



Council on Housing Stability

Tuesday, May 4, 2021 from 2:30PM – 4:00PM via Zoom

MINUTES

Members Present:

Taylor Caswell

Dean Christon

Representative Tom Dolan

Christina Dotson

Anne Duncan Cooley

Katy Easterly Martey

Kim Firth (D)

Laurie Foster (D)

Katja Fox

Amanda Grady Sexton

Senator James Gray

Kadyja Harris

Melissa Hatfield

Rebecca Hebert

Harrison Kanzler

Erin Kelly

Richard Lavers (D)

Robert Mack

Elissa Margolin

Mayor Caroline McCarley

Deputy Adjutant General Warren Perry

Maggie Pritchard

Joshua Reap

Robert Rodler

Dominique Rust

Chris Santaniello

Stephanie Savard

Victoria Sheehan

Martha Stone

Alex Talcott

Welcome and Roll-Call Attendance

Roll call attendance was taken and members stated their presence, where they were located, and whether there was anyone in the room with them during the meeting.

- 30 members or their designees attended, see above
- 14 members of the public attended

Review and approval of minutes

- Amanda Grady Sexton motioned to accept minutes from the April 20, 2021 meeting
- Robert Mack seconded the motion
 - Vote unanimous - motion carried and minutes were accepted as written

June Report – Christine Santaniello

- See slide #4 in the attached PowerPoint

Work Group Reports and Recommendations

- Regional Leadership and Coordination – Elizabeth Dragon / Martha Stone
 - See slides #8 through #18 in the attached PowerPoint
 - Comments:
 - Should the notice period for rent increases be in state statute as it is normally covered in lease agreements?
 - Some landlords do have the notice period for rent increases covered in the lease agreements but not all do. Having a state statute would make this a regular practice in lease agreements across the state.
 - Regarding landlords reporting eviction activity to credit bureaus, maybe add a way to provide the subject of the eviction a way to refute the action or outcome.
 - This is a transparency item. Landlords should also have the opportunity to report on-time rent payments, this could help towards rebuilding credit.
 - Many items this workgroup has under consideration have also been discussed within the state plan development, Melissa Hatfield will share notes with co-leads and help with feedback.
- Planning and Regulation – Ben Frost / Noah Hodgetts / Alex Talcott
 - See slides #19 through #27 in the attached PowerPoint
 - No comments
- Housing Instability and Homelessness System – Melissa Hatfield / Stephanie Savard
 - See slides #28 through #35 in the attached PowerPoint

- Comments
 - Have there been discussions surrounding using funding from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021?
 - There have been discussions on financial resource and recommendations on how funds could be used, but have not identified specific resources
 - Is there any data for various models and/or screening done on a consistent basis which would give a better overall view of specific needs over time?
 - Screening done through coordinated entry has some framework and there are some specific indicators identified during assessment
 - Connecticut uses an Acuity Index/Assessment to capture level of need and support. The committee can take a deeper look at this if it is helpful
 - What is the number of individuals exiting shelters and entering permanent housing and what supports they still need? There are a variety of case management models. We could look at the number of successful transitions and what was needed to support them.
 - CMHCs assess for ACT services
 - Definitely support the inclusion to look at ratios of case manager / case load. There are very high caseloads and glad that will be included when looking at capacity.
 - Growth of new services includes a need for more staff. Programs will need to bring down staff ratios in underserved areas
- Data Analytics and Integration – Brian Gottlob / Heather McCann
 - See slides #36 in the attached PowerPoint
 - Seeking feedback on specific data trends

How Strategies use Tools to Create Action – Katy Easterly Martey

- See slide #37 in the attached PowerPoint

Public Comments

- No public comments

Action Item:

- The slide deck with specific questions will be sent to all Council members for their feedback

Next meeting / Meeting Adjournment

- Next meetings scheduled:
 - May 18, 2021 from 10:00AM – 11:30AM
 - June 22, 2021 from 2:30PM – 4PM
- Margaret Pritchard motioned to adjourn the meeting
 - Harrison Kanzler seconded the motion
 - Vote unanimous – meeting adjourned

Minutes submitted by Maureen DiTomaso