

Homeless Continuum of Care of Stark County

Board of Directors Meeting

July 25, 2017

9:30 am at the Ken Weber Community Campus at Goodwill

MEMBERS PRESENT

John Aller
JoAnn Breedlove
Marty Chumney
De Ann Covey
Lynne Dragomier
Amanda Fletcher
Kimberly Kroh
Beverly Lewis
Beth Pearson
Nedra Petro

Shirene Starn-Tapyrik

EXCUSED

Maria Heege
Cathy Jennings
Kelly Perry
Jean Van Ness

ABSENT

John Gabbard
Kellie Johnson

Bryce Talbott

SOCF STAFF

Shannon McMahon Williams

HCCSC STAFF

Melissa Terrell
Kurt Williams

GUEST

Jennifer Keaton

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

At 9:30am, Chair Kurt Williams called the meeting to order, welcomed everyone, and reminded everyone of the conflict of interest.

Motion: Kurt requested a motion to approve the June meeting minutes, which had been distributed to the Board via email before the meeting. Beth moved to approve the minutes. Shirene seconded the motion and it was approved by all except Nedra and De Ann, who abstained.

II. Update on Stark Housing Network, Inc.

Stark Housing Network received its recognition letter from the IRS at end of June. Work has already begun to transfer HCCSC's Collaborative Applicant status from Stark County Regional Planning Commission (Regional Planning) to the Network. Kurt will notify the Board when HUD approves the transfer; this could occur during the 2017 CoC grant competition, which opened when the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) was released on July 14. If this happens, then the Network will submit HCCSC's application, although Beth, who is retiring from Regional Planning near the application deadline, will assist in completing it.

Kurt added that the Network will also take over Regional Planning's role as local administrator of Ohio Development Services Agency (ODSA) Homeless Crisis Response Program (HCRP) – Regional funding.

Discussion followed regarding the Network's policies for internal control, fiscal management, code of conduct, ethics, and conflict of interest. Several Board members noted that these policies must be sent to HUD. Shirene offered to send more information to Kurt about this requirement.

JoAnn, Lynne, Kimberly, and Beverly arrived during this discussion.

III. Review of Homeless Snapshot

The Board welcomed Jennifer Keaton, HMIS Administrator, to the meeting to present on the latest “Homeless Snapshot” report (July 7, 2017), which shows the numbers of households in shelter as well as numbers of households on the prioritization lists for shelter, rapid rehousing (RRH), and permanent supportive housing (PSH). The snapshot also breaks down numbers of households with single adults, adult-only families, families with children, as well as those who report being chronically homeless, a veteran, or unsheltered. She highlighted the following trends:

- The numbers of all household types on the shelter prioritization list are increasing, including transitional age youth (ages 18-25). Jennifer noted that this is a normal annual trend as school starts again. In addition, there are several family shelter rooms that are currently offline due to maintenance issues, which is creating a backlog. Some families are temporarily in motels paid for by the Department of Job and Family Services.
- On the RRH prioritization list, the number of families with children increased from two households in June to 46 households in July.
- On the PSH prioritization list, numbers of those coming from unsheltered situations are increasing.
- The number of veterans on the RRH and PSH prioritization lists remain steady. Jennifer can provide a breakdown of discharge status of veterans on the list in the future.
- The snapshot now shows numbers of households who are fleeing or victims of domestic violence.

Discussion followed about services for veteran households. Specifically, the Board discussed:

- The role of the Veterans Task Force in outreach and identification efforts for veterans regardless of discharge status.
- Veterans Service Commission, which has started the “Operation: Homebound” RRH program for veterans with honorable discharge status. De Ann Covey also outlined the Commission’s many other services for veterans.
- The need for clearer directions on what community members can do when they encounter veterans on the street, and the need for a coordinated service response to those veterans. It was agreed that if the veteran is homeless, s/he should call the Homeless Hotline. De Ann shared that the Commission has a dedicated phone for veterans to call the Hotline as well as a separate crisis line for veterans. She offered to distribute her business cards to the Board so that they could pass them out to veterans on the street, as well as to develop a specific card with resources available to veterans on the street.
- The new outreach group organized by Kurt that has met once and plans to meet quarterly to discuss efforts to coordinate outreach to veterans among staff members from a variety of local entities.

Kurt thanked Jennifer for her presentation and she left the meeting. Kurt added that the opioid epidemic may play a role in the number of households on the shelter prioritization list.

IV. Review of National Alliance to End Homelessness Conference

The National Conference on Ending Homelessness was held in Washington, D.C., July 16-18. Eight people from Stark County attended, including Amanda, Shirene, and Kurt. Sisters of Charity Foundation provided small grants to support five individuals in attending. The eight attendees held a debriefing call the day before the Board meeting to discuss major highlights and action items based on the sessions they attended.

