

## **Homeless Coalition Minutes: 07/19/06**

**Present:** James Breslin, Maureen Miernicki, Sarah Von Esch, Colleen Wagner, Beth Saxton, Karen Foley, Barbara Rick, Bernard Fleming, Mateo Garcia, Sarah Smith, Maria Collyacme, Justin Hoch, Steve Randall, Ron Goldberg, Jackie Kelly, Cindy Beadle, Cindy Nord, Jamie Coccodrilli, Jack McAndrews, Michele Napolitano, Lucy Fleming, Steve Somma, Paul Graham, Sheila Jones

1. **Call to Order:** James Breslin called the meeting to order
2. **Introductions/Agency Updates:** VOA- 1 bed, YWCA 0 beds, YMCA 0 beds
3. **Approval of Minutes from the 06/21/06 and 07/06/06 Meetings:** Minutes from both meetings were reviewed and both were approved by unanimous vote.
4. **Treasure's Report:** James Breslin stated that the current balance is approximately \$7,000
5. **Subcommittee Reports:**
  - A. **HMIS:** Michele Napolitano reported that the VOA is live. Jim Hulse is attending a training this week on report writing so that he will better be able to generate reports from the data collected by the HMIS system. Jim also has the preliminary numbers on the number of homeless people in Broome County for the first half of the year and these numbers will be posted on the Shelter Net site. Jim will work with the Red Cross on setting up forms to use for future disasters.
  - B. **Continuum of Care Committee:** Jamie Coccodrilli reported that the COC has decided to change the time of the meetings from 1:30PM until 2:30PM. They will still be on the first Thursday of the month and will continue to be held in the Second Floor Conference Room at DSS. The COC is requesting that the Coalition as a whole submit requests to Senators Clinton and Schumer and Representative Hinchey for them to provide the coalition with letters of support. These will be necessary for the technical submission of the HUD application. Jamie reminded the Coalition that the COC needs new members and suggested that written invitations be sent out to agencies such as the Greater Binghamton Psychiatric Center requesting they come to Coalition meetings
  - C. **Runaway and Homeless Youth Committee:** Karen Foley reported that two of the BC Jail discharge planners came to the last RHY meeting and exchanged information on how to make the discharge planning for homeless youth easier. Karen and Steve Somma will attend the next Juvenile Officers meeting to discuss a protocol for officers who encounter runaway homeless youth. The committee is continuing to work on a needs/services survey and plans to hold focus groups with both RHY's who are utilizing services and those who are not (couch surfing). Karen reminded everyone that November is National Runaway Prevention Month and requested any ideas for how the Homeless Coalition/RHY committee could recognize that.
  - D. **Community Awareness Committee:** Maria Colleyacme reported that they are continuing to make plans for a 10-year anniversary breakfast for the Homeless Coalition. This will likely be held on either September 19, or 20 at the Binghamton Club. There will be a small charge for the breakfast. They are also working on developing a Public Relations subcommittee. After the breakfast the next order of business will be to set up a professional training on how to obtain identification for clients. They have moved the time of their meetings to the Second Tuesday of the month at 2:00PM.
  - E. **Development Committee:** Ron Goldberg reported that the fundraiser at Sam's Club raised \$715 plus Les Platt paid the Coalition the \$270 on that day and hopefully Sam's will match the full \$985. They also discussed the possibility of instead of hosting our own 5k run walk, which falls at the

same time of year as CHOWS, perhaps we could act in support of CHOW who serves the same clients.

- F. **Steering Committee:** James Breslin reported that the committee is looking at directions for the future and they are working on clarifying the jobs of each of the committees.

**New Business:**

- Attorney James Breslin presented to the Coalition on the process of applying to become a 501© (3) and the benefits and drawbacks of the Coalition doing it. James has stated he will abstain from any future voting on this issue so that he remains disinterested in this matter.
- James requested that everyone fill out new membership applications, as July is the start of the new Coalition year. He also stated that he will put up on the Shelter Net website a document showing the dates, times and locations for the Coalition and all committee meetings and the Co-Chairs contact information for the same.

**Old Business:**

- Cindy Nord advised everyone that if people are still in need of housing, they should be directed to Voed, which is operated through the United Way. Voed meets once a week on Mondays and Cindy goes to the meeting, so is acting as the Coalition representative there. More information on this organization will be put up on the Shelter Net Website and the list of landlords on the list will be updated as landlords fill their available apartments and ask to be removed.
- Update on the Homeless 16 year old. The youth has been released from BC Jail and is currently staying with a cousin, but this is a very temporary situation. A phone card was obtained for him and he has found work assisting with the clean up efforts for the flood. Assistance may be obtained for him through the VA.

**Announcements/Other Issues:**

- Michele Napolitano recognized that this would be Justin Hoch's final Coalition meeting and stated that he had been tremendously helpful on both the Super NOFA application and the HMIS/Shelter Net systems.
- Sheila Jones of Women Veterans Outreaching to Women Veterans (WOW) stated they would be holding a banquet on September 11, 2006 featuring a speech from Major General Irene Trowell-Harris Director of the VA Center for Women Veterans. Tickets will go on sale in August and will be \$50, and the event will be held in the armory. Sheila also stated that in October an exhibit about female veterans would be opened in the state Museum in Albany.