**Central Virginia Continuum of Care

HHS Minutes for September 27, 2023

*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.*

In attendance: Arnold Corneal, Amy McIvor, Kim Foster, Shawne Farmer, Courtney Baldock, Kara Burks, Bryan Ottinger, Crystal Bailey, Tab Robertson, Kim Towler, Lisa Bailey, Carrie Jennings, Lexie Tookes, Angela Davis, Sarah Fuentes, Alison Hardy, Allie Frantz, Emily Parker, Morgan Holt, Sarah Quarantotto

1. **Welcome and Introductions**: Sarah Quarantotto welcomed the attendees to the Homeless and Housing Services Committee and reminded them of the purpose of the committee to the CoC’s work. All attendees went around and introduced themselves.
2. **Gaps in homeless response services**: Sarah reminded the group that a major responsibility of this committee is to identify needs and gaps in the homeless response system and to problem solve solutions. The first gap is expanding shelter capacity. Currently the two area shelters are consistently at full utilization with over 60 unsheltered persons in our community each night. Sarah and Sarah will bring data at the next HHS to identify the need and develop solutions. The CoC is also in need of a day shelter as the growing unsheltered population needs a safe place to be during the day to receive services. There has not been an update on a nonprofit taking this over but the committee had several ideas. Madelyn will reach out to Chestnut Hill to see if this is something they are interested in providing. The homeless hotline, CHIA, will resume nights and weekends availability next month as Roads to Recovery can take this over. Ongoing conversations continue with the City of Lynchburg regarding an extreme weather shelter but it is hopeful that this winter there will be one provided. More specifics regarding the exact temperature needs to be established.
3. **Coordinated Entry** 
   1. *CHIA*: Angela Davis provided the following report for the last two months for the homeless information line:
      1. 79 referrals were sent to homeless prevention at IOA
      2. 5 households were referred to emergency shelter at RESET (Salvation Army no longer fills beds through CHIA)
      3. 10 households were referred to domestic violence services
      4. 66 households were referred to street outreach
      5. Angela reported that there were 996 callers in total with 84% of callers provided with other resources as they were not at-risk of or experiencing homelessness.
   2. *HOME:* Carrie reported that street outreach was currently serving 58 unsheltered households in the region. She shared that 70% were outside and 30% were sleeping in their vehicles. She shared that one of the biggest complaints was that police were often asking people to move on when they were sleeping which made it difficult for them to get adequate rest as there was no where for them to move on to. This issue will be discussed during the board meeting with the LPD representative.
   3. *Domestic Violence Shelters*: Amy McIvor reported that Sadler House had served 50 females adults, 2 male adults and 9 children since last report. She shared that there were currently 16 individuals staying at the shelter but that Frannie’s House would be opening October 31st. Lisa Bailey with BDVS reported that they served 3 households and currently have shelter openings for households fleeing domestic violence.
   4. *By-Name List (veterans, families, youth & chronically homeless)*: Sarah Fuentes shared data on our current priority subpopulations. Over the last two months more households exited our homeless response system than inflowed which is positive.
4. **Agency/Program/Resources Updates**
   * Madelyn with LRHA shared that they were offering budgeting classes and an information meeting with Brightview. She will circulate the information for the committee to invite their clients.
   * Lisa with BDVS shared that they were hosting two domestic violence awareness classes, one on October 13 and one on the 20th
   * Kim with VDH shared that on October 19th the mammogram van will be onsite to offer free mammograms. Appointments need to be made in advance and there will also be blood pressure screenings.
5. **Next meetings**- (all CoC meetings are listed on the CoC website at centralvirginiacoc.org/calendar)

**HHS**: Wednesday, November 29, 2023, 10am, United Way Conference Room

**CoC Community Meeting**: Tuesday, October 17, 2023, 9am – 11am, in-person, Craddock Auditorium at Virginia Baptist Hospital

1. Sarah Quarantotto led a training and discussion on harm reduction as it is required that all CoC-funded agencies use a harm reduction approach when providing homeless response services.

Minutes provided by Sarah Quarantotto, Chair of HHS