

Homeless Continuum of Care of Stark County

Board of Directors Meeting

March 10, 2015

9:30 am at the Sisters of Charity Foundation

MEMBERS PRESENT

John Aller
Vicki Conley
Tim Corbi
Lynne Dragomier
Amanda Fletcher
Cathy Jennings
Beverly Jordan
Natalie McCleskey

Beth Pearson
Kelly Perry
Nedra Petro
Jeff Shultz
Shirene Starn-Tapyrik
Jean Van Ness

EXCUSED

Maria Heege
Dave Kaminski

ABSENT

Lisa Miller

SOCF STAFF

Shannon Williams

I. Welcome/Conflict of Interest Reminder/Approval of February Minutes

At 9:35 a.m., Jean called the meeting to order, welcomed all in attendance, and reminded everyone of the conflict of interest policy.

Motion: Jean requested a motion to approve the February Board meeting minutes, which had been distributed to the Board via email prior to the meeting. Vicki moved to approve the minutes with one correction noted by the Board. Shirene seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Kelly and Jeff arrived at the meeting.

II. Consent Agenda

Jean noted that the items on the consent agenda included:

- A. Vote on Nomination of Mike Cody, Director of SMHA's Asset Management, to the Board:** Mike will fill the seat recently vacated by Christina Tracy, who will now serve the Board in an advisory capacity. The Board received a letter detailing Mike's qualifications prior to the meeting.
- B. Vote to Endorse Application of Family & Community Services Application for SSVF Funds to Serve Stark County Veterans**
- C. Vote on Appointment of Nicole Caudill and Carla Wright to System Performance Committee**

Motion: Jean requested a motion. Jeff moved to approve the consent agenda, and Lynne seconded the motion.

Discussion: Discussion followed about whether or not Family and Community Services would request CoC funding. It was reported that the agency would not seek additional funding in respect to this particular SSVF program.

Vote: Jean requested the final vote, and the motion to approve the consent agenda passed unanimously.

III. Vote to Endorse Application of PAL Mission

Natalie distributed the Youth Homelessness Subcommittee's February Report, a spreadsheet outlining Homeless Youth Services in Stark County, and information about PAL Mission's proposed youth shelter that had been provided by the organization's executive director, Jill Miller.

PAL Mission (PAL) is seeking the HCCSC's endorsement of its application for \$200,000 from the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) to start a shelter for youth ages 14-17. PAL developed its plans for a youth shelter after first developing plans for a youth drop-in center, then learning that HHS would not award funding for a drop-in center to any community that did not have a youth shelter in place. The grant application, due at the end of March, requires HCCSC endorsement.

Throughout discussion, the Board deliberated about:

- The current, pressing need for services for homeless and at-risk youth in Stark County
- PAL's plans to collaborate with the Selina Semedo Foundation and Child and Adolescent Behavioral Health
- The lack of information about PAL's plans for any necessary capital funding and future operating funds
- Concerns about the proposed program model, especially about the short amount of time (3 weeks) allowed in the shelter and the difficulty of securing positive outcomes for this "hard to serve" population during that limited time
- PAL's previous loss of state funding
- PAL's previous difficulties in meeting HCCSC performance expectations and the Board's consequent decision to defund PAL's youth transitional housing program in October 2014

Motion: Jean requested a motion. Amanda moved to deny endorsement for PAL's application for HHS funding. Jeff seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

IV. Report on Discussion with SMHA and Changes in Homeless Preference and Vote to Approve Email Vote on HCCSC Comments

SMHA recently released a draft of a new "Tenant Selection and Assignment Plan" for public comment by March 26, and copies were distributed to the Board prior to the meeting. The document explains, among other things, (a) the "preferences" (including homelessness) for which applicants on the waiting list for public housing can qualify; (b) the point value assigned to each preference; and (c) proposed new procedures for selecting applicants for available public housing units based on their accumulation of preference points. Jean requested feedback from the Board about the proposed system and its potential impact on the homeless.

The Board discussed:

- The recent meeting at SMHA attended by John, Jean, Beth, and Natalie, as well as Jennifer Keaton, Frank Aquino, and Jackie Pollard from MHRSB, at which they addressed the false rumor that SMHA planned to eliminate its preference for homeless clients. At the meeting, John assured SMHA that there are services in place to help them work with any homeless clients who may be difficult to serve. The meeting was largely positive.
- The concern that clients' knowledge of SMHA's new preference system could create a substantially increased demand for Category 1 homeless certificates and subsequently place additional pressure on HCCSC agencies who issue homeless certificates.
- The extent to which SMHA's preferences align with HUD's.
- The possibility of obtaining an opinion from Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH) on the probable impact of the new preference system.

The Board reached consensus in favor of seeking an opinion from CSH on the proposed preference system.

Motion: Jean requested a motion to approve an email vote later this month on comments about the document that the Board develops after consulting with CSH. Shirene made the motion, Beth seconded, and it passed unanimously.

V. Review of Additional Work Proposed with Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH) and Vote to Approve Further Engagement with CSH

Jean spoke with Katie Kitchin, the new CSH Director in Ohio, about HCCSC's continued work with her agency. The Stark County Homeless Council worked with CSH several years ago and was pleased with the results. Therefore, HCCSC engaged CSH again last year to provide various consulting services. Unfortunately, on this occasion, we experienced some problems with CSH's timeliness, staff turnover, and billing delays, all of which made contract management difficult. HCCSC currently has \$23,000 in the budget for additional consulting services. During their conversation, Katie assured Jean that CSH will provide monthly invoices to enable HCCSC to track work being done and fees being charged for that work. She also (a) provided résumés for the various consultants who will do the work; (b) encouraged Jean to apply to HUD for some of the work paid by HUD, which offer CoCs 16 hours of free technical assistance each year; and (c) informed Jean that HUD will assign CSH or another consulting agency to HCCSC, if the Board chooses to use HUD's services.

Prior to the meeting, the Board received a chart titled "Areas in Which CSH Could Be Helpful" (attached) and a memo detailing HCCSC's past and potential future work with CSH. During the meeting, the Board:

- Agreed to continue contracting with CSH for its consulting needs;
- Proposed items that should be added to the chart; and
- Discussed which items on the chart should be brought to CSH and which could be taken to another consulting agency, should HUD decide not to assign CSH as the consultant.

Motion: Jean requested a motion to approve contracting with CSH for up to \$23,000 to assist with any or all issues outlined in the attached chart. John made the motion, Lynne seconded, and it passed unanimously.

VI. Questions/Comment on Board Updates

The Board had no questions or comments about the Board Updates.

VII. Old Business

A. D & O Insurance

Jean met with Pat Corcoran from Huntington Bank to discuss the insurance and expects to receive a list of options and costs soon. She reminded the Board members to complete the “Question from D & O Insurance Application” form and return it to her.

B. Community Meeting to Discuss the Future of HCCSC

Due to Board member conflicts with the proposed date of April 30, Jean suggested—and Lynne and Vicki agreed—that the meeting be postponed until the end of summer or beginning of fall. Lynne and Vicki will continue to hold discussions with key partners until the meeting.

VIII. New Business

A. Capital Needs

1. \$150,000 in OHFA funds is available again, since ICAN’s negotiations for property for a new PSH project folded.
2. Jean made a presentation about the HCCSC’s work to the local foundations. Among other things, the foundations seemed receptive to the idea of holding a special meeting in the second half of the year to consider capital needs within the homeless system.

B. YWCA

Cathy reported that the STARR program is taking on new clients again after its recent freeze caused a shortage of funds. Also, the new TANF-funded prevention program will begin when the YWCA receives the contract from DJFS.

IX. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m.