



COUNTY OF SOMERSET DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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DARYL MINCH

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Volunteer Services
WILLIAM F. CROSBY

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LINDA M. PORCARO

March 12, 2020 Continuum of Care meeting minutes

The March 2020 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 10:00 am. Everyone in attendance introduced themselves and the minutes from the January meeting were unanimously approved.

Ray Struck, a community member, was given the opportunity to speak on behalf of homeless residents of Somerville. While Mr. Struck is not currently homeless, he was for 6 years prior to finding housing at the Somerville Senior Center. He stated that Somerville has a great need for a homeless shelter as single men, in particular, have few options available to them.

Following up on the election of Heather Bielefeldt as Chair of the Committee, Jillian Lombardozi, from Soldier On, was nominated to be Vice-Chair. A vote was taken and she was unanimously approved as the new Vice-Chair of the Committee.

Paul Grzella, director of the Greater Raritan Workforce Development Board (GRWDB), was the guest speaker. The Somerset County office of the GRWDB is located on the 3rd floor of the Human Services Building (27 Warren Street) in Somerville. The Board serves Somerset and Hunterdon counties. They have workshops that are available to all residents. The SkillUp learning program – designed to enhance skills and obtain industry recognized credentials – is also available free of charge to every resident, as well as people who work in Somerset and Hunterdon counties. More information on the courses and services that are offered can be found on their website: www.thegrwdb.org

Kimberly Cowart announced that applications for the Continuum of Care grant will be sent out within a few days.

There was a Committee discussion regarding coronavirus concerns. Questions that will need to be answered/addressed in the event of a shutdown include: How will low-income residents get food? How will school children receive their free and reduced lunches? A number of agencies have begun installing – or will shortly – hand sanitizer dispensers in every room. All agencies are working to keep clients safe and well-supplied. They are also encouraging parents to have a plan to address unsupervised children in the event more schools close and parents are at work. There will be HUD webinars available online to assist government agencies and non-profits with navigating the crisis. Somerset County has been keeping in-County departments advised and there are contingency plans in place. Non-profits are being advised to develop multiple contingency plans, as well.

- 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.

Somerset County Is An Equal Opportunity Employer

Announcements:

- Visions & Pathways is holding a fashion show fundraiser on March 26.
- Norwescap's homelessness prevention program has \$120,000 to spend by June 1. Clients should call 908-454-7000 or e-mail sokoloskis@norwescap.org
- The CoC Resource Guide is in the final stages of preparation – please send any changes or additional info to Susie Suter (ssuter.cjhrc@outlook.com) at CJHRC by March 20th.
- United Way's free tax preparation program is now available. For questions about the program email Monica Conover, call 973.993.1160, x529.

The meeting adjourned at 11:05am.