Annual Comparison of PIT Data

17. When compared to last year, please indicate whether the sheltered and unsheltered count increased, decreased, or stayed the same. Describe the specific factors that may have resulted in the increase, decrease, or no change.

17a. Compared to last year, the 2015 *sheltered count*:

\*Decreased

Explain:

The sheltered count decreased from 2,118 in 2014 to 1,770 persons in 2015. Therefore 348 (16.4%) fewer persons were sheltered on the night of the Point-In-Time count in Westchester.

Continuing a trend started last year, there were 268 (20%) fewer family members in 92 (20%) fewer households with children housed in congregate family shelters and scattered-site transitional units. We reallocated a HUD CoC Transitional Housing project into family Rapid Re-housing during 2014; in addition New York State- and locally-funded Rapid Re-housing projects began to reach capacity. This expansion, in 2013 and 2014, of Rapid Re-Housing projects has decreased the need for transitional beds. We will continue working to accelerate the movement of family homeless from emergency and transitional beds into permanent housing.

There were also 77 (10%) fewer adults without children, who were housed in drop-in overnight, domestic violence, and 24-hour emergency shelters, and 3 fewer unaccompanied youth in emergency shelter. Part of this decrease reflects the exclusion of 11 beds of Department of Parole-funded housing, which were erroneously counted as homeless beds in the prior year.

However, we still observe a decrease of 69 (9%) in single homeless from 2014 to 2015. During 2014 and continuing into 2015 we have focused resources toward permanently housing veterans and the chronic homeless. Our Patriot Housing Initiative has moved over 100 homeless veterans into permanent housing. The new Permanent Supportive Housing Bonus project awarded by HUD to the Westchester CoC for FY2014 will allow us to even further reduce the chronic homeless in our shelter system.

17b. Compared to last year, the 2015 *unsheltered count*:

\*Increased

Explain:

The unsheltered count increased from 20 persons in 2014 to 27 persons in 2015. This is a decrease of 7 (35%). It is difficult to interpret trends in numbers as small as these – only 1.5% of the homeless persons we counted on the night of the Point-In-Time count were unsheltered.

For 2015, we used CoC Planning funding to increase the number of street outreach workers canvassing for unsheltered homeless on the night of the Point In Time count in several cities in Westchester County. Having more outreach workers working in teams with law enforcement, as opposed to law enforcement alone, may have made individuals more willing to be interviewed. These factors likely resulted in part of the observed increase.

We are confident that we can continue to keep the number of unsheltered very low by maintaining our outreach efforts to homeless (veterans and non-veterans) on the streets or other places not meant for human habitation, and our robust system of low-demand overnight emergency shelters that house those homeless who are unwilling or unable to comply with the public assistance eligibility requirements imposed by most of our 24-hour emergency and transitional shelters.