

Homeless Continuum of Care of Stark County

Board of Directors Meeting

April 14, 2015

9:30 am at the Sisters of Charity Foundation

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mike Cody

Vicki Conley

Tim Corbi

Lynne Dragomier

Dave Kaminski

Beth Pearson

Nedra Petro

Jeff Shultz

Jean Van Ness

EXCUSED

John Aller

Amanda Fletcher

Maria Heege

Cathy Jennings

Natalie McCleskey

Kelly Perry

Shirene Starn-Tapyrik

ABSENT

Beverly Jordan

Lisa Miller

SOCF STAFF

Shannon Williams

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

At 9:34 a.m., Jean called the meeting to order, welcomed everyone, reminded everyone of the Conflict of Interest policy, and introduced new Board member Mike Cody.

Motion: Jean requested a motion to approve the March Board meeting minutes, which had been distributed to the Board via email prior to the meeting. Lynne made the motion, Beth seconded, and it was approved by all except Mike Cody, who abstained.

II. Discussion and Vote to Approve Stark County One Year Action Plan

Stark County Regional Planning Commission is currently in Year Two of its Five Year Consolidated Plan, which addresses the county's homelessness and housing needs. For each program year, Regional Planning must draft a One Year Action Plan to outline how it will operationalize its goals. Beth agreed to bring proposed updates on the relevant sections of each year's plan to the HCCSC Board for feedback before the plan is finalized. This year, the final plan must be submitted by April 28. Sections of the plan relating to homelessness and housing (titled "AP-65 Homeless and Other Special Needs Activities") were distributed to the Board prior to the meeting.

During the course of discussion, the Board suggested a few additions to the sections about emergency shelter and plans for housing veterans.

Motion: Jean requested a motion to approve the Stark County One Year Action Plan with the proposed additions. Jeff made the motion, Vicki seconded, and it passed unanimously.

III. Discussion of Status of OHFA Capital Fund Requests

A. Coleman Project

In November 2014, the Board allocated \$260,000 in Ohio Housing Finance Agency (OHFA) funds to Coleman to support its new housing project for transitional youth. The agency was unable to find a site for the program in time to meet the end-of-February deadline that Natalie had established to enable her to review the application before it was sent to OHFA at the end of March. Shortly thereafter, however, the agency secured a “fallback” site, and the HCCSC Executive Committee agreed to waive the original end-of-February deadline with the understanding that Coleman would finalize its site selection by the beginning of May, thereby remaining on target to meet OHFA’s final June 30 deadline.

B. Remaining OHFA Funding

The CoC still has \$150,000 in OHFA funding available for capital projects. (This is the funding that had been allocated initially to the YWCA for renovations to transitional housing units which the Board hoped could be used to house singles.) The Board discussed making the funds available for building repairs and replacements at ICAN’s Basic Accommodations. During that discussion, the following facts were mentioned:

- ICAN and the Mental Health and Recovery Services Board are discussing the possible conversion of Basic Accommodations, which is currently a “safe haven,” to a permanent supportive housing.
- Basic Accommodations serves chronically homeless singles (a population for which more housing is needed) and would continue to serve them as a permanent supportive housing project.
- Basic Accommodations has capital needs that exceed \$150,000.
- Jean has spoken with Amanda Fletcher and verified that ICAN will be in a position to submit an application for the funding to the Board.

The Board reached a unanimous consensus to invite ICAN to submit an application for the OHFA funds.

IV. Questions/Comments on Board Updates

A. Point in Time (PIT) Count

Jean distributed a document containing the final numbers from the 2015 PIT Count, which she received from Jennifer Keaton at HMIS. The Board discussed the following findings and their potential implications:

- The street count is up from 38 in 2014 to 60 in 2015.
- The count of people in permanent housing is up from 473 in 2014 to 503 in 2015. For the first time this year, this category included people in rapid re-housing projects.
- The emergency shelter count is down from 259 in 2014 to 239 in 2015.

The Board reached a consensus to invite Jennifer to the next Board meeting to discuss and help to elucidate the numbers from the PIT Count.

V. Discussion on and Vote to Amend CoC Application Procedures and Discussion on Reallocation of 2015 CoC Funding

At its February meeting, the Board approved a summary of changes that the Recipient Approval and Evaluation Committee proposed to make to the “Procedures for Inviting and Reviewing Applications for CoC Funding.” The committee completed the approved changes and distributed them to the Board via email with the expectation of recommending them for approval at April’s meeting.

During the process of reviewing preliminary applications for 2015 CoC funding, however, the committee encountered a situation that was not adequately addressed in the revised procedures, namely, a situation in which reallocation seemed appropriate, not because a project was performing poorly, but because it no longer met HUD’s priorities and HCCSC’s greatest needs. In such cases, the revised procedures suggested that the CoC funds supporting the project should be made available to other agencies through a general request for proposals. However, questions had been raised about (1) whether this was fair to the agency sponsoring project and (2) whether the HCCSC should give that agency some priority in considering other possible uses for the funds to be reallocated.

During its deliberations, the Board discussed the following:

- The lack of precedent for reallocating CoC funds from a project and an agency that had been performing well
- HUD’s preference for permanent supportive housing over transitional housing, its clear mandate to prioritize the chronically homeless, and the demand within the HCCSC for permanent supportive housing for chronically homeless singles, all of which might justify reallocation of funding away from transitional housing for families and toward permanent supportive housing for chronically homeless singles
- The importance of honoring HUD priorities to avoid jeopardizing the amount of CoC funding the HCCSC receives
- The ongoing challenge of reallocating CoC funds to meet Stark County’s current needs given HUD’s tendency to narrowly restrict the uses to which reallocated funds can be put and change those restrictions from year to year

Motion: Beth moved to approve an email vote on the “Procedures for Inviting and Reviewing Applications for CoC Funding,” after they have been reviewed again and revised as deemed necessary by the Recipient Approval and Evaluation Committee. Vicki seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

VI. Old Business

A. Community Meeting to Discuss the Future of HCCSC

The community meeting will be held in late summer or early fall of this year. Lynne, Vicki, and Jean will be speaking with consultants from the Corporation for Supportive Housing to discuss strategies soon.

B. National Housing Trust Fund

HUD has developed interim rules for a National Housing Trust Fund. Beth and Natalie will be gathering information about how the Ohio Housing Trust Fund will work and will relay pertinent information back to HCCSC.

VII. New Business

The Board had no new business to discuss.

VIII. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:35 a.m.