Kurt, Amanda, and Shirene presented the following information from the conference:

- Kurt participated in the advocacy efforts on Capitol Hill, advocating for increased McKinney-Vento funding, Medicaid expansion, and continuation of the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness with Representatives Bill Johnson and Bob Gibbs.
- Amanda reported that it was exciting to see the creative work being done across the country. Specifically, she attended sessions on (1) engagement strategies during outreach with different sub-populations of homeless households, (2) landlord engagement (which contained a few pertinent action items for HCCSC), (3) moving on from PSH, and (4) the 2017 NOFA, with some Q&A with HUD staff members. She noted that the sessions stressed the importance of using data to make decisions and producing reports routinely to show need and performance. She thanked the Foundation for support.
- Shirene shared Representative Maxine Waters' announcement of a new bill to increase the numbers of affordable housing vouchers. She mentioned several overall themes of the conference, including: (1) low/no barriers for all projects, including shelters, (2) shelters in general – there were more sessions on shelters than ever before – and the use of diversion to help households move out of shelter quickly, (3) using a by-name list to reduce length of homelessness, (4) a coordinator role in central intake, and (5) data dashboard reports. Lastly, she added that the local attendees represented all of Stark County (Alliance, Canton, and Massillon) as well as diverse entities, including shelter, mental health outreach, Stark Metropolitan Housing Authority, faith-based organizations, and the CoC lead.

V. Discussion of 2017 Notice of Funding Availability Release

The NOFA for the 2017 HUD CoC grant competition was released on Friday, July 14, and the application is due by Thursday, September 28 at 8pm. Kurt is reading the NOFA carefully and working with Beth to outline an action plan to complete the application. The Board discussed several new features of the NOFA and the competition this year, including (1) improved importing functions and streamlined processes, like the option to resubmit renewal applications with no changes, (2) the “chronic plus” distinction, (3) the increased portion of points for system performance (now 49 points, increased from 10 in 2016), which HUD has alluded to in the past, and (4) the “competition report,” which will package several data reports together to help communities complete their applications.

Discussion followed regarding whether HCCSC is in good shape to complete the application this year. Kurt assured the Board that while the timing to complete the application will be a challenge, he is using the framework that Jean generated last year to determine which HCCSC members will complete different sections of the application, and believes overall that HCCSC is in good shape. The Board suggested that Kurt attend any available trainings on completing the application organized by the Balance of State CoC.

VI. Old Business

- A. Statewide Plan to End Homelessness Visit.** Barbara Poppe and Associates, the consulting group contracted to help the state develop the Statewide Plan to End Homelessness, visited Stark County on June 19. Kurt will receive a summary of the visit soon, but has heard that Stark County had the best participation from people with lived experience of homelessness. Kurt and Shannon McMahon Williams are both serving on the statewide Planning Committee to guide development of the final Plan. Phase II of the planning stages, which includes the work of the Planning Committee, will finish in December.

VII. Review/Approval of Local Competition Project Ranking

At this point, John, Marty, Amanda, and Shirene were excused for discussion, and De Ann left the meeting.

The Board reviewed a draft of HCCSC's project rankings, entitled "2017 CoC Funding Recommendation," which was distributed at the meeting. The Recipient Approval and Evaluation Committee scored all projects using the same scoring sheet as was used in 2016 with some modifications, but has not yet approved the draft ranking; the committee still needs to see the ranking with the final scores. Once the ranking is approved by the committee, it can be forwarded to the Board for final approval.

Kurt explained the draft ranking, including the renewal projects and those new projects seeking bonus and reallocated funds. The applicants will be notified of the ranking after the Board's approval and will promptly begin completing their applications in e-snaps, HUD's online grant system, so that they can be submitted to HCCSC 30 days before the final application deadline, as required.

Following some questions from the Board, Beth explained HUD's tiered ranking system and the amount of funding that HCCSC is eligible to receive. She mentioned that she noticed a discrepancy between her calculations and HUD's of HCCSC's annual renewal demand (ARD). Based on HCCSC's ARD of \$2,662,997, it is eligible for an additional \$159,780 in bonus funding, which Coleman is seeking with its Transitional Age Youth (TAY) project.

Motion: Lynne moved to conduct an email vote among the Board on the finalized 2017 CoC project ranking after it is approved by the Recipient Approval and Evaluation Committee. Kim seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

VIII. New Business

- A. **Members' Meeting.** The next HCCSC members' meeting is Monday July 31 from 2 to 4pm at the Ken Weber Community Campus at Goodwill. A reminder with the agenda and materials will be emailed soon.

IX. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:45am.