

COC SYSTEM PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

Minutes of the February 16, 2016 Meeting

Maria Heege called the meeting to order at 9:40 am. In addition to Maria, the following members were present: Stephanie Ascani, Renee Biggums, Amy Krebs, Beverly Lewis, Natalie McCleskey, Jean VanNess, Shannon Williams, Carla Wright and Duane Wykoff.

Identification of Secretary: Ms. Heege stated in lieu of a secretary taking notes, the meeting was going to be recorded and transcribed by her office. She asked if everyone was in agreement with the meeting being recorded by her office. All members present unanimously agreed.

Minutes: Ms. Heege stated that the September, 2015 minutes were approved. The then secretary, Vicki Conley, retired and the October 20, 2015 minutes are a draft and are not completed. The committee was asked to review what was completed of the October minutes, along with any notes they may have, and if there was anything they wanted to add or revise, to let her know, after which they would be sent over to Natalie McCleskey to be finalized.

Work Plan Review/Timeline Review: Ms. Heege stated she was adding to the agenda. Along with the timeline review, there is a work plan for the System Performance Committee which is part of the full COC work plan. The committee needs to make sure as they look at the work plan and the timeline all responsibilities of the committee are captured.

Natalie McCleskey stated that she is open to suggestions from the committee about what should be added to the plan or whether any additional explanation is necessary. She also stated that the committee needs to be able to generate more data reports this year, and figure out what exactly the committee wants to be looking at in terms of data. The board is hoping to get these reports on a monthly basis. We need to focus on what the Performance Committee wants to be looking at routinely and in setting targets and determining what our system wide targets are.

Ms. McCleskey then distributed HUD system performance measures. General measures were released last year but HUD hadn't come out with the specifications on how communities would have to measure each one. Locally we developed our own using base line data. HUD now has the actual specifications of how they want each performance measured and she wanted everyone to have those specifications. She thought this was a good start of the measures that we are looking at.

Ms. McCleskey suggested we might take advantage of the March member meeting to discuss a variety of topics including discussion about priorities, what the System Performance Committee has identified as priorities, and then allow the opportunity for all of the members to weigh in and then ask questions.

Ms. Heege then led a discussion on the Performance Committee timeline. She stated that there seems to still be some gray areas such as what's the Evaluation Committee is doing, what's Performance is doing, how do we talk, when do we talk, etc. Ms. VanNess stated she and Natalie would talk about committee responsibilities and report back. For the next month we're looking for very general system wide priorities that can be identified, at least from what is known now, and the possibility that HUD and their priorities are not going to change much, and be prepared to discuss those.

When asked if there would be a March committee meeting since there was a March membership meeting, Ms. Heege stated we would keep the March committee meeting until we know what our discussion will be in the March membership meeting. We can use the committee time to discuss and review if needed. She would let members know at a later date if we were meeting.

Open Discussion: A question was ask since we're removing the various sub committees from coming in to present to the Performance Committee, how involved does this group need to be or want to be, especially with the emphasis on employment and income. Will we be involved in setting standards for that? How do we work that into our meeting time at some point to brainstorm those issues? Ms. McCleskey stated that would be part and parcel of the discussion mentioned earlier about system performance measures above and beyond the ones HUD is mandating.

A question was asked about the chronic homeless issue in the county and what our accomplishments are in that area. Ms. McCleskey stated that this is one of the issues that make it key in developing our system priorities; so we have a better sense of our chronic numbers. We have a form we've agreed to use each month to give the board a snapshot of what's going on each month and that includes chronic numbers. This report will be shared with us so we will have the same information they have every month. All those reflected as chronic will have to be confirmed as chronic for some reason

She stated that she had contact with a Kevin Finn, the CEO of Strategies for Homeless, which is the backbone organization for Cincinnati's continuing care. He was in town for a homeless summit and he had mentioned an app that they were developing with the University of Kentucky that allows people to send a message on computer or phone when they see someone who needs help. It also allows the homeless to do the same if they need help. He mentioned that he could make this app available to our community, and he is prepared to do that immediately if we want to get that up and running. So this may be a new way of keeping in touch with homeless people and for them to keep in touch with us.

Adjournment: Ms. Heege stated before adjournment if there was any updates or anything anyone wanted to share. She inquired of Mr. Wycoff how things were going with him. He stated they were busy and the women's shelter is packed. He shared good news that some of the women that were standards now have their own apartments. Ms. McCleskey asked if there was enough for the men right now in the main facility. Mr. Wycoff stated yes, but they've been overcapacity in the shelter for over five years.

Ms. McCleskey stated she was reviewing the new federal standards for being able to declare a functional zero in veteran homelessness and one of the things they want communities to be able to show is that they can shelter veterans immediately if they want to be sheltered and without any restrictions on alcohol intake. She asked with respect to Refuge of Hope what happens with people that are drunk or under some influence. Mr. Wycoff stated that he thinks the veteran issue is a big issue. He said they conduct a breathalyzer each evening and random drug tests. If they have anything in their system they can't come in. If it is a very cold night they can stay the night. Ms. McCleskey stated if we are turning away veterans from shelters because they don't pass a drug test, we need to figure out an alternative. Mr. Wycoff stated that as they move into the new facility sometime down the road, this issues is one that should be looked at very carefully and thoughtfully. Maybe there could be a section especially for veterans.

Mr. Wycoff made the committee aware of the fact that more and more individuals are showing up who have some form of mental health challenges. He's tried to get help for them from other agencies and have been told they don't meet the agency's criteria. Ms. McCleskey stated that it is hard when programs are so segmented with their list of criteria.

Respectfully submitted,
Sylvia Smith