



**Homeless Alliance Monthly Meeting
March 19th, 2008
Buffalo Red Cross
3pm**

Present: Susan Pfeiffer, Bill O'Connell, Chris Voltz, Chris Kennedy, Laila Bondi, Glenda Washington, Carolyn Hillman, Jewel Culverhouse, Kevin Martin, Devan DeCicco, Amanda Masters, Don Dauman, Mike Henry, Pat Henry, Adrian Slocum, Chris Voltz, Chris Syracuse, Laurie Tanner, Jose Latalladi, Penny Selmonsky, Sister Mary August Kaiser, Laila Bondi, Devan DeCicco, Brad Dossinger, Alyssa Hebler, Christian Gullo, Ken Turner, Carolyn Hurley, Jill Matson, Cherisse Walker-Betts, Dale Zuklofsky

- 1) Welcome and Introductions
- 2) Minutes
- 3) Alliance Annual Homelessness Profile
 - a. Laila presented the Annual Homelessness Profile that was gathered from BAS-Net data, provider comments, and annual surveys – all administrative data. The following are some highlights from the Profile:
 - i. 38% of those entering homeless housing are families
 - ii. 26.8% are youth. Within families, 58.6% are youth
 - iii. Primary Reason for Homelessness reported 18.3% "Family Problems", Substance Abuse (16%)
 - iv. Prior Living Situation – 33% lived with family/friends before becoming homelessness, far above other living situations
 - v. 24.6% of clients identify as chronically homelessness
 - vi. 42.9% reported a disabling condition
 - vii. Median monthly income is \$306
- 4) Street Survey 2008 – Update
 - a. 1,000 surveys entered thus far
 - b. Expecting a report by early June
- 5) Continuum of Care Update
 - a. 2007 Competition – Presentation
 - i. HUD presented their national debriefing a few weeks ago.
 - ii. Highest score was 98.5 nationwide; funding line was 90.25
 - iii. We exceed the funding line by 1.25 points
 - iv. Areas the Continuum is scoring well for: Organizational Structure, Housing and Services Needs, Strategic Planning
 - v. Areas the Continuum needs to improve its score for: CoC Performance (based highly on Annual Performance Reports), Removal of Regulatory Barriers (city and county), Emphasis on Housing Activities (how much money is being requested by the Continuum for housing)

- vi. In 2006, \$192 million given for new projects. In 2007, \$186 million given to new projects – renewal burdens increasing around the country
 - vii. Housing vs. Services ratio increasingly significantly – HUD is looking for more projects that focus heavily on housing rather than services. The best possible score for housing vs. services would be 88.5%/11.5%. Last year, Erie County had 70%. Doing some calculations, HAWNY staff has found that to be competitive, we need a housing vs. services ratio of 75% housing and 25% services.
 - viii. HAWNY staff has to let agencies know about funding opportunities for services, because HUD is slowly diminishing its services funding. Additionally, agencies in the community have to be seeking funding for services elsewhere.
- b. 2008 Competition
- i. Later application start date
 - ii. Later registration date
 - iii. All online application – NO PAPER APPLICATIONS, NO FAXES
 - iv. Registration training in April 2008
 - v. Electronic Application in June
 - vi. Expecting the application to drop some time in May
 - vii. All attachments must be submitted electronically into the system
 - viii. Electronic Submission will happen at the Homeless Alliance offices, with a variety of times to fit agency schedules. This was agreed upon by the PRISM Steering Committee a few years ago in the event that there would be an electronic submission in the future.
- 6) PRISM Update – April Meeting TBD – CoC overview and responsibilities
- 7) FOOD Project Update
- a. May 5-8th – 2008 Buffalo Poverty Challenge. Devan handed out a letter that was going to elected leaders and religious leaders to recruit these leaders to participate in a Poverty Challenge of living on a poverty budget for 3 days and recording these experience for TV, radio, and print media. Any agencies interested in getting involved or forwarding information to other partners, contact Devan at 853-1101 x18 with any questions.
- 8) BAS-Net Update
- a. BAS-Net User Group Meeting coming up in June –sending an e-mail announcement on that meeting
- 9) HAWNY Announcements
- a. Follow-up on DSS warrant screenings – It was reported in the monthly meeting this past February that clients were being denied benefits or arrested as a result of outstanding warrants when going to DSS. Penny Selmonsky of Neighborhood Legal Services explained the “Fleeing Felon” Law – you can be discontinued from PA or benefits if you are fleeing from a felony. Outstanding warrant isn’t enough – it must be a felony and the client must knowingly be fleeing from it.
- 10) Western New York Coalition for the Homeless
- a. 2nd Wednesday of every month at St. Paul’s (Downtown Buffalo) at 9:30am
- 11) Community Announcements
- a. Friends Of Night People – 5k, Saturday April 5th.
 - b. AIDS Community Services – Dining Out for Life – go to dinner at 102 restaurants throughout WNY Tuesday April 29th. For more info, go to <http://www.diningoutforlife.com/Buffalo>
- 12) Adjournment - Next meeting on April 16th @ 3pm – Donna Brown, new Deputy Mayor, has been invited as our speaker.