

# **Rhode Island Interagency Council on Homelessness (ICH)**

**May 11, 2016**

## **Meeting Minutes (Approved 9/7/16)**

### **Attendees:**

<b>Michael Tondra</b>	<b>Office of Housing &amp; Community Dev't (Co-Chair)</b>
<b>Elizabeth Roberts</b>	<b>Executive Office of Health &amp; Human Services (Co-Chair)</b>
<b>Jamia McDonald</b>	<b>Dept. of Children, Youth and Families</b>
<b>Fred Sneesby</b>	<b>Dept. of Human Services</b>
<b>Michelle Wilcox</b>	<b>Advisory Council on Homelessness (Crossroads)</b>
<b>Maria Montanaro</b>	<b>Dept. of BHDDH</b>
<b>Anya Rader Wallack</b>	<b>Executive Office of Health &amp; Human Services/Medicaid</b>
<b>Scott Jensen</b>	<b>Dept. of Labor and Training</b>
<b>Charles Fogarty</b>	<b>Dept. of Elderly Affairs</b>
<b>Barbara Fields</b>	<b>RI Housing</b>
<b>Eileen Botelho</b>	<b>Dept. of Education</b>
<b>Mary McElroy</b>	<b>RI Public Defender</b>
<b>Nicole Alexander-Scott</b>	<b>Dept. of Health</b>
<b>A. T. Wall</b>	<b>Dept. of Corrections</b>
<b>Jennifer Reid</b>	<b>Executive Office of Health &amp; Human Services</b>

### **Minutes:**

- I. The meeting was called to order at 9:05 am by M. Tondra. M. Tondra welcomed the membership. A quorum was present and noted.
- II. Approval of February 17, 2016 Minutes – Motion made by Director Fogarty and seconded by Secretary Roberts to approve. Motion was approved unanimously.
- III. Co-chair Secretary E. Roberts thanked everyone in attendance and once again expressed importance of those in leadership roles having the opportunity to engage and become involved in thinking about your own agencies programming and be able to integrate the issue of homelessness into our planning and operations. She then asked for members around the table to introduce themselves. This meeting is more informing, however, moving forward this group will be more involved in engagement and less listening. Right now it's important for members to understand what is currently happening regarding homelessness.

IV. Reinventing Medicaid/B7 – Anya Rader Wallack & Jennifer Reid – EOHHS

***Copy of presentation attached.***

Anya Rader Wallack opened the presentation/discussion talking about a piece of this year's Medicaid reform focused on homelessness. It is an expansion into paying for housing related services through Medicaid.

V. Overview of Supportive Services – Eric Hirsch, RI Coalition for the Homeless

***Copy of presentation attached.***

Eric presented the statistics for homeless single adults and families from 2011 through 2015. The number of people in families is lower, however, the number of adults has risen slightly. He then went over the approaches to ending Homelessness; i.e.; 1980's Emergency shelters and soup kitchens, 1990's 2-year transitional housing programs, 2000's Permanent support housing and 2010's Housing First is now the best practice. Advantages of Permanent Supportive Housing are; Choice in housing and living arrangements, Functional separation of housing & services, decent, safe and meets standards, Community integration and rights of tenancy, affordable at 30% of income. Housing First advantages are; Quick access to permanent housing with standard lease agreements, No preconditions and barriers to entry; such as sobriety, treatment or service participation requirements, no additional requirements to maintain tenancy, Do not have to be "housing ready". Supportive services are offered on a voluntary basis to prevent returns to homelessness as opposed to addressing predetermined treatment goals prior to permanent housing entry. A lengthy discussion took place.

VI. Report on Progress of Zero:2016 – Maria Cimini, RI Coalition for the Homeless

***Copy of presentation is attached***

Maria gave an update on the Zero:2016 Ending Homelessness in Rhode Island. There are population specific groups to work on goals; Veterans, Chronic, and Families. These groups meet by-weekly and work is done by utilizing a by-name list to prioritize housing by acuity, sharing resources, creating move-on strategies and identifying policy and procedure driven barriers to housing. Challenges and difficulties that have arisen in these committees were then discussed.

VII. Public Comment – No public comment

VIII. Meeting adjourned at 10:38 am