

Meeting Minutes

Rebuilding Lives Funder Collaborative Meeting

Thursday, November 18, 2010

11:30 am – 2:00 pm

Community Shelter Board

Attendees:

Rebuilding Lives Funder Collaborative (RLFC) Members Attending: Michelle Heritage Ward, Anthony Trotman, Susan Lewis Kaylor (for David Royer), Charles Hillman, Douglas Lay, Emily Savors, Walter Torain (for Eric Fenner), Jeff Pattison (for Jed Morison), Matt Kosanovich (for Janet Jackson), John Glacken, Jon Welty (for Hal Keller), Kathy Werkmeister, Kim Stands, Rollin Seward (for Jim Schimmer), Sally Luken, Terri Donlin Huesman

RLFC Members Absent: Antonia Carroll, Charleta Tavares, Erika Clark Jones, Jeffrey Lyttle, Phil Cass, Teresa Long, Steve Gladman, Suzanne Coleman-Tolbert

Guests: Caroline Reed, Susan Weaver, Colleen Bain, Vic Ward, Don Strasser, Amanda Owen, Tom Dobies, Rayshawn Wilson

Community Shelter Board (CSB) Staff: Tiffany Nobles, Dave Davis, Lianna Barbu

Welcome, Introductions & Agenda Review

Michelle Heritage Ward welcomed the group and all gave name and affiliation introductions.

Michelle announced that the group welcomes new member Anthony Trotman, the new director of Franklin County Department of Job & Family Services.

Meeting minutes from 8/19/10

Michelle reminded the group that the minutes from the August 19 meeting were included in the meeting packet.

Sally Luken noted the following corrections were needed under the Re-entry Housing – Incarcerated Populations update:

- ~~During 2007-2009~~ For the point in time December 2009, 50% of the persons in shelter spent some time jail or in prison.
- Persons who have used the shelter 3 times or more during 2007-2009 were more likely to be ex-offenders ~~had a jail stay or had just been recently released.~~

Tiffany will make the edits to the minutes and re-issue. Jon Welty moved and Emily Savors seconded that the August 19 meeting minutes be approved with the needed corrections. The motion was unanimously approved without any abstentions.

FY11 Quarter 1 System & Program Indicator Report (SPIR)

Lianna reported that the SPIR is not yet available.

Semi- Annual Financial Report

Lianna reviewed the semi-annual financial report with the group. The following highlights were noted:

- The actual revenue for the period (July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010) was \$10,139,359 compared to the budget revenue amount of \$9,726,094, which reflects a variance of 104%.
- There was \$25,908 in additional funds for National Church Residences Commons at Buckingham that was not originally budgeted.
- It was noted that Southeast Scattered Sites project had a 6-month late start because of HUD delayed contracting.

Update on Capacity Issues

Michelle provided an update to the group on the increase in demand for shelter for families and individuals. A document titled “Surge in demand overwhelms emergency shelters” and referred to as “the Surge document” was distributed as a handout. The following highlights were shared:

- For the first time since 2007, we are seeing an increase in the number of families accessing shelter.
- We are documenting a 3.057% increase over last year’s overflow usage, both in nights of shelter and associated costs. One night of shelter equals one family over regular capacity.
- Family overflow usually ends by November of each year but we do not think that it will end any time soon.
- Even during the most temperate months of this year, we had a wait list for single men and women. We are working on an off-site location to accommodate increased demand in the single adult system.
- We still have our severe weather policy in place where no one is turned away from shelter when the weather reaches 25°F or below.
- We are focusing on prevention and rapid re-housing (RRH) in response to the increased demand.
- We are requesting additional funds because we cannot anticipate what will happen in the coming months and we are trying to ramp up on the RRH focus. Volunteers of America of Greater Ohio (VOAGO) just started its RRH program and CSB is working with Community Housing Network (CHN) to provide additional housing specialists to quickly house persons.
- CSB is planning an event – One Day to End Homelessness –which works with the faith-based community and media partners to (1) raise funds for homelessness, (2) educate people about homelessness and (3) provide CSB with an opportunity to engage and build relationships with the faith-based community. The event is based on an idea borrowed from Sacramento. The event is tentatively scheduled for January 31, 2011 and more details will be provided as they are developed.

