

**Atlanta Continuum of Care  
Meeting Minutes  
June 13, 2017**

**I. Welcome**

Amy Zaremba welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked everyone for their continued investment, commitment, and involvement in the CoC.

**II. Round Robin**

- a) Hope Atlanta launched their new website, [www.themessengerofhope.org](http://www.themessengerofhope.org), which is designed to reach tens of thousands of website visitors, including public policy makers and influencers, the media, members of the Continuum of Care, the development and housing community, corporate and private advocates, clients, and anyone else who wants to better understand how homelessness impacts us all, and what we can do to solve the problem.
- b) Partnership Against Domestic Violence is hosting a Men's Leadership Breakfast, "Faith and Religion's Role in Addressing Domestic Violence" on Thursday, June 22, 2017, at the Embassy Suites- Perimeter. Breakfast & networking will begin at 8:00am, with the program running from 8:30 – 9:30 a.m. For more information or to RSVP, email [jeffrey.brown@padv.org](mailto:jeffrey.brown@padv.org)
- c) First Step Staffing is hiring semi-skilled and entry levels workers, including several new driving positions. Please visit their website for more information. [www.firststepstaffing.com](http://www.firststepstaffing.com)
- d) The Central Atlanta Library is expected to close between September and October 2017 to complete a renovation project that is expected to last 18-24 months. Also, Outreach Librarians would like to schedule an outreach event with you organization. Please contact Christina for outreach targeted to youth ([christina.rand@fultoncountyga.gov](mailto:christina.rand@fultoncountyga.gov) 404-730-1967) or Oscar for outreach targeted to adults ([Oscar.gittemeier@fultoncountyga.gov](mailto:Oscar.gittemeier@fultoncountyga.gov) 404-730-1826).

**III. City of Atlanta Public Defender's Office- Rosalie Joy**

- a) Rosalie discussed the positive impact and success stories of those who required assistance from the PD's office. Unfortunately, due to technical difficulties, the video provided by Rosalie Joy was not shown but she may have other ways to share it.
- b) The next video project will showcase some of the agencies who work with the Public Defender's Office and how they impact those who need it the most in our community. Rosalie may reach out to some agencies for input.

**IV. Mainframe Job Readiness- Ahren Cassinari-Foster**

- a) Ahren gave an overview of Central Outreach and Advocacy's Mainframe Job Readiness program, which is a three week program designed to provide employment skills and personal support needed to find and maintain stable, living-wage jobs.
- b) New classes start at the beginning of each month. Marta passes are provided to those who live more than three miles from Central. Childcare is not provided.
- c) Please visit [www.centraloac.org](http://www.centraloac.org) for more information.

**V. Coordinated Entry- Ashlee Starr**

- a) The policies and procedures for coordinated entry have been completed and the Coordinated Entry committee has approved them. They will be presented to the full CoC membership for input next.
- b) Gateway Center is open Monday-Friday from 9am-4pm to process client assessments.
- c) We are currently using VI-SPDAT version 2.0. If anyone needs help getting clients into the updated version, Rosalie Joy with Public Defenders has offered to provide assistance if needed.

**VI. HMIS Update – Amy Zaremba**

- a) DCA will be hosting an HMIS conference in early October or November 2017. Dates, time and location will be confirmed in the coming weeks.
- b) 95 projects that were not included in the initial migration to ClientTrack are in the process of being migrated over.
- c) Case notes and services are still scheduled to migrate over.
- d) DCA sends out HMIS emails (“Sweet Tea Tips,” or something similar) with useful information. If you are not receiving these emails, let Amy know.
- e) New videos and other helpful tools are available on the DCA HMIS website to assist the end user.
- f) If you need help in ClientTrack, such as password resets, trouble shooting issues, missing information, problems with a page in the system, or if you want to create a new project, please click the HELP button to create a ticket. Josh and Desta are also available for TA site visits, which can be requested through creating a ticket or via email.
- g) Please email [gahmissupport@dca.ga.gov](mailto:gahmissupport@dca.ga.gov) if you have new users at your agency who need access to HMIS.

**VII. Point in Time- Desta Taylor**

- a) Desta provided an update from the 2017 Point in Time in January.
- b) The total number of people who were identified as being homeless on January 23 was 3,572. This breaks down to 1,567 people in emergency shelter, 1,324 in transitional housing, and 681 people who were unsheltered.
- c) These numbers were sent to HUD and we are awaiting their final approval.
- d) Desta is currently drafting the PIT report.

**VIII. NOFA/Project Reorganization**

- a) NOFA Preparation for the 2017 HUD CoC NOFA process is underway. The Policy Committee has met; agencies have been reminded that data will be used for project review; and we are waiting for HUD to release the NOFA to provide timelines and guidance of next steps.
- b) Although until HUD releases the NOFA nothing is certain, it is expected that new project applications will be accepted. All communication about the NOFA for interested agencies will be sent out through the email list.
- c) With input from the agencies with existing projects, the local HUD office, and our HUD TAs, the recommendation is to hold off on the transition of all PSH to tenant-based rental assistance.
- d) This year, however, we will probably move forward with changing shared PSH units to individual units. This will affect a few agencies and projects. Hopefully, this will be approved by HUD to be done during the NOFA. If not, we expect to do it through reallocation to new projects.

**IX. Advocacy Update- Mariel Sivley**

- a) Mariel stated that the Georgia Supportive Housing Association (GSHA) has a new website: <http://www.supportivehousingassociation.com>. She encouraged everyone to check it out to learn more out GSHA.
- b) There will be a fair housing and ADA training including discussion about landlord engagement on August 15, from 9am-4pm, at St. Luke's Episcopal Church. This training is mandatory for CoC funded agencies. Please save the date and watch your email for more information!
- c) Mariel also provided a thorough update on several issues, including a potential decrease in housing funding; an increase in funding for people trying to make modifications on their home loans; an increase in services for children with autism; the approval to allow dental hygienists to go into agencies to provide dental care without the presence of a dentist; and the approval to allow domestic violence survivors to change their names and not have it published in public records.

**X. Strategic Plan Update- Cathryn Marchman/Amy Zaremba**

- a) The strategic plan has been approved by the Community Development and Human Services committee of City Council and will be presented for approval to the full Council on June 19, and then to the Mayor for final approval and signature.

**XI. Environmental Reviews- Jimiyu Evans**

- a) Jimiyu provided an update on environmental reviews and the challenges they are facing with the backlog and the 10 day turnaround time to complete the inspections.
- b) Jimiyu also spoke on the direction of the CoC meetings and engaging some of the agencies going forward