

# Delaware Continuum of Care

## 2017 Annual Report



***“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.”***

### ***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.

### ***2017 In review***

2017 was an exciting year for the Delaware Continuum of Care (CoC). Here are some of the major accomplishments that our communities and the CoC accomplished in 2017!

#### **1. Ending Homelessness in Delaware: Our Commitment and Action Plan**

In 2017 the Continuum of Care Board brought national consultants to Delaware to help the CoC develop a strategic road map for achieving an end to homelessness in Delaware. More than 30 stakeholders participated in the planning process, and the full CoC membership was invited to provide feedback and recommendations. The result is that our CoC has an actionable 2-year plan that we believe will help us move closer towards our goal of ending homelessness in Delaware. The following goals are identified and discussed in the plan:

- a. Prevent Homelessness Whenever Possible*
- b. Ensure Access to Appropriate Shelter for all who need it*
- c. Quickly move people from homelessness to permanent housing*
- d. Provide Housing Stability that prevents returns to homelessness*
- e. Measure Success using a data-driven approach*

## 2. Mayor's Blue Ribbon Panel on Homelessness

The City of Dover has taken on the challenge of addressing homelessness in Dover! In 2017 Mayor Christiansen established a Blue Ribbon Commission to develop an action plan, and they did just that. Dover is taking the crisis of homelessness seriously and developing strategies to help people in need in their community.

## 3. Continuum of Care Working Committees

The Delaware CoC hosted its first annual membership meeting in July 2015. Since that time the Delaware CoC has developed some very strong and active committees, notably the Centralized Intake committee and the System Performance committee. These committees meet regularly and work hard, each with the goal of helping to improve our community's coordinated response to homelessness.

### *Centralized Intake Committee Accomplishments*

- Developed quarterly Centralized Intake program metrics to monitor progress, need, and performance of the CI system
- Leading the effort to evaluate Centralized Intake and make improvements or changes as needed (evaluation coming soon, in 2018)

### *System Performance Committee Accomplishments*

- Released "*Achieving an End to Homelessness: Performance in Delaware's Homeless Response System.*" This report looks at data from 2014 – 2016, and helps us to understand the outcomes that we are achieving as a community, such as: *Are we decreasing homelessness? How quickly are we moving people from homelessness to housing?* This report is helping the CoC identify areas where we can improve, and set goals as a community.
- Drafted community-wide performance targets for the Delaware CoC

## 4. Effectively Ending 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 more than 600 homeless veterans in DE have found a permanent place to call home!**

## 5. Continuum of Care Funding

Each year Delaware submits a competitive application to the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for federal funds to help Delaware respond to homelessness. In 2016 the

Delaware CoC was awarded **\$7.8million** in CoC funds to support a variety of homeless assistance projects, including funds to create more permanent supportive housing for chronically homeless adults and families with children.

In 2017, the Delaware CoC applied for a total of **\$8.3million** in HUD CoC funds.


**6. 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 quick access to disability income and benefits. This income helps them access the services and housing that they need.

In 2017 Delaware received technical assistance to improve our statewide implementation of SOAR.

- DATA

**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. 2018 Point in Time Count**

The 2018 Point in Time Count (PIT) will take place in January 2018. 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 Aja White, [awhite@housingallianceode.org](mailto:awhite@housingallianceode.org).

**2. Action Plan Implementation**

The Delaware CoC will begin to implement the Delaware CoC Action Plan, using performance data to measure the outcomes of our efforts on a quarterly basis.

**3. Centralized Intake Evaluation**

The Delaware CoC, with leadership from the Centralized Intake committee, will evaluate our coordinated entry system – Centralized Intake - and make changes and improvements as needed.

#### 4. Coordinating Our Response to Homelessness

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, people fleeing domestic violence, and other sub-populations in our communities. We will continue to work together strategically to end homelessness for all Delawareans.

#### 5. Policy & Advocacy

The Delaware CoC is interested in developing an advocacy and policy agenda, and working to promote this agenda in Delaware. We are considering forming an advocacy committee to take on the important work of educating local and state policy-makers and advancing important policies that will help our communities end homelessness. *Are you interested in joining this effort?*



Delaware Continuum of Care

## 2016/2017 MEMBERSHIP LIST

### Board Members

**Chair:** Carrie Casey- NCC

**Vice Chair:** Cathy McKay- Connections, CSP

**Secretary:** Dan Atkins- Comm. Legal Aid Society

Vaughn Watson- City of Wilmington

Carolyn Gordon- Family Promise of Northern NCC

Marcey Rezac- De Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Jim Martin- ACE Center Seaford

Kim Brokenbrough- DSHA

Stephanie Staats- YWCA of DE

Matt Lynch - *Ministry of Caring*

Cliffvon Howell- *Criminal Justice Council*

Nikki Gonzalez – *Sussex County Code Purple*

Renee Beaman- *Division of State Service Centers*

Rachel Beatty Stucker – *CoC Lead Agency*

Brandy Nauman, *Sussex County*

Donna Snyder White, *Delaware 2-1-1*

### Voting Members

Deianna Jason- *Child Inc.*

Ryan McGoldrick- *Veterans Multiservice Center*

Jimia Redden- *YMCA of DE*

Linda Brittingham- *Christiana Care*

Rita Hollingsworth- *Catholic Charities*  
Christine Copeman- *Highmark Health Options*  
Aimee Voshell String- *DVCC*  
Dianne W. Casey- *Delaware HIV Consortium*  
Lawrence Kirby-*DE Commission of Vet Affairs*  
Amy Kevis- *DSAMH*  
Susan Kent – *Love Inc.*  
Lisa Davis-Celik - *Dover Interfaith*  
Dave Mosley - *DE Center for Homeless Veterans*  
Denise Jackson – *Peoples' Place*

Ryan Poulsen – *Veterans Administration*  
Kimberly Legg – *Brandywine Counseling*  
Leslie Palladino – *Brandywine Counseling*

### *General Members*

Lee Bunting- *YMCA of DE*  
Pat Pettaway Ward- *YWCA of DE*  
Anne Mountain- *Ministry of Caring*  
Tanisha Brown- *Child Inc.*  
Dionna Sergeant- *Cinnair*  
Michael Tiedeman- *VA*  
Sara Weimer- *Connections, CSP*  
Steve Peuquet- *University of DE CCRS*  
Devon Dejanksy- *DSHA*  
Stacey Scott- *Ministry of Caring*  
Kecia Winchester- *Probation/ Parole*  
Joni Patterson- *Connections, CSP*  
Steve La Perle- *STEHM Inc.*  
Paul Baumbach- *DE General Assembly*  
Mary Ann Marshall- *STEHM Inc.*  
Anthea T. Piscarik- *Ministry of Caring*  
Rebecca Martin- *Kent County Code Purple*  
Melinda Woolf- *Catholic Charities*  
William Perkins- *Friendship House Inc.*  
Latricia Thomas- *Fnd. for a Better Tomorrow*  
Emily Vera- *Mental Health Association*  
Marlena Gibson- *DSHA*  
Paul Calistro-*West End Neighborhood House*  
Elizabeth Everett – *West End Neighborhood House*  
Christy Gleason - *Senator Coons' Office*  
Arenice Ritchie – *Recovery International*  
Yvonne May – *Recovery International*  
Lauren Brookes – *Henrietta Johnson Medical Center*  
Lynne Betts – *St. Vincent DePaul*  
Geoffrey Rishell  
Allen Knuckles – *DE Center for Homeless Veterans*  
Kathy Swanson – *Lutheran Community Services*  
Karen Favors - *Veterans Administration*