



Chicago CoC Affinity Groups Overview

2021

HIV Housing Advisory Task Group

Point-of-Contact:

- Brandi Calvert (BCalvert@aidschicago.org)
- Arturo Bendixen (abendixen2020@gmail.com)

Overview:

Ending homelessness and unstable housing for those living with HIV or AIDS.

Service Providers Commission

Point-of-Contact:

- Richard Ducatzenzeiler (Co-Chair) (richard@franoutreach.org)
- Sherri Reeves (Co-Chair) (sherri.reeves@matthewhousechicago.org)
- Avi Rudnick (Vice-Chair) (arudnick@chicagohouse.org)
- Betsy Carlson (Secretary) (betsy@thenightministry.org)

Overview:

The Service Providers Commission is an organized voice for homeless service providers to ensure continuous improvement of the homeless service system. Our Purpose is to:

- Establish strong, positive collaboration with the Chicago Continuum of Care (CoC).
- Establish strong, positive collaboration with public and private funders, policy makers and corporations.
- Effectively influence public policy related to homeless services through advocacy.
- Significantly increase public and private financial resources for service providers.

Women's Affinity Group

Point-of-Contact:

- Audrey Thomas, Deborah's Place (athomas@deborahsplace.org)
- Lee Poe, Sarah's Circle (lpoe@sarahs-circle.org)

Overview:

To elevate the issue of unaccompanied women's homelessness and amplify women's voices so that their housing, income, and health needs are prioritized in our CoC systems.

Domestic Violence

Point-of-Contact:

- Amanda Pyron, The Network (apyron@batteredwomensnetwork.org)

Overview:

The Network: Advocating Against Domestic Violence will create a task force of service providers to address housing for survivors in the City of Chicago. This process will be similar to the development of other membership-based Committees.

Ending Veteran Homelessness Initiative

Point-of-Contact:

- Regina Freeman-Hodges, Jesse Brown VA (Regina.Freeman-Hodges@va.gov)
- Jenny Dwyer-Keas, Jesse Brown VA (Jennifer.Dwyer-Keas@va.gov)
- Jessica Smith, CSH (jessica.smith@csh.org)

Overview:

The Ending Veteran Homelessness Initiative (EVHI) is the Veterans component of the Chicago CES. This group brings together key partners to implement strategic initiatives to end Veteran homelessness.

Homeless Youth Committee

Point-of-Contact:

- Flora Koppel, Unity Parenting and Counseling (fkoppel@unityparenting.org)
- Sam Carlson, Chicago Coalition for the Homeless (sam@chicagohomeless.org)

Overview:

Since 1983, the Homeless Youth Committee has advocated for the needs of unaccompanied youth through strategic campaigns and public policy initiatives.

Collaborative on Child Homelessness

Point-of-Contact:

- Mary Elsner, JD, Illinois Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics (melsner@illinoisAAP.com)
- Laura Bass, LCSW, Facing Forward to End Homelessness (laura@ffchicago.org)
- Nancy Heil, MD, FAAP, Illinois Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics (nancyjo336@gmail.com)

Overview:

To improve health outcomes for young children, families, and pregnant persons experiencing housing insecurity by increasing capacity and fair access to housing through a deliberate racial equity and justice lens. The Collaborative is focused on children birth to six and pregnant persons based on the developmental vulnerabilities of the child as demonstrated by Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) studies.

CHHRGE Health Equity Affinity Group

Point-of-Contact:

- Jess Lynch, Illinois Public Health Institute (jessica.lynch@iphionline.org)
- Christine Haley, Cook County Health Steve Brown, UI Health (christine.haley@cookcountyhhs.org)

Overview:

The Health Equity Affinity Group sits within CHHRGE. Chicago Homelessness and Health Response Group for Equity is focused on health equity and racial equity. The Health Equity Affinity Group will work to address the healthcare needs of people experiencing homelessness, and we define healthcare broadly to include mental health, substance use treatment and harm reduction, vision and dental care, and other wrap-around services. We will lift the voice of people with lived experience, which can include individuals and families who are unsheltered, in a shelter, in hotel/motels, or doubled up. We will also support the CoC's work to provide more permanent supportive housing and work to establish systems and funding alignment across housing and health sectors.