirk -- Cay Galgon Life House
Daniella Bell -- Cay Galgon Life House
Heidi Westerman -- City of Allentown
Tina Roseberry -- City of Bethlehem
Sherri Penchishen -- City of Bethlehem Health Bureau
Chris Cassidy -- CACLV
Robyn Weaver -- CACLV
Berto Sicard -- CACLV
Kristen Blasco -- CACLV Sixth street Shelter
Jackie Triplin -- Community Action Partnership Cambria County
Lauren Whitleigh -- DMA
Ross Marcus -- Easton Area Neighborhood Centers
Roslyn Kuba -- Family Promise of Lehigh Valley
Jodi Perry-Petrozak -- Greater Valley YMCA- Allentown Branch
Diane Elliott -- RHAB, HDC MidAtlantic
Abby Goldfarb -- Lehigh Conference of Churches
Elly Nieves -- Lehigh Conference of Churches
Ben Stephens -- Lehigh Conference of Churches
Laurie Moyer -- Lehigh County
Veronica Lefurgy -- Lehigh County
Dick Orlemann -- Lehigh County
Tom Applebach -- Lehigh County Veterans Affairs
Joshua Bridges -- Lehigh County MH/ID/D&AEI/Crisis-I&R
Barbara Cooper -- LCHA, NCHA, VHDC
Tammy McCulloch -- LVACT Housing Supports Program
Julie Corredato -- LVCIL
Rosemary Velazquez -- LVCIL
Cathy Coyne -- Moravian College
Lori Nagy -- New Bethany Ministries
Lisa Myer -- New Bethany Ministries
Marc Rittle -- New Bethany Ministries
Sarah Andrew -- North Penn Legal Services



Robyn Barbosa -- Northampton County
Frank Brooks -- Northampton County DCED
Jaimie Partington -- Northampton County Mental Health
Cathy Kromer -- Northampton County Mental Health
Alex Carrillo -- Northampton County Veterans Affairs
Toni Gainer -- PA 211
Michael Banas -- Project of Easton
Hasshan Batts -- Promise Neighborhoods of Lehigh Valley
Sherri Binder -- Ripple Community Inc.
Jeff Poch -- Safe Harbor of Easton
Michelle Wagner -- St Luke's Community Health & Preventive Medicine
Brenda Johnson -- Salvation Army Lehigh Shelter
Gabbreell James -- Self-Determination Housing of PA
Ellen Kern -- Senator Browne's Office
Alisa Baratta -- Third St Alliance
Ellen Caban -- Third Street Alliance
Ziana Keith -- Third Street Alliance
Cattima Millsap -- Third Street Alliance
Zenayda Alicea -- Third St. Alliance-Connect to Home CES
Kayla Gower -- Transitions of PA- DV CE Specialist
Janet Roth -- Trexler Trust
Priscilla Rosado -- United Way of the Greater LV
Elizabeth Bell -- USDA Rural Development
Seth Campbell -- Valley Health Partners Street Medicine
Michele Albright -- Valley Youth House
India Wright -- Valley Youth House
Christina DiPierro -- Valley Youth House
Tom Harrington -- Valley Youth House
Craig Smith -- Jubilee Breakfast - Zion's UCC church Allentown

1. **CoC Written Standards revision process, HMIS updates, ESG updates**

- a. PA DCED has new staff member assisting with Client Track 19
 - i. New reports can now be run in ClientTrack, as well as Longitudinal Systems Analysis data
 - ii. New user training available on Youtube, more trainings to come
- b. ESG FY2018 funds expired, 2019 has 5 months left in contract period- if provider will not be exhausting funds in time, contact Stacey Hawthorne
 - i. FY2020 ESG-CV invoices can now be submitted, ESG-CV Code Blue application period just closed, ESG-CV 2nd round application expected in Jan 2021



- ii. ESG-HP services can still be provided and submitted.
 - 1. Guidance provided for navigating instances of landlords filing illegal evictions despite CDC moratorium. ESG funds may be used as a last option. All attempts to mitigate must be documented.
- c. PIT Count 2021 - Hud is requiring sheltered PIT count, has specifically requested that LV region administer unsheltered count as well
 - i. Meeting convened for 11/18 for PIT teams across CoC
 - ii. PIT count survey app is currently being improved
- d. CoC Written Standards revisions project
 - i. Committee has been established with consultant support. Making changes to be in compliance with HUD regulations and COVID factors, refine language around CES prioritization
 - ii. Want to diversify membership of CoC leadership

