

HOMELESS CONTINUUM OF CARE OF STARK COUNTY

Members' Meeting

July 18, 2016

Held at

Main Branch, Stark County Library

Call to Order

Jean Van Ness, Chair of the HCCSC, called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

I. Approval of Minutes

Motion: Stephanie Ascani moved, Becky Mathess seconded, and the motion to approve the minutes from the March 29, 2016 Members' meeting passed unanimously.

II. Debriefing on 2015 CoC Competition

Jean Van Ness stated that the NOFA has come out for the 2016 application. The competition is open but the collaborative application has not yet been released. The HCCSC performed very well in the 2015 application. All of the renewal projects were funded and two bonus projects were funded. There was an online debriefing on May 23. Projects assigned to Tier I were assured funding as these were considered to be the highest performing projects by local continua. Only half of the projects in Tier II nationwide will receive funding. She stated that our CoC score in 2013 was below the nationwide average median but in 2015 was significantly above that average. This CoC is considered a higher performing CoC. The characteristics of a higher performing CoC are: ones that reallocate funding from lower performing projects especially transitional housing and supportive services only projects, they use objective performance criteria to score unranked projects, they adhere to housing first practices throughout their project portfolios and they have success in reducing homelessness in their communities.

III. Preparations for 2016 CoC Competition

Jean Van Ness stated that the CoC competition is beginning two months earlier this year than it did the last year and even earlier than in 2013 and 2014. The local competition normally would be done before NOFA comes out. Local scoring of the projects has been completed and the applicants should know soon which will be included in the CoC Application we submit to HUD. The collaborative application was a true collaborative process last year. Many were involved in the process. This year presents some challenges. Beth Pearson stated that she spoke with Anthony Forte from HUD this morning. He said he does not know when the application will come out. He stated to use last year's questions as a template as it should be similar. Jean Van Ness stated that this year 93% of the projects will be in Tier I. That means more funding is guaranteed this year. Bonus funding will be available again this year at 5% PRN or \$116,583 will be available. It is not known yet if funding will be available through reallocation from other projects. Eligible projects for bonus funding include: new permanent supportive housing for chronically homeless individuals and new rapid rehousing for homeless families and individuals. There is emphasis this year to score and rank projects based on the extent to which they contribute to the overall success of the homeless system.

IV. Results from PIT Counts

Jean and Jennifer Keaton presented summaries of the PIT counts from 2009-2016. This year was the lowest homeless and street count since 2010 and the count has steadily declined since the peak in 2013. The number of households with children increased this year. That may be due to the reallocation of transitional housing into rapid rehousing. Numbers have gone down since the PIT in many of the categories. The number of households without children significantly decreased from 2015, as did the number of chronically homeless individuals. Veteran household numbers increased, but were still below the previous PIT count. In all, the data looks good.

V. Report on Progress in Ending Homelessness Among Veterans

Lisa Waikem and Amanda Fletcher summarized the progress on ending homelessness among Veterans. The number was very close to functional zero. Currently there are 10 Veterans (4 on the ESG list are currently being helped and 6 on the PSH list are unfortunately low on the prioritization list due to needs assessment score). There may be some Veterans staying in a warehouse in Massillon. George Waseity will take the lead and try to reach out to see if they truly are Veterans. If Veterans call the Hotline they are being given the CRRC phone number, so they can see if they are eligible for VA services. SMHA was awarded an additional 5 VASH vouchers so we now have 55. There has been a lot of progress on identifying who the Veterans are.

VI. Report on Submission of Performance Measures Data

Jean stated that the deadline for performance data is August 1, 2016. Jennifer stated that HUD is now requiring that the CoC provide data on how they are doing as an entity, not project by project. HUD has set no benchmarks for these performance measures, but there will be at some point, this is a baseline year. There are seven major measures that they require reporting on. This will be any project open October 1, 2012 thru September 30, 2015. The seven measures are as follows:

1. The length of time persons remain homeless – reduction in the average and median length of time persons are homeless in emergency shelter or safe haven
2. Extent to which persons who exit to a PH and return to homelessness in 2 years, 12 months and 6 months
3. Number of homeless persons (PIT)
4. Employment and income growth for persons in all projects
5. Number of persons who become homeless for first time (if they haven't been homeless in 2 years)
6. Measures applicable only to communities serving category 3 populations (we, like most, if not all, do not have HUD permission to serve population with CoC funds)
7. Successful placement from street outreach and successful placement or retention of persons in PH.

VII. Future Management of the Homeless Continuum of Care

Jean stated that in September of 2015 there was a summit to convene local political and foundation leaders to help develop a plan for future management of the Continuum of Care. A new 501(c) (3) was discussed for backbone organization to provide the management portion of the Continuum of Care. The Sisters of Charity Foundation has provided funding for one year of support for an executive director for the organization who would be employed by Goodwill for a year while the organization was getting up and running. CDBG funding specifically will be used for the hotline. Sisters of Charity will continue to stay involved and provide financial and human resources. Political leaders met with foundation leaders and solicited their support as well. Joni Close is putting together a 3-year budget. An Executive Director should be in place in the next few months. Goodwill will have offices for the Director and one staff member.

VIII. Final Questions and Discussion

The CoC cannot be subordinate to the new non-profit. It will be along the lines of the Columbus Shelter Board. The CoC Board is a subset of the Shelter Board. The Shelter Board oversees fiscal responsibility, provides management services and oversight. There is every expectation that the HMIS will stay at Stark MHAR and that the new non-profit will be Collaborative Applicant.

IX. Adjournment

There being no further discussion, Jean adjourned the meeting at 3:30pm.