



Broome County Safe Housing Task Force – Executive Committee
Thursday – September 27th – 2:30-3:30pm
Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Jason Garnar (BC County Executive), Rich David (Mayor – City of Binghamton), Greg Deemie (Mayor – Village of Johnson City), Christina Cramer (BC Exec. Office), Mark Schuster (Co-Chair – BC Health Department), Rebecca Rathmell (Co-Chair – Southern Tier Homeless Coalition)

1. Timeline, Structure, and Priorities

a. 6 months total

- i. 3 months – Core Group to meet biweekly to focus on generating ideas, developing policy proposals, etc.**
- ii. 3 months – Executive Committee to review recommendations and begin adoption**
 - 1. Executive Committee will not meet as frequently during first 3 months. Looking at early November and end of year meetings. Will receive regular updates of Core Group meetings.**
- iii. Three conversations to start**
 - 1. Collaborative protocol between municipalities**
 - a. How can DSS work with local municipalities? In what other ways can we all work together to be more efficient and effectively tackle unsafe housing? Internal process development, rather than policy.**
 - 2. Rental Registration**
 - a. Looking at other municipalities that have successfully implemented this. This is an important preventative measure, especially in targeting families with children.**
 - b. Mayor Deemie notes this is on the books in JC, but is overwhelming to code enforcement and not all landlords/tenants notify the Village when they move, etc.**
 - c. Potential need to look at shared services or new department**



3. Land Bank

- a. BC Land Bank has a record of demolitions, but very few rehab projects. To assist with quality of current housing stock, the Core Group will hope to increase rehab projects.
- b. Other Land Bank programs:
 - i. Neighbors for Neighborhoods – when a property is foreclosed, assisting neighbors financially with purchasing and rehabilitating the home
 - ii. Renovation to Own – buy from foreclosure list for back taxes with a timeframe to rehabilitate the home

2. Who is not here that should be?

- a. Majority member from County Legislature – Rebecca and Mark will reach out.
- b. Members of City Council and Village Board will be updated via meeting minutes and their respective mayors.
- c. Public Forums will be held to get information from the public and any grassroots organizations not currently involved.

3. What's working and what's not?

- a. JC – “It feels like we’re doing a lot, but can’t say it’s working. Population is highly transient. What can we do about poor tenants?”
- b. Binghamton – Elimination of bulk item sticker has been successful. Over 700 tons more in first 7 months of 2018 than 2017. There is a disconnect in providing resources to those who need it. Need more efficiency in collaboration.
- c. County – Little things around the edges, but not hitting the crux of the problem. DSS is in control of the money to landlords – how do we manage that? Auction process is not always successful. County is financially strapped - how do we navigate the costs involved?

4. Barriers or Encouragement to Implementation

- a. Core Group will focus on overcoming any data or funding barriers.
- b. Leg/Council/Board will want detailed policy – cost benefit analysis, impacts, processes, etc.
- c. Legal input and knowledge of local laws for each municipality



-
- d.** Judicial level challenges that cannot be changed, as well as code enforcement seasonal cycles.
- 5. Action Items**
- a.** All to keep an eye out for funding opportunities or ideas to pass to Core Group.
 - b.** Core Group to meet 10/10 and 10/24. Next Executive Committee meeting in November.