

## MINUTES

### Columbus and Franklin County, Ohio

### Continuum of Care Meeting

Tuesday, September 20, 2022

9:30am – 11:30am

Virtual Meeting

#### Administrative Issues

##### Approve minutes from June 9, 2022 meeting

Michael Wilkos asked for any corrections to or comments on the minutes from the June 9, 2022 CoC meeting. The CoC approved the minutes.

#### CoC Application and CoC Supplemental Application

##### Review and approve new project scoring tool

- < Lianna reviewed the new CoC project scoring tool applied to the new PSH development prioritizations HUD requires that at least 20% of total points are based on system performance criteria for the project application, and at least 33% of total points are based on objective criteria for the project application.
- < Going forward, CSB will utilize this tool for new projects.
- < The Center for Family Safety and Healing (TCFSH) submitted a new DV Bonus SSO-CE project proposal, the proposal scored 35 points, the maximum available for its project type.

##### Review and approve new and renewal Project Prioritization, Scoring and Ranking Policy and Procedure

Lianna reviewed proposed changes.

- < A new statement was added that the CoC will not prioritize new projects over renewal projects. All projects are ranked based on the total scores received.
- < In Tier 1, projects renewing for the first time and YHDP projects (as long as HUD does not require prioritization of YHDP projects) are held harmless because of lack of performance history, these do not receive a score and are ranked first.
- < The HMIS renewal project will be ranked last in Tier 1 but it will not trail Tier 1 and Tier 2.
- < Tier 2 prioritizations are required this year.
  - o CSB recommends that renewal projects that do not follow local competition guidelines will be ranked last but ahead of any new projects.
  - o The Salvation Army Job2Housing renewal project application was submitted one day late, CSB recommends that it is ranked last. CSB recommends that

we do not outright reject renewal project applications because of how this would negatively affect clients currently in the program.

- New projects are ranked after renewal projects.
- ⟨ The Scoring/Rating process section's language was updated.
  - CSB updated the total number of points available for program performance from 9 to 10, to be consistent with the points available for usage of HUD grant funds. Both categories are now worth 10 points each.
  - HUD suggests CoCs to assign additional points to projects serving populations with special barriers. No additional points are proposed for our CoC because all projects in the CoC serve the highest need individuals.
- ⟨ A scoring table was added for new projects applying for CoC Bonus funding.
- ⟨ CoC Program Performance Elements were reviewed and approved in the January 5, 2022 CoC Board meeting.

#### Review and approve the 2022 CoC Project Ranking

- ⟨ The system did not use \$1.3 million in HUD funding, a historic high.
  - YHDP projects did not use over \$1 million in HUD YHDP funds.
    - YHDP funds cannot be reallocated to non-YHDP programs which makes it difficult to reallocate funds to assure full usage.
    - YHDP is only in its third year of operation, there is still much trial-and-error.
    - Like most other programs, YHDP programs had issues hiring and maintaining staff, therefore leading to issues in ability to serve at full capacity. In addition, lack of housing options impacted the programs' ability to use the allocated funding.
  - YMCA DV RRH did not use 19.8% of its HUD funds. This program also faced significant staffing shortages.
  - The remaining non-YHDP renewal projects utilized 94.4% or more of their HUD CoC funds.
- ⟨ Homefull TRA Mainstream/EHV is ranked first because it is renewing for the first time.
- ⟨ New PSH projects were ranked per the CoC's approved prioritization.
  - YMCA submitted a new PSH project application for Beacon Communities' proposed development. CSB recommends that this application be rejected due to a lack of available funding.
- ⟨ Projects with tied scores are randomized for ranking.
- ⟨ HMIS is always ranked last in Tier 1. Tier 2 starts on the row below, and includes YMCA DV RRH and TSA J2H, based on their scoring and prioritization guidelines.
- ⟨ CoC UFA and CoC Planning applications are not ranked because they do not compete for funding.