It was noted that the severe weather policy was established several years ago among CSB and providers. Currently there is still agreement on this policy from both sides.

Update on HEARTH

There is no update right now. The rules have not been issued yet, but details will be shared as soon as they are released.

Re-entry Housing Advocacy – Incarcerated Populations

Sally provided an update on the strategy around Re-entry Housing Advocacy for Incarcerated Populations. The following highlights were shared:

- The Re-entry Housing Collaborative met November 10 to review draft report and write up of recommendations.
- The 2nd draft of report is in the Collaborative's hands for final mark up.
- Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH) will deliver the final report to the RLFC the week of Christmas.
- CSH requests RLFC time in Feb to present findings and the implementation strategy.
- The focus of the report is on the frequent users who just like the chronic homeless population are a small number of folks, but clearly they are over using public systems. The Frequent Users Service Enhancement (FUSE) project is rolling out a FUSE project in DC and a successful program exists in NYC.
- The frequent users were defined as 3 or more times in shelter + 3 or more times in county jail over a 3 year period.
- Early report results indicate that a high percentage of these frequent users are in the ADAMH system.
- Franklin County and CSH are willing to provide small implementation grants to fund activities to address these frequent users; a preliminary proposed program budget shows a gap. It will need in-kind and other resources to fully implement a plan of action.
- The Collaborative recommends that any implementation strategy must include evidenced based practices from the criminal justice industry; a possible strategy needs jail/shelter in reach and PSH with intensive services in the first year.
- A similar strategy in NYC netted the city \$2,900 annually per person served.
- CSH presented the draft report to the Franklin County Re-entry Task Force and has been invited to present to the Franklin County Criminal Justice Planning Board. Plans are being made with Erika Clark Jones to also present the report to Mayor Coleman.

Susan Lewis Kaylor asked about ADAMH data match and which numbers are included. Sally suggested Susan speak with Ron Kadylak about this data subset.

Sally mentioned that she should probably be in conversation with CSB to discuss how we can coordinate with the fundraising and education pieces.

Update on 2010 Continuum of Care Application

Tiffany informed the group that the 2010 Continuum of Care application was submitted to HUD on November 17, one day before the deadline. The total amount of funds requested was \$8.7 million. A list of all projects included in the application was included in the meeting materials. HUD anticipates an announcement of renewal funding awards in late December 2010/early January 2011. The announcement of the permanent housing bonus awards will be made in the spring of 2011. An update on the funding announcement will be shared once it has been issued from HUD.

RL Report Card

The Rebuilding Lives Plan Strategies Report Card was distributed as a handout. This is the 2nd report card issued and it will be published in CSB's Annual Report which will be released in early January. The report card outlines the description, convener, outcome and progress for each strategy included in the Rebuilding Lives Plan.

Unified Supportive Housing System (USHS) Update

An update on USHS was included in the meeting materials. The following highlights were shared:

- The Lease Up phase for the Southeast Rebuilding Lives Leasing Project has concluded and the project transitioned into the Vacancy Management phase in August 2010.
- Commons at Buckingham also concluded its Lease Up phase, achieved 100% occupancy by September 30, 2010 and has transitioned to the Vacancy Management phase.

- In September, USHS opened the supportive housing pools to other housing providers and is working towards implantation of the voluntary vacancy management phase of the plan.
- On September 22, 2010 USHS held its first agency-wide training for the completed Client Documentation Toolkit. The toolkit was created as a resource for case managers to facilitate document gathering towards obtaining permanent supportive housing and public benefits.
- The YWCA is now under contract for inclusion of the Women in Number Growing Stronger (WINGS) program in USHS.
- CSB is in discussions with the YMCA to include the 40 West Long Street program in USHS.
- Effective October 25, 2010, CMHA lifted the Section 8 freeze for clients who desire to move from their project-based units. Tom Dobie spoke about the process involved in lifting the freeze. CMHA had to open the ability to move to all clients not just project-based clients. There will be a lot of movement between now and next year including some new projects coming online. There will be 100 vouchers available for this first freeze lift. They will re-evaluate after the first round.

