

# Coordinated Entry System Committee

August 25, 2020

8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

CALL IN CONFERENCE CALL

425-436-6323

Access Code: 532020

Meeting Minutes

## **Members Present:**

Scott Schnyders  
Natalie McCleskey  
Lisa Waikem  
Lisa Snyder  
Jennifer Keaton  
Amy Dornack  
Marcie Bragg  
Joy Brubach  
Diane Waite  
Shirene Starn-Tapyrik  
Melissa Terrell

## **I. Welcome & Introductions**

At 8:32a.m., Scott Schnyders, Coordinated Entry Committee (CEC) co-chair, called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Natalie McCleskey, CEC co-chair, is undergoing project audits at ICAN Housing and will leave the meeting early.

## **II. Approval of Minutes from July Meeting**

**Motion:** Scott requested a motion to approve the July Coordinated Entry Committee meeting minutes as presented. Jennifer motioned to approve. Melissa seconded the motion and the motion was carried by all members present.

## **III. CoC Updates**

- a) COHHIO Risk Mitigation Fund
- b) COHHIO Housing Now For Homeless Families

Marcie provided CEC members with the CoC updates. The August Homeless Continuum of Care of Stark County (HCCSC) Board meeting was held for those members that did not have a conflict of interest with the Round 2 Emergency Solutions Grant Cares Act (ESG-CV) funding opportunity. The Recipient Approval and Evaluation Committee (RAEC), which includes Renee Biggums of the City of Canton, reviewed Letters of Inquiry (LOI) for Round 2 ESG-CV funding awards and made recommendations to the HCCSC Board for approval and recommendation to the City of Canton for final approval. The City of Canton will make the announcement of projects that will be awarded funding. There were enough LOIs to allocate the full amount awarded to the City of Canton. Funding allocations were available for all projects types, but focused on Rapid Rehousing (RRH) projects due to guidance received in various HUD webinars. Both HMIS and RRH projects were recommended for Round 2 ESG-CV funding.

At the time of 8:36am, Shirene entered the meeting.

Marcie communicated that Round 1 ESG-CV funding allocations were provided for Shelter Operations and Homeless Prevention. Round 1 grant agreements have the potential to go out to providers in the next couple of weeks and Round 2 grant agreements will be provided at a later date. Marcie also updated CEC members that the Systems Performance Committee (SPC) is reviewing system data to look for any Racial Disparities. The Racial Equity Committee, that the HCCSC was holding prior to the pandemic, included members from the SPC with the exception of a couple of people and those couple of people were invited to join the SPC for discussion and data review.

a) COHHIO Risk Mitigation Fund

Marcie provided CEC members with an overview of the Risk Mitigation Fund (RMF) funding opportunity. There is \$500,000 available in Ohio to recruit and retain landlords. Some of the eligible activities include additional security deposits / rents to recruit new landlord relationships and maintain current landlord relationships. COHHIO is seeking only one agency to be the applicant and coordinate with providers to administer the funds.

b) COHHIO Housing Now For Homeless Families

Marcie provided CEC members with an overview of the Housing Now For Homeless Families funding opportunity. There is \$15 million available for agencies to apply to support families that are Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) eligible. There were several agencies that applied for this funding and one agency was awarded a substantial amount. A standalone policy discussion may need to take place depending on further guidance. Shirene offered the group an update regarding the funding opportunity and provided that Alliance for Children and Families (ACF) has received a Memorandum of Understanding from COHHIO with no dollar amount indicated; ACF applied for \$440,000. Shirene will share this information with Marcie and Jennifer for HMIS reporting requirements.

#### IV. QA Updates

a) OHFA Recordkeeping Policy Change Recommendation

The OHFA Recording Policy was HCCSC Board approved on July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Since the July HCCSC Board meeting, there has been discussion regarding the requirement to have a participant signed HMIS release form in each participants' file. The discussion was based on providers' ability to meet in-person with participants and preparing for the event that providers are unable to meet in-person with participants due to the pandemic. The new language in the policy will allow for verbal consent to be given for the HMIS release of information.

