

**HOMELESS CONTINUUM OF CARE OF STARK COUNTY
BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, September 11, 2018
9:30am at the Community Campus at Goodwill
Meeting Minutes**

Members Present

Danelle Lightner
Lt. Gabbard
Shannon McMahon Williams
Lynne Dragomier
Beverly Lewis
Cheli Curran
Rollin Seward
Shirene Starn Tapyrik
JoAnn Breedlove
Marty Chumney
John Aller
Kim Kroh
Julie Sparks

SHN

Marcie Bragg
Melissa Terrell

Excused

Maria Heege
Cathy Jennings

I. Welcome, Introductions

At 9:35 a.m., Marcie Bragg, Board Chair, called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

II. Conflict of Interest

Marcie reminded the Board members of the Homeless Continuum of Care of Stark County (HCCSC) conflict of interest policy and requested that committee members remove themselves from the meeting prior to any agenda items that could pose a conflict. The agenda items for this meeting will include the FY2018 Priority Ranking that will be submitted to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the national CoC Program funding competition. Marcie requested that Board members with a conflict of interest remove themselves from the meeting prior to this agenda item.

III. Review and Approval of June and August 2018 Meeting Minutes

At the August HCCSC Board meeting, the approval of the June 2018 meeting minutes was postponed until September due to the minutes being an attachment for review in the August HCCSC Board meeting reminder email that was not received by all Board members.

Motion: Marcie requested a motion to approve the Homeless Continuum of Care of Stark County meeting minutes for the months of June and August. Kim motioned to approved. Rollin seconded the motion, and the motion was carried by a unanimous vote of all members present.

IV. National Conference to End Homelessness (NCEH)

The NCEH was recently held in July and the HCCSC was represented by multiple agencies. Agency staff members who attended the NCEH held a debriefing conference call to discuss the ideas presented at the conference and to identify local priorities based on these ideas.

Beverly Lewis entered the meeting at this time of 9:38am.

Those that attended the NCEH and debriefing call identified the following local priorities: confidentiality of domestic violence (DV) victims information in the HMIS (Homeless Management Information System); diversion from the system and from shelters; racial disparities; dynamic scoring; move-on strategy; progressive engagement.

Cheli, Domestic Violence Project Inc. (DVPI), provided the Board which details on how DVPI currently is sharing information with Homeless Navigation/HMIS and the importance of confidentiality. Cheli suggested how

the process could improve for the HCCSC; some of these suggestions included, but were not limited to: changing the first question of the pre-screen to ask if the caller is currently fleeing DV to prevent personal identification being revealed; DVPI conducting the full assessment of the caller and providing aggregate data to HMIS; the use of an anonymous numeric value to identify applicants of housing projects.

Julie, ICAN Housing, provided the Board with ideas on progressive engagement presented at the NCEH. Participants in housing projects should be engaged in conversations about housing from all levels of staff from the time the participant enters the project until the participants' exits the project. The message should not talk about time (such as the length of time for rapid rehousing projects), but be a constant conversation about housing solutions and employment. Progressive engagement is being engaged with the participant and the participant feeling that they are a part of the solution. Those in rapid rehousing projects should focus on an "employment plan" and offer shorter leases to participants with services geared towards the participant's need. Getting the participant involved with the process will likely result in a better understanding of the participants housing crisis.

Marcie provided the Board with the ideas around a Move-On strategy that was presented at the NCEH. HUD has provided guidance on this topic since 2013 and the HCCSC will devise a plan for participants to successfully move out of permanent housing (PH). There is a limited supply of PH and those participants that show stability should be encouraged to move into affordable housing/other housing. There are three phases to creating this strategy: secure the community commitment to discussing strategies; identify resources and gaps within resources; create a strategy that fits to the HCCSC's need. The August system performance committee (SPC) discussed this topic and the cultural change that is required to convey this idea in a meaningful way that will encourage participants to seek other housing options as they become stable enough to move on from PH. Providers present at the SPC will run an environmental scan of their housing participants to gain a sense of how many participants there are with the desire and means to move into their own housing. The SPC will join the quality assurance workgroup in October to hear first-hand from frontline staff ideas, thoughts, or concerns with devising the strategy.

