

Coordinated Entry System Committee
December 22, 2020
8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
ZOOM VIDEO CALL

Members Present:

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

I. Welcome & Introductions

At 8:32a.m., Scott Schnyders, Coordinated Entry Committee (CEC) co-chair, called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

II. Approval of Minutes from November Meeting

Motion: Scott requested a motion to approve the November Coordinated Entry Committee meeting minutes as presented. Shirene motioned to approve. Melissa seconded the motion and the motion carried.

III. Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Annual Homelessness Prevention (HP) Discussion

Natalie explained that the changes made to the policies related to the fact that policies regarding ESG annual projects had not been updated since 2016 and that a different agency was running the ESG HP project at that time. Some policies were established in alignment with this agency's internal policies and this agency is no longer offering an HP program. Melissa reviewed the policy changes. The main changes were related to removing some restrictive language around length of time and amount of funds that could be provided per household, which were not HUD required policies, as well as the removal of the Service Prioritization Decision Assessment Tool (SPDAT) for HP in order to align with other HP policies recently developed.

Motion: Shirene motioned to approve of the draft policies. Scott seconded the motion. Natalie and Joy abstained from the vote. All other members were in favor and the motion carried.

IV. ESG-CARES Act (CV) RRH Discussion & Other Draft Change's to Policy D.3 Discussion

Natalie gave an introduction to the discussion noting language around prioritization for Rapid Rehousing (RRH). There was discussion on making the ESG-CV project a type of pilot project as it is a short term, one-time funding source. ICAN and Refuge of Hope will be receiving funds from this grant program. There was discussion around possibly using these projects to test out Dynamic Prioritization, as well as the possible

extension of the 12-month local limit (24 months is HUD's maximum for RRH). There were some concerns regarding extending to 24 months as often participants do not start to begin planning for what they will do once their time in the projects comes to an end until the final few months; extending to 24 months may delay progress that could be made earlier. There was also discussion around capacity to provide the extended time of assistance to participants. If the HCCSC were to extend the length of time a participant could be assisted in a RRH project, this may decrease the number of households that could be served during the grant period. There were also concerns regarding grant agreements with HUD; if the RRH length of time for assistance is extended, providers may need to request an amended grant agreement from HUD.

A point was raised regarding the difference between someone scoring a 34 vs 36 on the SPDAT is very minimal, highlighting that if someone is on the lower end of the permanent supportive housing (PSH) scores they are just as likely to succeed as someone on the high end of the RRH scores.

Melissa shared that she had also had conversations with Stacy Kelly of Access Health regarding clients often struggling for at least the initial 12 months as they try to address their crisis situations that led them to homelessness and to figure out the benefit cliff challenges.

Transferring severe cases from RRH to PSH scattered site voucher projects was also discussed. There were concerns regarding if it is a lot of families in RRH who would transfer to PSH that there is only one CoC Project that provides a scattered site/voucher PSH for families and that is with SMHA. There were concerns regarding if this would be considered steering to one program. Melissa and Marcie indicated that transfers would likely not be available to everyone as assessments would be needed to determine who was eligible. A point was made regarding if we were taking the highest priority PSH into RRH (if no PSH options were available for them), according to Dynamic Prioritization practice, we would likely see more individuals rather than families entering RRH. This was based on anecdotal information regarding the small number of families on the PSH Prioritization List. If this is accurate, regarding more individuals being served through RRH, this could open-up more options for transferring those who are eligible into different PSH scattered site/voucher projects.

There was robust discussion regarding the sliding scale fee. Concerns were raised regarding how confusing it is to administer. There were also others in favor of keeping some type of sliding scale, even if modified from its current format, to help prepare participants for maintaining housing once RRH assistance ends and to help motivate them toward employment.

Marcie asked whether we would want to make any changes all at once (for all RRH projects) or perhaps test out any changes with ESG CV projects first. Scott indicated that we would need to change how we utilize the SPDAT and would need to begin using as a case management tool every 30 days. Melissa also shared that any changes will require a lot of collaboration.

V. COC Updates

Marcie shared with the committee that the HCCSC Board currently has 15 Board Members but can have up to 18. There are three individuals who have accepted the fill the three open vacancies. She was unable to share names at this time due to the Board not having received this information yet. There was also one vacancy on the Executive Committee which has also been accepted by the candidate who was approached for the position.

Marcie also shared about a contract with Barbara Poppe and Associates (consultant) for the period December 2020 – March 2023. Marcie shared some of Barb's bio including 35 years in the field of homelessness, time served as the Executive Director of the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) and the Columbus Shelter Board. Her work will begin with a review of the TANF/COHHIO project: Housing Now for Homeless Families. Her work will also involve data analysis. A small evaluation oversight committee of local partners will convene frequently with her which includes Marcie, Melissa, Shannon, Shirene, Julie, Jennifer and Amanda.

V. QA Updates

Melissa shared that the group has been reviewing the Verification of Disability form. The group has also decided to seek input from licensed professionals who are responsible for competing the forms. We did receive feedback from our HUD field rep, Robert Milburn, who recommended a more simplified form. Melissa will pull together a meeting with a couple providers. If you would like to participate please let Melissa know as it is open to all.

VI. Old / New Business

Melissa shared that a Memorandum of Agreement is currently being developed for the Homeless Continuum of Care of Stark County (HCCSC) and partnering Veterans Agencies to enhance privacy and security of shared information, aid in information sharing between systems and allow for more thorough updates regarding veterans in our systems. Diane has been a great help with this effort.

Diane expressed her thankfulness for our community and how things are very policy driven and all are very policy mindful. She indicated that our policies truly are living documents.

VII. Adjournment

With no further business to be discussed, Scott adjourned the meeting at 10:17 AM.

Coordinated Entry System Committee 2021 Meeting Schedule

January 26 th	- 8:30am	- Via Zoom
February 23 rd	- 8:30am	- Via Zoom
March 23 rd	- 8:30am	- Via Zoom
April 27 th	- 8:30am	- Via Zoom
May 25 th	- 8:30am	- Via Zoom
June 29 th	- 8:30am	- Via Zoom
July 27 th	- 8:30am	- Via Zoom
August 24 th	- 8:30am	- Via Zoom
September 28 th	- 8:30am	- Via Zoom
October 26 th	- 8:30am	- Via Zoom
November 23 rd	- 8:30am	- Via Zoom
December 28 th	- 8:30am	- Via Zoom