

# Delaware Continuum of Care



*“The Delaware Continuum of Care is a community-based collaborative that ensures a responsive, fair, and just approach to addressing homelessness, and strives to achieve housing for all.”*

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## About the Delaware Continuum of Care (CoC)

The Delaware Continuum of Care (CoC) is a group of community members, service providers, leaders, advocates, and concerned citizens working together to develop solutions to homelessness in Delaware. The CoC meets quarterly to share information, make decisions, and develop strategic goals. The CoC is committed to ensuring that homelessness in Delaware is as rare and brief as possible, and promoting effective collaboration to ensure that our most vulnerable neighbors are provided with high-quality and compassionate services that best meet their needs. The Delaware CoC meets quarterly throughout the year, with active committees meeting more regularly.

### **2016 “In review”**

The year 2016 was a big and exciting year for the Delaware Continuum of Care (CoC). As a new group of citizens dedicated to ensuring an effective response to homelessness in Delaware, the CoC is just getting started. Here are some of the exciting things that our communities and our CoC accomplished in 2016!

#### **1. Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness**

In 2015 Delaware’s Governor Markell, and many local mayors and elected officials throughout the state, signed up to take on the national Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness. Since then, local leaders, non-profit organizations, volunteer groups, government agencies, housing agencies, and many other passionate and dedicated people throughout Delaware have been working tirelessly to find permanent housing for all homeless veterans in Delaware, connect them to supportive services in the community, and track our progress using data. While this work is not easy, this effort has promoted cross agencies partnerships and cross system work in new and exciting ways! As a result of this state-wide effort, since January 2015 **400 homeless veterans in DE have found a permanent place to call home!**

#### **2. Continuum of Care Membership**

The Delaware CoC hosted its first annual membership meeting in July 2015. Since that time **70** individuals signed up to become members of the CoC, with **32** dedicated to being voting members. The Delaware CoC had a Board composed of **15** members in 2016. The Board met bi-monthly and helped to guide the development of this important new group. See Page 4 for a full listing of 2016 CoC members and CoC Board members. The CoC brings diverse and insightful voices to the table to tackle the issue of homelessness in Delaware.

The Delaware CoC has also developed some very strong and active committees, including the Centralized Intake committee and the System Performance committee. These committees are meeting regularly and working hard, each with the goal of helping to improve our community's coordinated response to homelessness.

### **3. Continuum of Care Funding**

Each year Delaware submits a competitive application to the US Department of Housing and Urban Development for federal funds (called Continuum of Care funds) to help Delaware respond to homelessness. In 2016 the Delaware CoC was awarded a total of **\$7,665,213.00** in CoC funds to support a variety of homeless assistance projects, including new competitive funds to create more permanent supportive housing for chronically homeless adults and families with children. This is the largest CoC award ever received in Delaware. The highest scoring Continuum of Care in the U.S. received a score of 188. Delaware's application received a score 180, one of the highest scores in the country!

### **4. Data and Performance**

During 2016, homeless service providers, the Homeless Planning Council (the CoC and CMIS lead agency), and many community partners focused on improving our community's data about the extent and experience of homelessness. There has been a dramatic increase in the quality of our community's data in CMIS (Community Management Information System) thanks to the hard work of many agencies!

Not only has data quality improved, our community is now able to use the data in new and meaningful ways that help us understand the outcomes that we are achieving.

For example, we know that from October 2014 – October 2015, people who experienced homelessness in Delaware tended to do so for an average of **100 days** before their homeless episode was resolved and they were able to move back into permanent housing. We also know that approximately **2,400 people** (unduplicated) including children accessed emergency shelters or transitional housing programs in Delaware during that time. Furthermore, **50%** of the people served by emergency shelters, transitional housing programs, or rapid re-housing programs in DE were able to move directly into permanent housing after being served by these programs. This type of information will continue being tracked, and will continue to help us work towards a community where **homelessness is rare, brief, and non-recurring.**

### ***Looking Ahead***

The CoC has a lot of work to do! We hope that you will join the CoC, continue to be a CoC member, and/or invite others to join. In the coming year, the Delaware CoC will focus on the following activities and goals, and much more!

**1. Point in Time Count 2017**

The 2017 Point in Time Count (PIT) will take place in January 2017. The PIT is one our community’s important methods for tracking trends in homelessness over time. If you are interested in volunteering for the PIT, be on the look-out for information about how to sign up, and the variety of ways you can help. If you would like to join the CoC PIT committee, please contact the Homeless Planning Council of Delaware.

**2. A Strategic Road Map**

During 2017 the CoC Board will work with the CoC members to develop a road map to guide our community’s efforts, including identifying service and housing gaps, setting goals and performance targets, and creating shared strategies to end homelessness.

**3. Funding to Help the Homeless**

The CoC Board plans to work with local partners to identify new or flexible funding sources that can help our community better address homelessness.

**4. Data and Performance**

The Delaware CoC will continue to emphasize the need for high quality data about homelessness in Delaware, and work to set goals and targets improve our community’s performance on a variety of measures.

