



# Meeting Minutes

## Rebuilding Lives Funder Collaborative Meeting

Thursday, February 23, 2012

11:30 am – 2:00 pm

Community Shelter Board

### Attendees:

*Rebuilding Lives Funder Collaborative members:* Antonia Carroll, Michelle Heritage, Hearcel Craig, Carla Williams-Scott, Charles Hillman, Douglas Lay, Emily Savors, Jeff Pattison, John Glacken, Jonathan Welty, Kathy Werkmeister, Kim Stands, Rollin Seward, Sally Luken and Frankie Nowlin (for Suzanne Coleman-Tolbert)

*Community Shelter Board staff:* Lianna Barbu, Amy Price and Tiffany Nobles

*Guests:* Susan Weaver, Wilhelmina Spinner and Bryan Brown

### Welcome, Introductions and Agenda Review

Michelle Heritage welcomed the group and all attendees gave name and affiliation introductions. The group reviewed the agenda.

### Administrative Issues

#### Approve Minutes from 11.9.11 Rebuilding Lives Funder Collaborative Meeting

Emily Savors made a motion to accept the minutes from November 9, 2011 Rebuilding Lives Funder Collaborative meeting as presented. Douglas Lay seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

#### FY12 Semi-Annual System & Program Indicator Report

Lianna Barbu presented the FY12 Semi-Annual System & Program Indicator Report (SPIR) distributed as a handout. The data in the report is for the period 7/1/11 – 12/30/11.

Highlights noted were as follows:

- Emergency Shelter System
  - We are reporting a 19% increase in the number of households served compared to the same period last year.
  - The increase in successful outcomes for the system is very encouraging and we are attributing this increase to the availability of the HPRP funds.
  - The significant decrease in the average length of stay is a reflection of the new policies implemented throughout the system as of 7/1/2011.
  - The family system served 17% more households than during the same period of time last year, continues to have heavy overflow and maintains a good performance overall.

- The single adult men's system experienced an increase in the number of individuals served at 22%.
  - The single adult women's system experienced an increase in the number of individuals served at 21%.
- Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) System
  - The PSH system continues to perform well.
  - The lease-up of Commons at Livingston was completed in July.
  - As of 12/31/11, the inventory for Rebuilding Lives permanent supportive housing is 990 units.
- Total PSH System (Rebuilding Lives and Non-Rebuilding Lives Units Combined)
  - All historical numbers for the entire system were recreated using the same methodology as for FY2012 for all applicable metrics.
  - The occupancy rate was not calculated because of significant changes in the system capacities from year to year.
  - The current capacity of total PSH units is 1,554.
  - The number of households served increased as the number of units available increased.
- Direct Housing/Rapid Re-Housing System
  - CSB is reporting on all direct housing/rapid re-housing programs as a whole to establish a baseline for performance.
  - The system had 91% successful housing outcome percentage.

Questions on the report

- It was asked if the Coordinated Point of Access (CPOA) was thought to have helped performance in the emergency shelter system. CSB believes that the initiative has helped improve performance.
- It was asked whether there is a link between the average length of stay and the weather. There is no real way to connect the two measures.

### **Strategic Issues**

#### HEARTH Update

Michelle Heritage and Lianna Barbu provided a brief update on HEARTH including how CSB is preparing the community for its full implementation. A PowerPoint presentation was shown and can be made available to anyone who would like a copy.

Several highlights noted during the presentation:

- Funds from the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG – formerly known as the Emergency Shelter Grant) will continue to come through the City of Columbus and Franklin County.
- Continuum of Care funding will come through a collaborative applicant as opposed to the current process of individual grants between providers and HUD.
- CSB is prepared to become the collaborative applicant/Unified Funding Agency on behalf of the community.
- The new process under HUD is quite similar to our local process with funding coming through one lead agency then subcontracted out to providers.
- Continuum of Care legislation is expected in the spring and the funding application is expected to be released in the summer.

#### Ad Hoc Committee on RLFC/Continuum of Care Structure

It was noted that in preparation for HEARTH, we will need to restructure the RLFC and Continuum of Care from their current setup. An ad hoc committee with membership from the RLFC and the Continuum of Care Steering Committee will meet on March 5<sup>th</sup> to discuss a proposed structure. The recommendations of that group will be shared with the full Continuum of Care Steering Committee in April and the RLFC and the CSB Board of Trustees in May.

### Out of County Residents in Shelters Ad Hoc Committee Update

Michelle reminded the group that an ad hoc committee was convened to look at the situation with out of county residents accessing shelter. The group decided not to make any changes to the current process. The study conducted was unable to identify specific communities that were sending their residents to Columbus. A copy of the study was shared as a handout.

Lianna noted that in 2008 out of county residents made up 10% of the shelter population and in 2010 the percentage increased to 21%.

