



Broome County Safe Housing Task Force – Core Group
Wednesday, August 21, 2-3pm
Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Sonja Bennett (Deputy Commissioner of TA – Department of Social Services), Nancy Williams (Commissioner – Department of Social Services), Maria Roumiantseva (Legal Services of CNY), Lisa Wilson (Department of Social Services), Salka Valerio (Crime Victims Assistance Center), Chris Schleider (City of Binghamton Code Department), Pam Guth (Rural Health Network of Central NY), Christina Cramer (BC Executive’s Office), Mark Schuster (Co-Chair – BC Health Department), Rebecca Rathmell (Co-Chair – Southern Tier Homeless Coalition)

1. Progress Updates

- a. Meetings with Akshar, Lupardo, Brindisi, The Agency have happened.
- b. Presentation at the Legislature has not happened. Task Force still stalled in getting any of this in front of the Legislature. What does this look like before that happening?
- c. Presentation at BOAC was well-received, good discussion with detailed questions.

2. Recommendations Review

- a. Executive Summary in process with assistance from Christina
- b. Nancy/DSS additions/edits to Spiegel
 - i. DSS has actively reached out to municipalities to provide information to DSS re: Spiegel. Do they agree that maybe we can continue education to municipalities outside the Triple Cities.
 - ii. Nancy: since individuals come and go, would a policy adopted at each muni be more helpful?
 - iii. Sonja: new housing coordinator, Lisa, will be doing a significant amount of work on making the pre- and post-occupancy inspection



process easier for landlords so that the housing quality can be ensured for tenants

- iv. Mark: reach out to Suffolk County
 - v. Larry: likely to see a significant increase in vacancy due to the new state housing law. Landlords are starting to use the credit check as their method to deny tenants since they cannot, by state law, deny by SOI.
- c. Inclusionary Zoning
- i. Mark: highlight of this is to assist landlords who are willing to take homes from auction and put time/money into specific neighborhoods, they can receive the same type of financial benefits as developers of larger market rate/luxury housing.
 - ii. Nancy: has BU been outreached for how student housing has impacted the community?
 - iii. Rebecca: the Task Force has not formally, though R has. BU has a significant amount of leverage in the community, so they should be contacted as this moves forward.
 - iv. Nancy: Buffalo has done this with their multiple universities.
 - v. Pam: we need to think strategically of how to target specific student populations who want to be helpful in the community, when the administration does not.
- d. Real Property Auction
- i. Update document on the progress that has already happened.
- e. Padmission
- i. Particularly targeted to homeless and at-risk populations to bring landlords, tenants, and providers together under one software. Someone would need to hold the subscription and update the listings in a way that is more collaborate and accurate than the paper list at DSS.
 - ii. Pam: Care Compass could potentially hold this subscription.



iii. Nancy: Care Compass is already working on a CBO dashboard, perhaps we can work collaboratively on these.

f. Advisory Board

- i. Nancy: should we add specifics of membership requirements, similar to the FVPC? Will email bylaws to Christina.
- ii. Rebecca: we can review the details, but I believe we kept it open so that Legislative and CE conversations can determine what they think is best.

g. Proactive Code Enforcement

- i. Chris: clarification on what Survey123?
- ii. Rebecca: uses a Survey just to gather voluntary information on rentals and combines triennial inspection results/code infractions from Code departments. There's room for more discussion on how we can move from external only information to internal.

3. Next Steps

- a. Only piece that needs Legislative approval is the Fair Housing Law, that includes a formalized advisory board.
- b. What we don't know is what this looks like after this meeting. Finalize recommendations today and then it will be up to the community and Legislature how this looks after our group finishes the work it was assigned to do.
 - i. Nancy: how would we distinguish the difference between the advisory board and CoC?
 - ii. Rebecca: advisory board broadens the scope and continues this conversation, includes quarterly public forums, and identifies a full time personnel focus would be ideal. CoC cannot only focus on Broome, as a 6 County organization.
 - iii. Pam: does it position us better to receive state funding if it goes through the Legislature?
 - iv. Rebecca: yes, likely. It also creates a County formalized priority.



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- v. Nancy: shaping it similarly to FVPC might be helpful to explain to them how it could function.
 - c. Once Rebecca and Christina have finalized the document, we will distribute, post, share. CE will likely have a press event to update the public on this and thank the core group for their work on the process.