2. LV Winter Emergency Sheltering

- a. Safe Harbor - established cleaning and distancing measures, hoping to begin serving approximately 15 people for warming station beginning 12/1
- b. Bethlehem Emergency Sheltering - opened 11/15, until 4/15. Using different part of building, can serve approximately 70 people. Serves dinner and bagged breakfast. Following CDC guidelines
- c. Allentown YMCA - opened 11/1, highest served 27 people so far, has up to 70 beds. Meals on select days. Following CDC guidelines. No showers this year, some laundry. Street Medicine team select days, have held a flu vaccine clinic. Run background checks on site because space is shared with childcare facility. No issues yet.
- d. RHAB will coordinate ongoing conversations among warming station teams specifically regarding disruptive guests who may cruise between facilities
- e. Allentown "tent city" encampment was evicted 11/16, some residents moved other outdoor locations, some are at YMCA, some were housed through resources hubs at Ripple and Conference of Churches

3. Allentown Homeless Commission

- a. Strategic plan will be ready to present to Allentown City Council in March 2021
 - i. Working with other cities to learn from existing strategic plans

4. RHAB Governing Board Elections

- a. Seeking nominations, must apply using application form (to be distributed)
 - i. Seeking a slate of candidates prior to January's RHAB, vote to be held then



5. Impending End of CDC Eviction Moratorium

- a. Evictions for non-payment of rent have mostly been stayed by LV judges until 1/2/21. At that time, constables will be backlogged, but evictions are expected to happen.
- b. Advocacy for a plan to address should be aimed at state level
- c. Region will need temporary housing services, hotel vouchers, funding for moving and storage services
- d. Stayed orders for possession cannot be overturned, so use of ESG dollars for repayment would come too late
 - i. Evictions not already processed through courts can use CARES ESG dollars, as homelessness prevention is a Covid related activity, including hotel vouchers
 - ii. HP dollars can be used for first and last month rent and security, including eviction prevention
 - iii. Cases should be referred to RHAB Eviction Conciliation providers (Catholic Charities, Easton Area Neighborhood Centers, Lehigh Conference of Churches, New Bethany Ministries, ProJeCt of Easton, and Third Street Alliance for Women and Children), as well as North Penn Legal Services for legal support
- e. RHAB leadership would like documentation of current log of stayed evictions in LV and in state court system

6. CACLV Color Outside the Lines Housing Plan

- a. Racial equity initiative with five targets: criminal justice, education, opportunity & employment, health, and housing
 - i. Working on strategic plan addressing housing equity in LV, seeking input and support from RHAB, want to align efforts moving forward
 1. Have developed two surveys, one for providers, one for clients / community members
 - ii. Plan to be completed by COTL by January

7. Racial Trauma and Disparities in Housing Services

- a. United Way Resilient Lehigh Valley in Cooperation with COTL and Promise Neighborhoods hosted series of workshops on equity, restorative impact, and trauma informed care
 - i. Workshops available now as recordings
- b. Promise Neighborhoods will be facilitating series of focus groups to determine end-user experience, with goal of learning how to ensure equity for clients
 - i. Collecting data from consumers, not just providers
 - ii. Feedback on what could be improved is welcomed
 - iii. Equity practice should also include disability rights



- c. CoC has also begun tracking racial data, has done a deeper dive which aggregates by county and RHAB.
 - i. CoC Exec Board is forming an equity committee to create equity framework for whole CoC

8. PHARE Application for Landlord Engagement project

- a. Several member agencies are applying jointly for the next round of PHARE funding with a primary focus on valley-wide landlord engagement, to be administered through United Way. Application due 11/20
 - i. Program will be seeking at least one engagement staff to serve as primary contact
 - ii. System will provide participating landlords with front end incentives, or back end repair reimbursement, with the purpose of encouraging landlords to rent to households on the BNL who would have previously been discriminated against based on income, credit, criminal history, etc.
 - iii. Will include a housing unit database

9. 2021 PIT Count

- a. RHAB seeking a coordinator for this year's count