Lianna also noted that there are a number of persons coming from jail/prisons from out of county. The cost to CSB to shelter these persons is approximately \$1 million. Sally Luken commented that the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections tries to get folks back to their county of origin. She encouraged attendees to read the re-entry strategy report. The Re-entry Committee is working with other counties to see what is going on with those being exited from incarceration.

### New Permanent Supportive Housing Project Selection Process

Lianna shared that the information packet and application documents for the new permanent supportive housing project selection process have been updated. Changes were made to remove irrelevant information as well as any information already captured or handled in another document or process. The application process itself did not change and a detailed timeline of the process was added to page 3 of the information packet. All of the materials related to the process will be posted on CSB's website for easy access by potential housing developers.

### Current PSH Pipeline Update

Michelle provided a brief update on the current permanent supportive housing pipeline.

- National Church Residences Commons at Livingston II
  - Project is up for Ohio Housing Finance Agency (OHFA) Tax Credits
  - There is concern that OHFA is planning to give higher score to projects in communities that have not had a deal in recent years.
- Community Housing Network Inglewood Court
  - Project is waiting for the HUD bonus award announcement that is expected in early spring 2012.
- Volunteers of America of Greater Ohio project
  - An initial concept paper has been received.

### Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority Vouchers for PSH

Bryan Brown from Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority (CMHA) provided an update on housing vouchers.

- CMHA had a 25% funding reduction (approximately \$2 million).
- The funding cuts present the potential to force cuts to CMHA staff.
- They have plans to relocate public housing residents but vouchers to do this are coming in slowly. When this occurs so slowly, vouchers must come from the current stock within the community.
- Proposed legislation would increase project-based voucher cap from 20% to 25%. The number of vouchers has a cap as does the funding level. CMHA had to demonstrate to HUD that they are below both caps. Legislation is not expected to pass.
- CMHA will be requesting Senator Brown to make an administrative earmark to make CMHA a Moving to Work Agency. This designation makes the cap go away. CMHA can forward a position paper and letter of support for RLFC members to sign in support.

Michelle noted that CMHA has been a great partner. She also noted that she will be meeting with Bryan and Charles Hillman in the coming weeks to discuss changes to the project-leased section 8

distribution framework for supportive housing given the current financial environment CMHA is facing. Attendees favored broad support of the Moving to Work designation.

### **Rebuilding Lives Report Card**

Lianna presented the Rebuilding Lives Report Card. This report was initially released to the RLFC in November 2011. The following new updates since the report card was released were shared:

- Coordinate Emergency Aid: The group plans to reconvene later in 2012 to move the strategy along.
- Increase Access to Benefits and Income: COHHIO funding was cut as of January 2012 because it was state funding that has ended.
- Employment: Pilot programs have been developed around employment.
  - Work Readiness Program facilitated by Goodwill Columbus
    - 10-15 participants will be selected from Faith Mission's Critical Time Intervention program.
  - Donato's Transitional Work Program
    - Goodwill Columbus is a partner.
    - The program is funded by The Columbus Foundation
    - Participants are referred to the program from Friends of the Homeless shelter.
    - The starting number of participants will be 10 but this will increase.
  - Community Housing Network Project GAIN
    - Employment program funded by The Columbus Foundation
- Single Point of Contact for Adult Shelter
  - Current contract with Lutheran Social Services ends 2/28/12.
  - New contract with HandsOn Central Ohio will begin 2/29/12.
  - It is anticipated that HandsOn will bring expertise in diversion that is really needed.
- Unified Supportive Housing System (USHS)
  - USHS is transitioning to full implementation and the pilot phase has ended.
  - Most of the CHN projects and NCR Commons at Grant are outside of the USHS but will strategically be brought within the system.
- Provide Rent Subsidies for Single Adults
  - Pilot was successful but will end on 6/30/12 when HPRP funding ends.
  - There is no funding available to continue.
- Tier II Family Shelter Conversion
  - The pilot program was successful and all the units are converted to direct housing.
- Re-entry Housing Advocacy – Incarcerated Populations
  - Columbus Neighborhood Health Centers was encouraged to apply for Corporation for Supportive Housing Innovations Fund. Announcements are expected by end of March.
  - Columbus Area received funding to place social workers in jails to work with individuals. They are finding that most of these persons have substance abuse issues and not mental health concerns.
- Re-entry Housing Advocacy – Mental Health Population
  - HPRP funded a pilot for this population.
  - Extremely successful program but funding ran out before all individuals could be served.
  - ADAMH is providing bridge funding until CMHA vouchers are available for participants.

### **Quarterly Update Reports**

It was noted that quarterly update reports were included in the meeting materials for CHN Inglewood Court, NCR Commons at Livingston and NCR Commons at Third.

**Other Business**

Douglas Lay announced that Judge Vanderkarr started a veterans' court. He also mentioned that on March 20 at Veterans Memorial there will be a "Hire Our Heroes" Job Program.

**Next Meeting: Thursday, May 17 from 11:30 am – 2:00 pm.**