**Central Virginia Continuum of Care

HHS Agenda for January 31, 2024

*The Homeless and Housing Services Committee works to improve the homeless response system through developing program recommendations consistent with best practices in homeless assistance while overseeing the implementation and improvement of coordinated entry for the CVCoC.*

1. **Welcome and Introductions**: Leslie Loucks
2. **Gaps in homeless response services**: Sarah Fuentes
   1. Expanding shelter capacity: Sarah Fuentes reported out that the community is seeing an increase in unsheltered individuals/households. As a result, both the Salvation Army and Shelter at RESET have waiting lists. Increased emergency shelter is an ongoing need with a specific need for low-barrier shelter. The CVCoC is continuing to work to identify potential shelter sites and providers.
   2. Day shelter: Sarah Fuentes reported that there continues to be a need for a dedicated day shelter. Currently the Lynchburg Public Libraries serve as de facto day shelters where individuals can charge their phones, stay warm/cool, and access public restrooms. There was a concern that due to slated library renovations at the main library location on Memorial Avenue, the need for a dedicated day shelter was imminent. However, the renovations have been postponed until 2025 so there is more time to brainstorm day shelter ideas.
   3. Night and weekends homeless information line (CHIA): Sarah Fuentes reported that the CHIA line is currently business hours only. Discussions are ongoing regarding night and weekend staffing.
   4. Extreme weather shelter: Sarah Fuentes reported that the Warming Center through the City of Lynchburg was opened twice this year when temperatures were consistently below freezing. The number of individuals accessing the warming shelters demonstrated that there is a need in the community. The CVCoC is engaging in ongoing conversations with the City regarding a warming shelter model that will be more consistent and sustainable. They are working collaboratively to identify a site, provider, and funding for a warming shelter.
3. **Coordinated Entry** 
   1. *CHIA*: Angela Davis, Miriam’s House: Angela Davis shared numbers of people who have called into the CHIA information line. She noted that there seems to be a trend of rising numbers of calls from youth and young adults as well as parents of youth and young adults who are experiencing or at imminent risk of experiencing homelessness.
   2. *HOME:* Carrie Jennings, CAN: Carrie Jennings reported that the current caseload for Street Outreach fluctuates in the range of 80-90 open cases. The current caseload includes 23 sleeping in cars, 50 unsheltered in street locations, and 9 in abandoned houses. She also reported that Street Outreach is currently serving 12 Youth & Family households and 3 Veteran households.
   3. *Domestic Violence Shelters*: Amy McIvor, YWCA & Lisa Bailey, BDVS: BDVS reported that they are currently serving 2 families. They are seeing a trend of households from other areas contacting them for services but that they do not qualify for DV services. Lynchburg YWCA is currently serving 22 individuals and households. The Alta Vista shelter is still in progress and is not yet available.
   4. *By-Name List (veterans, families, youth & chronically homeless)*: Sarah Fuentes shared current numbers of subpopulation households experiencing homelessness.
4. **Strategic Plan 2020 – 2023 –** Leslie Loucks
   1. Presentation on 2020-2023 Plan: Leslie Loucks shared a presentation on the CVCoC Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness: 2020-2023. The presentation included a look back at the plan’s overall goals and specific action items. It was noted that the Plan was developed prior to the Covid-19 pandemic and that certain priorities identified in the plan had to be adjusted as a result of responding to the crisis. Specific action items that were assigned to the HHS Committee under each of the 4 main goals were reviewed. Completed, in-progress, and not yet started action items for HHS were noted. It was reported that, overall, despite the Covid-19 pandemic, the HHS Committee largely accomplished the assigned tasks from the 2020-2023 Plan.
   2. Strategic Plan 2024 Look Ahead: Leslie Loucks presented an overview of the process to develop the CVCoC’s next strategic plan. Included in the planning process will be four working groups: Community Commitment, Data & Performance, Coordinated System, and Housing & Stability. Brief descriptions of each working group were provided and sign-up sheets to participate on the committees were shared.
5. **Agency/Program/Resources Updates**
   1. Shelter at RESET: Courtney Baldock shared that the shelter/program will be closing in the summer of 2024. RESET has been a successful low-barrier shelter provider in the area but the organization has decided to focus their mission on substance abuse recovery. CVCoC President, Tab Robertson shared that the CoC was aware of the decision and was working as quickly as possible to identify a new low-barrier shelter site/provider. She asked that anyone who had ideas on possible sites/providers please contact her.
   2. Centra: It was shared that Centra is launching its 2024 Community Health Needs Assessment Survey to provide a deeper understanding of our communities’ health needs and how we can address them. She shared information on how to access the survey.
   3. United Way: The United Way shared February Events offered to the community.
   4. Rush Homes: Hannah Yarrosh shared that construction of Rush Homes’ new development, Florida Terrace was complete and that the grand opening would be in February. The development will add 31 much needed affordable, accessible housing units to the Lynchburg affordable housing pool.
6. **Next meetings**- (all CoC meetings are listed on the CoC website at centralvirginiacoc.org/calendar)

**HHS**: Wednesday, March 27, 2024, 10am, United Way Conference Room

**CoC Community Meeting**: Tuesday, April 16, 2024, 9am – 11am, in-person, Pearson Cancer Center

1. **Announcements**

Minutes prepared by: Leslie Loucks