



**Broome County Safe Housing Task Force – Core Group
Tuesday, November 13, 2-3pm
Meeting Minutes**

Attendees: Rebecca Rathmell (Co-Chair – Southern Tier Homeless Coalition), Mark Schuster (Co-Chair – BC Health Department), Josh Phelps (Director – Environmental Health), Chris Schleider (City of Binghamton Code Department), Daria Golazeski (Deputy Commissioner of Public Works for Codes and Ordinances – Town of Union), Tom Costello (Director – City of Binghamton Code Department), Nancy Williams (Commissioner – Department of Social Services), Sonja Bennett (Deputy Commissioner of TA – Department of Social Services), Sharon Sorkin (Assistant Corporation Counsel – City of Binghamton), Dr. Tonia Thompson (Superintendent – Binghamton City School District), Christina Cramer (BC Executive’s Office), Paige (Intern - Rural Health Network), Pam Guth (Director of Community Health Services – Rural Health Network of South Central NY), Chris Faber-Mosely (Attorney – Legal Services of Central NY), Larry Sall (Landlord – Sall Associates)

- **Progress updates**

- Tom: Spoke to the director in Rochester re: rental registration. Couple points of interest –
 - In place since 90’s with modifications, process is unique in that code enforcement is not separate from buildings department
 - Each code officer is assigned portion of parcels (in COB it’s by neighborhood/electoral district). Rochester said 300 cases per worker per year.
 - Salary is significantly higher which does impact work performance and longevity
 - Administrative legal process (ticketing system, not court system), case load conversation
 - Mark – state mandate that everything is on a tablet, saved a lot of time for Healthy Neighborhoods
 - What key modifications have been made since 90’s? Rental community has adjusted over time. Is it a barrier in COB that buildings/code is separate? Tom and Chris didn’t see any advantage. Assignment approach opinion? Tom notes 14,000 structures, 2700-4900/inspector. Only COB, TOU, and Vestal have full time code staff.
- Rebecca: Spoke briefly with Code Enforcement Director in Syracuse, hoping to follow up and will share a larger conversation at a later time. Also spoke with Katie



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- Bronson of Greater Syracuse's Green & Healthy Homes Initiative (GHHI) – examples of how they're supporting rehab financing, collaborating with landlords to positively incentivize, etc. GHHI Action Plan extremely comprehensive but covers similar topics to ongoing Task Force discussions and began with a similar collaborative effort (see attached). Rebecca also met with the regional VP and JC Branch Manager of Community Bank – they're interested in the action plan we submit in regards to financing support. Spiegel Notification protocol remains in process.
- Sharon: Followed up with JC so civil court approach re: Spiegel statutes are similar. Spoke to someone in Syracuse re: Revolving Rehab Financing information, will pick her brain more.
 - Shared Database Development
 - DSS Caseworker Structure
 - Code training from Binghamton so they know what to notice inside people's homes.
 - First come, first serve in CPS assignments.
 - Tonia suggests release of information to share between agencies. What are the legal barriers to that?
 - Property owner information (rental registration)
 - Who else has a stake in that? DSS, school district, Health department, etc.
 - Difference in usage – operational (service) vs. strategic (policy formation)
 - Center for Technology in Government
 - Working with intermunicipal project in Albany
 - Doug English, GIS
 - Access is already there for County and municipalities, folding in departments and school districts. It is adjustable to our needs, unlike state software.
 - Next step may be bringing him into the meeting to discuss.
 - Health Department
 - Lead violations, specifically. Contacting homeowners, sometimes including hiring the Sheriff's Office to make contact because home is owned by LLC, address is post office, etc.
 - Healthy Neighborhoods may see more than Code does because people are afraid to call Code.
 - Information to Include
 - Lead violations
 - Owner info
 - Code violations (Building Blocks – already tied to GIS)
 - Unique student codes
 - Occupancy info



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- (Difference in data info – code is location based, school and DSS is people based)
 - What publicly available databases exist that can bring together some of this information to the public, not just governments?