**Ontario County Housing Consortium**

**Friday May 8th 2020 @ 10am**

**Video Conference**

**ATTENDEES**

* Pam Hoyle: Ontario Habitat for Humanity
* Lauren Lamb: Family Promise of Ontario County
* Jay Garrett-Larsen: Family Promise
* Brenda Spratt: Family Promise (Cell: 585-410-4654)
* Kevin Graham: PathStone
* Susan Lerch: PathStone
* Mary Leo: PathStone
* Sarah Simson: PathStone
* Bill Lamb: Catholic Charities of the Finger Lakes
* Andrea McGraw: Monroe County Dept of Social Services
* Chris Shortell: We Soldier On
* Bill Brown: We Soldier On
* Jessica Chase: FLACRA
* Yvonne Fitzgerald: FLACRA

**MEETING AGENDA**

1. **INTRODUCTIONS**

Review March meeting minutes

* Town of Canandaigua roundtable and questions
* United Way Emergency Funding= funds can be extended more than 1x a year, able to help during COVID-19, taking calls through Geneva office (all by phone)

1. **NEW BUSINESS**
2. OHC Dropbox

* Please let me know if you can’t access or would like an invitation.
* The OHC Dropbox is for members and not for the general community. You may distribute any information/ documents unless it’s in the ‘Internal OHC’ folder.

1. COVID-19 & NYS PAUSE Order *\*As of 5/7/2020*

* Ontario County = 105 Confirmed Cases// 54 Quarantined// 60 Recovered// 11 Deaths
* Ontario County Public Health Website: https://www.co.ontario.ny.us/101/Public-Health
* $25m NYS initiative to buy excess products from upstate farms with 50 food banks
* HEAP Extended; air cond/ fan installed (need eligible health requirement)
* Family Promise still taking case mgmt. remotely

1. NYS Eviction Moratorium Extension

* As of May 7th, moratorium extended through 8/20/2020 *(previous date 6/20/2020)*
* No late fees can be charged and security deposit can be used for rent

1. Finger Lakes Housing Consortium *\*Next meeting May 22nd 2020 @ 9:30am - Zoom*

* Contact Stefanie Smaldone with any updates or important information

1. **OHC COVID-19 ROUNDTABLE**
2. **What is the primary concern from your clients? Staff?**

* Staff and clients are very stressed; Focus on self-care; staff overwhelmed; projects are on hold; clients waiting longer for services or to start process; clients are disengaging and checking out; mental health concerns; food insecurity; limited food services; lack of transportation; landlords asking about evicting residents once moratorium ends

1. **How are you and your agency preparing for returning to work? Or if already operating, the preparation when more non-essential businesses open back up?**

* Lots of questions about how programs will re-open and logistics of offering services under restrictions. Agencies moving towards mobile/ online documents and offering appointments by phone. For essential agencies- taking temperature on the way in, providing masks/ hand sanitizer, taking on emergency cases only. COVID-19 Testing options for essential workers availability; antibody test?
* Fingerlakes 1 (Wellnow Urgent Care- Auburn/ Geneva/ Ithaca) providing testing:

<https://fingerlakes1.com/2020/05/06/wellnow-urgent-care-launches-covid-19-testing-at-clinic-sites-in-auburn-geneva-and-ithaca/>

1. **What concerns do you anticipate your clients will encounter when eviction and foreclosure moratoriums are lifted?**

* Looking for consistent information and updated referrals; ensuring they are sending clients to the best place so they don’t call all over town. Expectation of more clients requesting/ applying for services once moratoriums lifted.

1. **Over the next 6m – 1year, what will be the biggest challenges for clients? Staff? Agency?**

* Concern about funding/ grants to assist clients as well as to assist agencies to provide additional services and staff. Foreclosure prevention and extension of rental counseling/ eviction prevention funds expected to expand. Agencies are changing business models and how they will function. Clients are furloughed or on unemployment but will still want to find housing (rent and purchase); the effect on credit/ budgets/ savings and affordable housing/ home purchases.

1. **Where do we go from here and how can OHC better communicate/ coordinate assistance for residents of Ontario?**

* PathStone hotline is a good resource for general questions on fair housing, eviction, tenant rights. Pam @ Ontario Habitat working with committee & Andrea @ DFS referring staff to start an affordable housing listing. Lots of feedback that a consistently updated affordable housing list is needed in Ontario County.

1. **WRAP UP & AGENCY UPDATES**
2. **CCFL:** Offering a daily community lunch through Geneva office; Funds for emergency housing needs still available- can receive more than one grant in a year.
3. **PathStone:** Services offered remotely (Housing Counseling, Foreclosure Intervention), Housing Hotline from 10am – 1pm Monday to Friday. Rehab program offering emergency services only at this time.
4. **Family Promise:** Offering services but may shift from rotating church locations to house clients, looking for partnering agencies (contact Brenda Spratt).
5. **FLACRA:** Working remotely but still offering in person appointments for emergencies, moving clients into apartments etc.

\*NEXT MEETING IS **FRIDAY JULY 10TH, 2020\***

Location: Video Conference Time: 10am