**5. SOAR (SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery)**

SOAR is a national SAMHSA initiative and a priority for the Delaware CoC. Effective SOAR programs help to ensure that people who are experiencing homeless and have disabling conditions have access to disability income and benefits. This income helps them access the services and housing that they need. In 2017 Delaware will continue to work towards developing a more coordinated and effective SOAR model in partnership with local Social Security offices and the work of the DE SOAR Leadership Team.

**6. Coordinating Our Response**

The Challenge to End Veteran Homeless has taught our community many lessons about how to more effectively coordinate quick access to housing and services for our homeless veterans. We believe that this model provides a starting point for our work to address homelessness among families with children, youth, chronically homeless households, people with mental health or substance use disorders, and other sub-populations in our communities. In 2017, the Delaware CoC will begin working towards ensuring that DE has a coordinated response to effectively address all types of homelessness.

## 2015/2016 MEMBERSHIP LIST

### Board Members

**President:** Carrie Casey- *NCC*  
**Vice President:** Cathy McKay- *Connections, CSP*  
**Secretary:** Dan Atkins- *Comm. Legal Aid Society*  
Vaughn Watson- *City of Wilmington Dept. RE&H*  
Karen Kollias- *NCALL*  
Carolyn Gordon- *Family Promise of Northern NCC*  
Marcey Rezac- *SAFE, People's Place*  
Lee McCallum- *Presbyterian Church of Dover*  
Christy Kiser Gordon- *Fnd. for a Better Tomorrow*  
Jim Martin- *ACE Center Seaford*  
Kim Brokenbrough- *DSHA*  
Stephanie Staats- *YWCA of DE*  
Mark Poletunow- *Ministry of Caring*  
Cliffvon Howell- *DSAMH*  
Susan Kent- *Love Inc.*  
Renee Beaman- *Division of State Service Centers*  
Phyllis Chamberlain- *HPC – Non-voting*

### Voting Members

Rachel Beatty- *HPC*  
David Garrett- *DE Apartment Association*  
Mike Maggitti- *Downtown Visions*  
Emmanuel Oppong-Adjei- *Division of Pub. Health*  
Deianna Jason- *Child Inc.*  
Brandy Nauman- *Sussex County Government*  
Ryan McGoldrick- *Veterans Multiservice Center*  
Jimia Redden- *YMCA of DE*  
Linda Brittingham- *Christiana Care*  
Rita Hollingsworth- *Catholic Charities*  
Ami-Sebastian Hauer- *Dover Housing Authority*  
Christine Copeman- *Highmark Health Options*  
Breeta Littlefield- *Dover Interfaith*  
Donna Snyder White- *Delaware 2-1-1*  
Aimee Voshell String- *DVCC*  
Dianne W. Casey- *Delaware HIV Consortium*  
Lawrence Kirby-*DE Commission of Vet Affairs*  
Amy Kevis- *DSAMH*  
Linda Stillis- *Gateway House*

### General Members

Nikki Gonzalez- *Sussex County Code Purple*  
Lee Bunting- *YMCA of DE*  
Pat Pettaway Ward- *YWCA of DE*  
Anne Mountain- *Ministry of Caring*  
Tanisha Brown- *Child Inc.*  
Dionna Sergeant- *Cinnair*  
Karen Records- *DHSS, office of Community Services*  
Michael Tiedeman- *VA*  
Sara Weimer- *Connections, CSP*  
Suzi Harris- *Ministry of Caring*  
Meghan Mariner- *People's Place*  
Steve Peuquet- *University of DE CCRS*  
Devon Dejanksy- *DSHA*  
Danielle Smith- *Connections, CSP*  
Tim Rennick- *Connections, CSP*  
Ben Mathu- *Connections, CSP*  
Courtney Knott- *Connections, CSP*  
Donna Simpson- *Connections, CSP*  
Stacey Scott- *Ministry of Caring*  
Eulita Smith- *Connections, CSP*  
Kecia Winchester- *Probation/ Parole*  
Joni Patterson- *Connections, CSP*  
Steve La Perle- *STEHM Inc.*  
Aaron Ballett- *Lutheran Community Services*  
Paul Baumbach- *DE General Assembly*  
Mary Ann Marshall- *STEHM Inc.*  
Anthea T. Piscarik- *Ministry of Caring*  
Jennifer DiPietro- *Ministry of Caring*  
Rebecca Manahan-Martin- *Kent Code Purple*  
Mariann Kenville-Moore- *DE Coalition Against  
Domestic Violence*  
Melinda Woolf- *Catholic Charities*  
William Perkins- *Friendship House Inc.*  
Lisa Davis-Celik- *Hearts Unlimited*  
Latricia Thomas- *Fnd. for a Better Tomorrow*  
Cimone Philpotts- *Office of Senator Coons*  
Emily Vera- *Mental Health Association*  
Marlena Gibson- *DSHA*  
Matthew Lynch- *Ministry of Caring*  
Paul Calistro-*West End Neighborhood House*