Access to Benefits

A written update on this strategy as well as the strategies around Increase Supportive Housing Units, Centralized Point of Access for Single Adults and Tier II Family Shelter Conversion was included in the meeting materials. Dave Davis provided a summary of progress to date noting that the YWCA has been able to expand its service delivery to include all shelters and permanent supportive housing locations. During the month of September they were able to submit 42 applications for SSI/SSDI.

Increase Supportive Housing Units

Progress on the strategy includes CHN Inglewood Court submission of a tax credit application to the Ohio Housing Finance Agency (OHFA) in October and NCR Commons at Third submission of application to HUD as permanent housing bonus award in November. OHFA award announcement is expected in March and HUD award announcement is expected in spring 2011.

Centralized Point of Access (CPOA) for Single Adults

The update for this strategy is that for the month of September services of the CPOA were utilized by 707 new single adults.

Tier II Family Shelter Conversion

The recent progress on this strategy is that VOAGO agreed to increase the number of families it serves to assist with the unusually large number of families that are involved in winter overflow.

Employment

Tiffany provided an update on the strategy on behalf of Mary Vail of Goodwill Columbus. Goodwill hosted three facilitated discussions on the strategy. As a result of these discussions, we identified the primary need is to get our community to make this issue of employment for homeless and recently homeless a priority through a coordinated, community wide approach with customized services for individuals who are homeless. A small core group of individuals have been working to move this agenda forward, including Don Strasser of the Columbus Coalition for the Homeless, Tiffany Nobles of CSB, Steve Albright and Mary Vail both from Goodwill Columbus.

The core group coordinated a presentation from Goodwill Easter Seals Miami Valley in May 2010 to learn about their Specialized Employment Center that was created to serve people who are homeless and ex-offenders. In September 2010, Frankie Nowlin and Gailmarie Harris of COWIC and Mary Vail went to Dayton to meet with the team that is coordinating efforts in Montgomery County, including Goodwill Easter Seals of Dayton, Montgomery County Dept. of Job and Family

Services, Family and Children First Council, Commissioner Deborah Lieberman's office, Homeful, Gateway Shelter and Office of Reentry.

Suzanne Coleman-Tolbert of COWIC has agreed to convene this strategy going forward to create a best practice for central Ohio, utilizing existing community resources. Michelle added that COWIC and CSB have agreed to apply some funds to the strategy.

Anthony asked how persons are identified for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). Michelle mentioned that during the conversation with COWIC it was agreed that FCDJFS is needed as a partner. Suzanne Coleman-Tolbert will reach out to Anthony soon.

Re-Entry Housing Advocacy – Mental Health Population (ADAMH Homeless Prevention Program)

Susan Lewis Kaylor provided an update on the strategy and a written update was included in the meeting materials. Through October 31, 2010, 75 clients moved into units on an HPRP subsidy. The total amount of funds requested to date is \$168,055 (\$26,353 for security deposits & utilities, and \$141,702 for rent). Eighteen of the 75 clients have moved off of the HPRP subsidy and onto a CMHA voucher. Thirteen more are in the process of moving to a CMHA voucher by January 1, 2011. Four have moved off of the HPRP subsidy without a voucher.

The average time on the HPRP subsidy for the 18 clients that moved off was 6.2 months. This number is higher than the expected average due to the fact that CMHA put a freeze on issuing vouchers from January 2010 until April 2010. In addition, 30% of the allocation had to be spent by September 30, 2010 or the money would have been swept away. Therefore, in order to not lose any of the money, clients were delayed in moving off of the HPRP subsidy. The 30% spending threshold was successfully achieved. Efforts are now being focused on moving people onto a CMHA voucher.