- < CSB will alert all applicants of their projects' status.
- < Jon Cardi asked what happens to the unspent funds. Lianna clarified that the unspent funds are recaptured by HUD at the end of the grant year.
- < Michelle invited Beth Fetzer-Rice to speak on the challenges HFF has faced with its YHDP programs.
  - o The community does not have enough units available for youth. Youth face unique barriers. It is difficult to find landlords willing to house 19-year-olds with no income.
  - o HFF partners with Huckleberry House to maintain high occupancy in leased units dedicated to homeless youth.
- < Jon asked why HFF was not able to spend their entire budget. Beth explained that HFF created this budget optimistically in 2020, hoping they would be able to find more landlords and secure more units as COVID-19 restrictions loosened at the time. Unfortunately, COVID-19 continued to negatively impact housing opportunities through 2021 and 2022. She highlighted that these youth programs are part of a Demonstration Project, HFF knew first few years would be focused on right-sizing.
- < Michelle asked if HFF has faced staffing challenges. Beth responded yes; and not just in YHDP programs, but in all front-line positions in all programs. The pool of qualified candidates is small.
- < Jon asked what the system can do differently. Michelle reiterated the issue of spending and inability to reallocate YHDP funds to non-YHDP programs. All partners with scattered site housing are facing similar issues. Mayor Ginter recently announced a bond package to build affordable housing; however, virtually none of the new developments will be designated for our system, which is entirely comprised of households that make less than 30% of the Average Median Income (AMI). She emphasized the need to advocate for building developments designated for households making less than 30% AMI. Not enough is being built and, at the same time, PSH providers are losing master leased apartments to new owners looking to rent affordable housing units as luxury apartments that we cannot afford.
- < Lianna corroborated Michelle's statement, adding that the system recently lost 39 units at Crowne Point, meaning current clients had to be re-housed. Re-housing takes a significant toll on clients, staff, and service capacity. Beth added that all of HFF's RRH programs have been re-housing current clients due to landlords declining to renew leases and raising rent.
- < Felisha Lyons asked if City HOME ARP dollars could be used. Michelle explained that CSB submitted a request to the City a year and a half ago to use HOME ARP dollars to convert hotels and motels into housing units.

Review and approve the 2022 CoC Application

- < The CoC is applying for \$20.5 million.

- < Andy Keller asked if HUD compares our CoC's performance against other CoCs. Lianna answered no; HUD compares our CoC's performance against our own performance from the prior year because of the major differences in communities nationwide and HUD expects performance improvement year over year.

Michael asked for a motion to approve the new project scoring tool, new and renewal Project Prioritization, Scoring and Ranking Policy and Procedure, and the Resolution to Approve the 2022 Continuum of Care Application and Project Ranking.

Kier Scott motioned, Sheila Prillerman seconded, and the CoC agreed. Sue Darby and Beth Fetzer-Rice abstained from the vote.

### CoC Plan for Unsheltered Populations

- < Lianna reminded the group that the purpose of the CoC meeting on October 12 is to approve the CoC Supplemental NOFO application.
  - o This funding opportunity could provide \$3 million annually for unsheltered populations.
  - o Michelle thanked Lianna and her team for their work on the CoC Supplemental NOFO application.
- < Steve provided an update on the Encampment Workgroup.
  - o The Workgroup first convened a month ago, and includes 25 stakeholders. The group reviewed the 7 principles from the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness, and agreed to utilize these principles as they engage with encampments.
  - o The Outreach team is working closely with people living at the camp at East Mound St and with the activist organization, First Collective. 13 people at the camp agreed to move into a hotel in a pilot program. Equitas Health and a number of other partners will help in operating the pilot program.

### **System & Community Framework Updates**

#### Community Plan update

- < Steve highlighted progress on goals established in the Community Plan.
  - o Goal 1: strengthen partner workforce capacity.
    - 20 crisis intervention specialists are being currently hired and will be trained in December to begin providing services January 1. These specialists will engage with clients in site-based programs to reduce crises and incidents and divert 911 calls. We are working with ADAMH on the program design and evaluation.
  - o Goal 4. Improve diversion and prevention to reduce number of people experiencing homelessness.

- The Homelessness Prevention Network is now in year 3.
- Goal 5. Decrease length of stay in shelter.
  - Adjustments have been made in single adult RRH programs to target the highest need individuals for transition into PSH.
- Goal 8. Increase permanent housing placements from shelter.
  - CSB is working to partner with the ADAMH Board and Southeast to serve people cross-system. System wide trainings have been implemented to engage front-line staff.
- Goal 9. Increase permanent housing placements from outreach.
  - Mount Carmel is the new Street Outreach provider as of August 1. They are currently in the hiring process.

#### COVID-19 and Overflow update

- ⟨ YMCA and Lower Lights are stepping away from the Shelter for Isolation and Quarantine (SIQ) at the end of month.
- ⟨ In place of YMCA and Lower Lights, CSB is contracting with Nate Smith and his team for Operations, and with Primary One for medical services. This pivot in leadership will occur on September 30.
- ⟨ There are currently 5 people in the SIQ. Occupancy has fluctuated between 4 and 12 for the past month, but fall will present more of a challenge.

#### 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter SPIR

Skipped due to time constraints. Deferred topic to the October 12, 2022 CoC meeting.

#### PSH Occupancy Report

Skipped due to time constraints. Deferred topic to the October 12, 2022 CoC meeting.

**Meeting adjourned.**