

Erie County Home Team Homeless and Housing Coalition Board Meeting Minutes

August 12, 2022

In attendance: George Fickenworth, Colleen Hammon, Liz McCormick, Chris Tombaugh, Kurt Crays, Leatrice Schoolcraft, Dave Deter, Mary Johnson, Lisa Karle, Macy Mora (pharmacy intern with ECDH).
Attending at 1 pm for the game: Collis Allen, Jr., Margaret Simms, Barb Lewis, Lisa Henry.

Meeting began at 12:10 pm. Colleen reported she does not have the minutes.

Old Business:

The meeting minutes of the last board meeting of June 2022 were not available.

New Business:

The consent agenda acceptance was motioned by Chris T. and seconded by Kurt Crays.

DHS Updates:

- Peter –HUD Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) was announced, but currently have no details as the CoC Application is not posted. This CoC Application for funding is due to HUD on September 30, 2022. Approximately 50% reduction from typical application timeline. Peter will keep everyone updated as HUD releases more information. Already working on ranking and scoring. Liz is out of town so a committee chair replacement is being sought. Recruitment is happening for this team.
- ERAP funds reallocated 750K to Erie County from State that must be expended by September 30, 2022.
- Hotel/Motel for overflow and isolation \$50,000 to ECCM until fall.

Colleen is talking to more people on the street who are unsheltered than ever before.

Liz was talking to someone who shared that the auto repair business owner at 11th and Peach who reports vans dropping off people at the mental health. She indicated this man is trying to get interviewed to report what he is seeing. Lisa mentioned we don't know if these people are homeless or from out of town from observation.

Kurt – NAEH addressed this topic of helping to shape the narrative of the story of persons experiencing homelessness or a housing crisis. He will send the workshop info to the group.

Colleen recommended people go and observe the Perry Square park on weekend nights to see the activity.

Discussion about notifying the Anti-human trafficking committee about the activity at Perry sq where young women are being dropped off from very expensive cars. Betsy is already doing this as Emily Fetko of Erie Downtown Partnership reported this from her Downtown Ambassadors.

Erie City Updates:

- HOME ARP had to focus groups and more scheduled. Consultants have created a stakeholder survey and persons with lived experienced survey.
- Completing ESG year-end reports from providers.

- Sent an email for orientation meeting will be coming for all ESG sub-recipients. Will assist with reporting and requisitions for funding due to so much staff turnover.

Erie County Department of Health:

- Monkeypox – 1st positive last month. Have vaccine however if you suspect it, you can reach out to her to link with nursing supervisor. Eriecounypa.gov or 814-451-6700 option 2.
- Still don't have any clinics scheduled due to skeleton nursing crew.

ECHTHHC Committees:

Coordinated entry:

Sean O'Neill not present. Discussion lead by Kurt about the desire to communicate that 814-shelter is the number to call and yet it does not work. Concerned that the system is not working. Complaints are that people call and can't get through. Also, that people are leaving messages and not being called back. Kurt made a call during the meeting to 814-shelter and waited 2 minutes 15 seconds before the call went to voicemail. EUMA says if it is funding, they will help to increase capacity with funding from private donations. Although Peter and Lisa report that it is a staffing issue due to challenges in hiring. Regardless of the reasons, it is agreed that it must be fixed. Peter reports he is working on this, and the conversation will not end here.

Project ranking/application review:

See notes from DHS updates.

Pit count:

No update.

Data collection and use:

Chairmanship still open.

Client services:

Kurt Crays-no update.

Community engagement and marketing:

- Chris Tombaugh shared today's activity of playing 'Home Sweet Homelessness' board game was designed by this committee.
- Wants a recruitment email for members. Lisa suggested she draft the email and send to Lisa or Peter for sending out to Home team listserv.
- Planning different things for November to engage more community in Home Sweet Homelessness. December homeless memorial on the 21st.

Ad hoc vaccination plan:

Lisa Karle shared that the committee continues to meet every 2 weeks and remains active.

Meeting Format - Colleen Hammon discussed other options for in-person. Library: Hirt auditorium. Mary Johnson will address the contact for scheduling and will email DHS to schedule.

Colleen discussed recruitment of executive meeting members.

Community collaboration. Colleen discussed the need for fresh faces, people of color, lived experience, stakeholders, such as health field. Discussion of need to recruit leaders. Where funds are allocated could change. More discussion.

Full Team Meeting: May 12, 2022.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was initiated by Kurt Crays and seconded by Liz McCormick. The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Lisa Karle