**Motion:** Melissa requested a motion to approve the Ohio Housing Finance Agency Recordkeeping policy as amended. Shirene motioned to approve. Scott seconded the motion and it was carried by all members present.

b) OHFA Stark County Residency Policy Change Recommendation

There was discussion at the recent Quality Assurance (QA) workgroup regarding the length of time that someone should be in Stark County in order to receive the new OHFA and upcoming ESG-CV Homeless Prevention (HP) assistance. Currently the HCCSC Coordinated Entry policies state that participants must be in Stark County for a minimum of 60days to be eligible to receive assistance. Under annual ESG, this would not be a factor due to the participant requirement of having a current lease to be eligible for HP assistance. The QA group is recommending that participants be in Stark County for a period of 60days to be eligible for assistance unless the applicant was sent out of county by a provider and those exiting from institutions who are returning to Stark County from prison that were sentenced from Stark County. The CEC had a thorough discussion around the ability to spend down the awards by the deadlines and keeping the shelters at as little capacity as possible. The CEC recommended looking at data to see how many calls to Homeless Navigation, referrals to HP and expenditure of funds before making any practice or policy changes; the CEC tabled the discussion until October. The SPC is set to review project data in October prior to the next CEC meeting, and if the 60days is determined to be a sort in the prioritization, this would be a policy change.

c) New Programs – Assessment Tools (SPDAT) (*See Attachment 1*)

Jennifer led the CEC through the *All Exits from PSH or RRH* document. Jennifer indicated that she utilized the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY October 1st – September 30th) because the System Performance Targets and Longitudinal Systems Analysis (LSA) follow the FFY. These charts show those who exited the system into Permanent Housing (PH) destinations; this document accounts for two FFYs; 10/01/2017 – 9/30/2018 and 10/01/2018 – 9/30/2019. The charts show individuals, not households, of those that are exiting from the system. Jennifer led the committee through the top charts and discussed individual categories that were not counted in the total and provided a reason for why some individuals were not included in the total count. The bottom charts include a racial and ethnic breakdown of those exiting the system into PH that were counted in the total exits from the system. The committee discussed the most accurate data column in the chart which is “*Days assessed to housed*”. Jennifer indicated that the other columns include self-reported dates. Jennifer reported that there could be other participants leaving PSH and RRH and the exits may not reflect the accurate number of days homeless to housed. During the previous SPC meeting a member recommended asking for the information in a different way that may be beneficial to obtaining accurate information such as “When was the last date of permanent housing” instead of asking how long someone has been homeless. When reviewing the charts, there were several points discussed, which were as follows:

1. There is a difference in the year-over-year category for race and ethnicity. Homeless Navigation will look at the number of deceased individuals to see if there are any gaps or trends.
2. Entered before SPDATS could have been a result of Section 8 opening up or other factors. Other factors have not yet been identified.
3. In RRH, a participant enters the project when determined eligible for assistance and may leave the project before the end of assistance, or lease-up, such as not being able to find a landlord before the voucher expires.

4. Transfers have went up from year-over-year, this may be due to the new transfer policy put in place.
5. Days homeless to housed have went up year-over-year and this area should be looked at by the system.
6. The outliers include the Hispanic data which only accounted for 4 individuals; Jennifer indicated there are additional outliers in the data.
7. There were two items identified through the review which are a) a disproportionate amount of African Americans entering into the system based on the County's demographics and b) returns to homelessness should be reviewed as this data may play a role in understanding if there are additional disparities.

The next set of data that the SPC will review includes: 1) data on those that have been exited to non-permanent destinations and recidivism of those that have exited from PH with a racial and ethnical breakdown; 2) recidivism from each project type of those that exited to, and did not exit into, permanent housing destinations; 3) Homeless Prevention Ohio Housing Finance Agency projects for any trends / disparities within the system. Since the data follows the FFY, there will be an additional year of data to review after 9/30/2020. Other factors need to be considered when discussing current funding policies and procedures such as, evictions due to COVID19, people being displaced due to COVID19 issues, income and ability to sustain housing after program exit that may contribute to recidivism. After review of another year's data, the CEC should look into the CEC policies and determine if policy is affecting length of time from assessment to housing or other outcomes.

**Discussion:** CEC members discussed the use of SPDATs versus the Pre-Screen for ESG-CV HP projects. The committee discussed those that are not literally homeless completing a Pre-Screen with additional questions to be referred to an HP project. This would be a change for annual ESG projects if the committee determines the ESG-CV funding were not to require a SPDAT. A smaller group will meet to review policies and prioritization for new funding; the SHNI will send a Doodle Poll out to schedule discussion.

**V. Discussion on HUD Covid-19 Resource Digest (See Attachment 2)**

The CEC determined that the small group should meet to discuss HUD's Covid-19 Resource Digest Homeless System Response: Changes to Coordinated Entry Prioritization to Support and Respond to COVID-19 document and bring back information to the larger group. CEC members are encouraged to review the document prior to the next CEC meeting.

**VI. Old / New Business**

Shirene updated CEC members regarding a press release stating that Aultman Hospital Urgent Care Centers are closed until October for some locations.

**VII. Adjournment**

With no further business to be discussed, at 9:48am the meeting adjourned.