



## Central Virginia Continuum of Care HHS Minutes for November 29, 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: Alison Hardy, Sharon Beaden, Amy Phillips, Kim Towler, Lexie Tookes, Emily Parker, Carrie Jennings, Courtney Baldock, Bryan Ottinger, Kara Burks, Madelyn Pemberton, Allie Frantz, Tab Robertson, Joe Girandola, Alexandra Jack, Chloe Breaux, Kristin Wheeler, Kondo Jenkins, Leslie Loucks, Jacqueline Jones, Sarah Quarantotto

- I. **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.
  
- II. **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 50 unsheltered persons in our community each night. 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. 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.
  
- III. **Coordinated Entry**
  - a. **CHIA:** Leslie Loucks on behalf of Angela Davis provided the following report for the last two months for the homeless information line:
    - i. 68 referrals were sent to homeless prevention at IOA (11 less than the previous 2 months)
    - ii. 11 households were referred to emergency shelter at RESET (Salvation Army no longer fills beds through CHIA)
    - iii. 5 households were referred to domestic violence services
    - iv. 84 households were referred to street outreach (18 more than the previous two months)
    - v. There were 891 callers in total with 81% of callers provided with other resources as they were not at-risk of or experiencing homelessness.
  
  - b. **HOME:** Carrie reported that street outreach continued to be quite busy with many individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness.
  
  - c. **Domestic Violence Shelters:** Kristin Wheeler shared that they were no longer completely full which means that they will be able to serve households experiencing homelessness rather than exclusively those fleeing domestic violence. She also shared that Frannie's House had been

unable to open as planned on October 31<sup>st</sup> due to staffing constraints. There was no report from BDVS.

- d. *By-Name List (veterans, families, youth & chronically homeless)*: Leslie Loucks on behalf of Sarah Fuentes shared data on our current priority subpopulations. Over the last two months there were 15 new priority population households becoming homeless (veterans, families, youth and chronically homeless) but 16 moved out which makes the last two months a huge success! Currently there are 8 veteran households, 6 chronically homeless households, 8 youth and 15 homeless families.

- IV. **100 Day Challenge Update**- Kim Towler provided an update on the 100 Day Challenge through Built for Zero to reduce the number of chronically homeless individuals and homeless veterans in the community through housing them. She reported that there have been reductions since the summer and that the team would be getting together with Built for Zero for a half day conference next week to talk through progress and next steps.
- V. **Equal Access Training**- Sarah reminded the committee that in 2016 HUD passed the Equal Access Rule which requires all HUD grantees to provide equal access to their shelters and homeless response programs despite family composition and/or gender identity. The committee talked through examples. Courtney Baldock reported that an example of applying this rule was placing a transwoman in a bedroom with another woman to honor the transwoman's choice.
- VI. **Plans for 2024**- Sarah reported that at the January HHS meeting Leslie Loucks will begin the process of strategic planning with the committee to reflect on the previous 3 years' accomplishments and identify gaps for the coming 3 years.
- VII. **Agency/Program/Resources Updates**
- Madelyn with LRHA shared that they were offering two upcoming trainings: one regarding Narcan for anyone interested and one to help eligible individuals sign up for Medicare. Anyone interested in these trainings could reach out to her at 435-0311.
  - Joe with Horizon shared successes he had been having lately with pairing clients with employment opportunities
  - Amy with Horizon shared that they were hopeful that they would have 30 additional PSH slots in their program soon.
  - Kim Towler shared with there is a food pantry available at Madison House of the Arts
- II. **Next meetings**- (all CoC meetings are listed on the CoC website at [centralvirginiacoc.org/calendar](http://centralvirginiacoc.org/calendar))
- HHS**: Wednesday, January 31<sup>st</sup>, 10am, United Way Conference Room
- CoC Community Meeting**: Tuesday, January 16, 2024, 9am – 11am, in-person, Craddock Auditorium at Virginia Baptist Hospital

Minutes provided by Sarah Quarantotto, Chair of HHS