Shannon, Sisters of Charity Foundation of Canton, provided the Board with the ideas around diversion that was presented at the NCEH. Diversion ties into the progressive engagement and dynamic scoring topics discussed at the conference. Diversion should be happening at the entry point (Homeless Hotline) and should continue during the participants shelter stay. The participants should be encouraged to tap into their own resources and receive community resources at a bare minimum to extend funding to help additional people; shelter beds should be set aside for those people that do not have any other resources to rely on. Participants in shelter may have additional non-disclosed resources and through more conversation with the participant at shelter level, there may be resources that were not thought about at the time of intake. Participants may have experienced a previous housing crisis and conversation should be had around what did/didn't work for the participant and how the participant feels that this time will have different results.

Marcie provided the Board with some thoughts surrounding the racial disparities topic that was presented at the NCEH conference and mentioned that the FY2018 HUD CoC Consolidated Application included a question on this topic. Coordinated Entry (CE) has begun researching the HMIS data and Stark County data for racial disparities within the HCCSC. When bringing the community together to strategize for any unforeseen disparities, the HCCSC will invite individuals with experience working with this type of information. The review of information will also include a review of Stark County's poverty data and what minorities are represented correlated to program completion rates for those representing the minority. There will be more discussion at the Board level as the information is prepared and reviewed.

Marcie provided the Board with the ideas surrounding dynamic scoring that was presented at the NCEH. Currently, the HCCSC prioritizes applicants based on an assessment score (in addition to other criteria); this assessment score will determine what category of housing assistance the applicant is eligible to receive. There are specific ranges of scores that determine the eligibility for permanent supportive housing (PSH) and rapid

rehousing (RRH), all other applicants will be diverted from the system or provided a referral to homeless prevention projects. Those applicants that score low for PSH or low for RRH are falling within a group of individuals likely to not receive a housing offer quickly and will need to seek other resources for a housing crisis. The approach provided at the conference suggested that there should not be specific cut off points to those eligibility assessment scores. Instead, the assessment scores should be flexible allowing for the applicants to accept RRH over PSH if they choose to do so. There are other communities that are allowing this flexing of assessment scores and the outcomes have proven that those applicants have exhibited the same, if not better, success rates especially for those in the transitional aged youth category. Essentially, the end of the PSH priority list would begin the RRH priority list and applicants that fall into this range would have the option to choose what type of housing seems better fitting to their housing needs.

V. Old Business

Marcie informed the Board of a concern expressed at the July HCCSC Members Meeting regarding the scoring criteria/form used to determine a score for CoC funded projects during the local application competition that results in a project Priority Listing that will be submitted to HUD during the national CoC Program funding competition. A letter has been drafted to address the concern and will be provided to the member. The concerns will be presented to the Recipient Approval and Evaluation Committee for further review prior to the FY2019 local application competition.

The Executive Committee has approved Rollin Seward as a new member of the Executive Committee. Rollin will be replacing Lynne Dragomire. Marcie welcomed Rollin into his new role on the committee and stated how fortunate the HCCSC Board and Executive Committee has been to have Lynne's experience represented.

VI. New

N/A

VII. FY 2018 CoC Application

The HUD CoC Consolidated Application deadline is September 18, 2018. Marcie thanked agency representatives for the significant contributions during this competition. The FY2018 HUD CoC Program competition was the first time Marcie has been involved with this process and she thanked Board members for their commitment to the HCCSC by meeting the tight deadlines for reviewing and voting on projects throughout the FY2018 local application competition. There are a few details to review before the submission of the consolidated application, but the CoC Planning grant is complete for submission.

Marcie reminded the Board of the HCCSC's conflict of interest policy and asked that FY2018 local applicants remove themselves from the meeting prior to the discussion regarding the final Priority Ranking that will be submitted to HUD with the consolidated application.

John Aller, Marty Chumney, Shirene Starn -Tapyrik, Cheli Curran, and Julie Sparks removed themselves from the meeting prior to the discussion.

The remaining Board members thoroughly discussed the changes to the Priority Ranking with the chair of the Recipient Approval and Evaluation Committee, the Stark Housing Network Inc. and chair of the HCCSC Board of Directors. There was additional guidance from Stark County's local HUD field representative during the FY2018 local application competition, regarding a change in supportive service providers for a housing project, which impacted the ranking. The HCCSC Board maintained the approval of the Priority Ranking.

VIII. Adjournment

With no further business to be discussed, at 11:08am the meeting adjourned.