



COUNTY OF SOMERSET DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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July 11, 2019 Continuum of Care meeting minutes

The July 2019 meeting, which took place in the 1st floor conference room of the Human Services building (27 Warren Street) in Somerville, was called to order and began at 10:02 am. Everyone in attendance introduced themselves and the minutes from the May meeting were unanimously approved.

The guest speakers were Isabella and Allen Porchetti from The Salvation Army. The Salvation Army is an evangelical part of the Christian Church that is focused on meeting human needs. The Bound Brook chapter started in 1999 as part of an emergency response to Hurricane Floyd. Most of the families they serve are undocumented. Some of the many services they offer include: a food pantry, diaper distribution, emergency clothing and personal care item distribution, utility assistance, summer camp, backpack distribution before school starts, holiday meal assistance, and music instruction. They also offer church ministry programs, including women's groups, a men's fellowship, and youth groups.

On August 17, The Salvation Army will be holding a Back-to-School Event in Bound Brook. There will be carnival games and food, as well as the distribution of backpacks filled with school supplies.

One of the major, on-going issues for The Salvation Army is that they do not have a building that they own. They currently lease a building that has a single multi-purpose room that they use for all of their events.

Two agencies came before the Committee to request a Letter of Support. The first was Capreit, which is building the Branchburg Senior Apartments at Old York Road and Rt. 206. This LIHTC project will have 75 units – 66 one-bedroom units and 9 two-bedroom units – five of which will be set aside for people who are homeless. In addition, 90% of the units will be restricted to residents making less than 60% of the median income. Construction is due to begin by the end of 2019.

The other agency to request a Letter of Support was RPM. They are building an 88-unit, townhouse-style complex in Hillsborough, at the corner of Camplain and Sunnymead roads. Residents will need to be income qualified, with the following limits in place: 5 units at 20% of area median income, 7 at 30%, 41 at 50% and 35 at 60%. Included in the development will be 5 units set aside for homeless residents.

The Committee voted to provide Letters of Support to both Capreit and RPM.

The first Project Connect event in late May went well. In June, members of the CoC came together to discuss the event and review various aspects of it. Everyone felt it was positive and worthwhile, with good connections made with the community and providers. It was decided that the PHC in January – in conjunction with the annual Point in Time Count – will be held on two different days. Volunteers will be needed for these events and more information on that will be announced as the date gets closer. In addition to the main PHC events, it was determined that several "micro-events" should be held. These would be targeted at specific populations in specific areas.

- Mission Statement -

The County of Somerset is committed to excellence and innovation in public service, promoting the well-being of all residents and communities by providing effective, efficient and responsive leadership.

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The Committee discussed Future Focus. A survey will be sent out asking members what they see as the most pressing issues for 2020 and what steps should be taken to address them. Among these issues are: how to help people who fall in the “gray zone” of assistance; staying with people until they get where they need to be; obtaining proper training for case workers; and training for organizations to help them make a “warm handoff” of clients.

Announcements:

- Registration for Fall 2019 ESL classes is open now and should be done ASAP. Classes are being offered by The Jointure (908-722-0233) and the Hunterdon County Educational Services Commission (908-541-5781).
- The Human Services Academy will screen a documentary called *Prison Kids: A Crime Against America's Children* on July 31 from 1 to 3 pm in Conference Room 1 of the 27 Warren Street building.
- The Salvation Army will host a Community Fun Day on August 17 from 11 am to 2 pm at the Bound Brook Corps. The event is free and open to the public.
- SCAP's community needs assessment is available online at their website.
- NORWESCAP will continue to accept energy assistance applications through August 31. Interested parties should call 908-454-4778.
- Visions and Pathways has an opening at its Village House property.

The meeting adjourned at 11:32am.