Coordinate Emergency Aid

Matt Kosanovich reminded the group that a collaborative team had a few meetings during the spring/summer but made a decision in September not to go forward right now with the program. The HPRP funds allocated were transitioned to another program. United Way plans to continue working to move the strategy forward.

Collaborative Outreach System

Erika Clark Jones was unable to attend the meeting. Michelle mentioned that the collaborative group that has been meeting includes diverse representation of those involved with the target population. More details of the groups' discussions will be shared at the RLFC meeting in February.

Affordable Housing Campaign

There has not been much progress to date. The strategy is around developing an advocacy campaign for increased resources for affordable and supportive housing as well as rent subsidies for persons who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

NCR Commons at Buckingham

Colleen provided an update on NCR Commons at Buckingham (CAB). NCR completed an analysis of the population at CAB compared to those at a few other programs. NCR would like to have a debriefing meeting with all of the partners involved in CAB to discuss lessons learned from the successful lease-up. The meeting will be scheduled for January. Colleen noted that 16 veterans were moved into CAB.

NCR Commons at Livingston

Colleen provided the following updates on the project. Construction is underway as of August 2010. The building will be under roof the week after Thanksgiving and “dried in” by mid-December. Anticipated construction completion is June 23, 2011.

John Glacken noted that the VA will have two social workers and .5 FTE Nurse assigned to the project.

NCR intends to submit an application in to OHFA (in 2011 for 2012 award) for tax credits for the other 50 units on the site.

NCR Commons at Third

Colleen noted that the zoning variances were approved by the local neighborhood area commission and will be considered by the City BZA in November. NCR is working with Goodwill Columbus on the employment aspect of the project. Construction is to start in summer 2011 and the program is projected to be operational in summer 2012.

CHN Inglewood Court

Susan Weaver reported that the project submitted an application to OHFA in October and is expected hear results in March. CHN has an applicant review meeting with OHFA on February 1. There were 5 applications statewide for PSH and IC was one of them.

Susan also mentioned that CHN was awarded the 2009 CoC bonus project for a leasing project. CHN submitted the necessary requirements to HUD and expects to receive the contract soon. The project has 25 units that will all go through USHS.

YMCA Sunshine Terrace (Franklin Station)

Amanda Owen presented an update on YMCA Sunshine Terrace (to be known as Franklin Station). Ohio Capital Corporation for Housing (OCCH), CMHA, Franklinton Board of Trade, YMCA of Central Ohio and Berardi+Partners presented the project to OHFA for the Preservation Pool on November 2, 2010. If selected, the group will complete the preservation pool application in the upcoming months.

Other Business

Don Strasser commented that he is concerned about the strategy updates. He commented that neither the outreach strategy nor the employment strategy has moved very far. He questioned if the RLFC is actually watching the progress of these strategies. He suggested that there be some criteria of measurement established to review these strategies that require the conveners to be held accountable for the progress.

Michelle commented that she appreciates Don’s passion and that he holds us accountable.

Susan Lewis Kaylor commented that she appreciates Don’s questioning how and if the RLFC measures the progress of the strategies.

Michelle asked if there were any suggestions for how we could include this information in the RLFC meetings.

Kim asked if the report card and the updates provided at meetings are the only ways we track the progress of the strategies.

Terri asked if there are timelines or measures developed that could be included in the report card.

Kim suggested that we take some time and discuss the strategies progress much more deeply. Susan Lewis Kaylor suggested that we form a subcommittee to do this work and report back to the larger group. The following persons volunteered to participate on the subcommittee: John Glacken, Terri Donlin Huesman, Kim Stands, Emily Savors, Don Strasser, Jeff Pattison, Michelle Heritage Ward, Lianna Barbu and Tiffany Nobles. Tiffany will look for a date for the meeting to occur in January.

Tiffany will check with Deb Helber regarding facilitation of the subcommittee meeting.

Walter suggested that the group set some impact timelines during their discussion.