

## Meeting Minutes

### Continuum of Care Meeting

Thursday, June 4, 2020

12:00pm – 2:00pm

Virtual Meeting

#### Attendees

Continuum of Care (CoC) Members: Andy Keller, Buck Bramlish, Carl Landry, Chad Meek, Tina Rutherford, Kythryn Carr Harris, Debbie Donahey, Dennis Jeffrey, Donna Mayer, Emerald Hernandez-Parra, Felisha Lyons, Jeff Pattison, Jerome Johnson, Jon Cardi, Jonathan Welty, Kim Stands, Michael Wilkos, Lisa Patt-McDaniel, Michelle Heritage, Nancy Case, Paula Haines, Christopher Maitland, Robin Harris, Sam Shuler, Sheila Prillerman, Sue Villilo, Terri Power, Adam Negley

Community Shelter Board (CSB) staff: Tom Albanese, Lianna Barbu, Hannah King

Guests: Matthew Zelnik (Franklin County Veterans Service Commission), Mason Laurie (Franklin County Job & Family Services), Steve Skovensky (YMCA of Central Ohio), Lynne Johansson (Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities)

Continuum of Care (CoC) Members (not in attendance): Attalah London (Youth Action Board), Becky Westerfelt (Huckleberry House), Dion Robinson (Citizens Advisory Council), Emily Savors (Columbus Foundation), Geoff Stobart (Franklin County Jail), Mark Paxson (Franklin County), John Edgar (Church and Community Development for All People), Keena Smith (Franklin County Office on Aging), Keith McCormish (Columbus Coalition for the Homeless), Lisa Defendiefer (Capital Crossroads & Discovery SID), Steve Gladman (Affordable Housing Trust)

#### Welcome and Agenda Review/Approval

Kim took attendance and explained the process for making motions and voting virtually.

#### Administrative Issues

##### Minutes

Kim asked for any corrections to or comments on the minutes from the January 27, 2020 CoC meeting. Michael moved to approve the minutes, Chad seconded, and the CoC agreed.

##### CoC and CoC Board Membership

Each spring prior to the start of the fiscal year, the CoC Board reviews CoC membership and governance and recommends changes for CoC approval. Kim reviewed the following recommendations given membership nominations and vacancies:

- < Non-profit homeless assistance providers: YMCA of Central Ohio (Sue Darby) to replace Community Housing Network.
- < Agencies that serve survivors of human trafficking: Sanctuary Night (Hannah Estabrook) to replace Freedom a la Cart.
- < Youth homeless organization: Sonya Thesing to replace Becky Westerfelt as the representative from Huckleberry House.

- < LGBTQ+-serving organization or advocacy group: The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) recommends CoCs include a representative from an LGBTQ+-serving organization or advocacy group. The CoC Board recommends the addition of a new membership seat on the CoC for an LGBTQ+-serving organization or advocacy group and recommends Equitas Health (Kelsey Strausbaugh) to serve in this capacity.
- < Chair of CoC and CoC Board: Per the Governance and Policy Statements, the CoC Board is to elect from its membership the CoC and CoC Board chair to serve for a term of two fiscal years. The CoC Board recommends that Keith McCormish (Columbus Coalition for the Homeless) replace Kim Stands as CoC and CoC Board chair for the term beginning July 1, 2020.

Sheila moved to approve the CoC membership changes as recommended by the CoC Board. Carl seconded and the CoC agreed. Michelle thanked Kim for his service as Chair.

#### Governance and Policy Statements and Annual Plan

The CoC Board is recommending minor clarifications to the Governance and Policy Statements this year:

- < Removal of the requirement that the CoC Board proposes new member participation every other year since CoC Board membership has remained stable since its creation. Sam asked how this change would affect the rotation of organizations on the CoC Board. Kim clarified that the entities that comprise the CoC Board would not change, but the representatives of those entities could still change.
- < As approved by the CoC Board on April 8, 2020, addition of the allowability of virtual meetings to the Governance.
- < Updates to the name of the local HMIS from Columbus ServicePoint to Community Services Portal due to a vendor's name change.

The Annual Plan follows the HUD schedule and the Governance.

Sheila moved to approve the Governance and Policy Statements and Annual Plan with the changes recommended by the CoC Board. Lisa Patt-McDaniel seconded and the CoC agreed.

#### Conflict of Interest Disclosure

Per the Governance and Policy Statements, all CoC members must annually submit a Conflict of Interest Disclosure form by June 30 to participate in the next fiscal year's meetings. PDF and web versions of the form are available to members.

#### **Strategic Issues**

##### Annual Funding Strategy & Annual Funding Allocations

Lianna reviewed the FY21 system-wide budget, which is compiled using partner agencies' budget submissions. Total system funding for FY21 is about \$60.6 million, with 65% of funding coming from CSB and HUD and 35% leveraged by partner agencies. Lianna made note of the major changes to the budget:

- < \$3.9 million is budgeted for COVID-19 costs. This amount is a placeholder based on funding available currently and anticipated as of July 1, 2020 and the projected need for continued deconcentration and SIQ shelter operation for the next 12-18 months.
- < Funds have been reallocated due to the transition of PSH units from CHN and Alvis to Homefull.
- < New funding allocations include: a homelessness prevention network demonstration project, increased family homelessness prevention funding, Homefull single adult rapid re-housing, and expansion of HFF family rapid re-housing.
- < Christopher asked for more information on the new homelessness prevention network. Lianna explained the project is funded for three years by the Nationwide Foundation and will involve six community partners. This network will offer prevention services to people at risk of homelessness, but not within fourteen days (Gladden Community House currently serves families at risk of homelessness within fourteen days). Michelle added that the project is based on recommendations from Abt Associates. Staff from the six agencies will be trained in basic prevention services so they can assist their clients directly instead of referring them to the homeless hotline.
- < Emerald asked about the 12-18 month timeframe that CSB is using to plan for COVID-19 response. Michelle explained that CSB is following the recommendations of its healthcare partners, who are projecting continued need for social distancing over the next 12-18 months.

Sheila moved to approve the FY21 funding strategy and funding awards as presented. Jon Cardi seconded and the CoC agreed. Sue and Sam abstained from the vote.

#### FY19 System Performance Measures

Part of the annual CoC Application is submission of the System Performance Measures. Every CoC reports on these measures and HUD compares CoCs' performance year over year.

- < Measure 1 – Length of time persons remain homeless: Average length of time homeless for persons in emergency shelter (ES) and supportive housing (SH) decreased. This is good but negatively impacts other measures like the change in annual count (Measure 3.2).
- < Measure 2 – The extent to which persons who exit homelessness to permanent housing (PH) destinations return to homelessness: The system-wide rate of return over a two year period was 30%. The rate increased slightly since last year. The highest rate of return was in emergency shelters (32%).
- < Measure 3.1 – Number of homeless persons (from 2019 Point-in-Time Count): The total sheltered count increased by 6 persons; the total unsheltered count increased by 94 persons.
- < Measure 3.2 – Number of homeless persons (from HMIS Annual Count): The number of persons served in emergency shelter increased due to the decrease in the average length of time persons remain homeless (Measure 1).
- < Measure 4 – Employment and Income Growth for Homeless Persons: Income and employment rates increased for system stayers. There was a decrease in earned income for system leavers.
- < Measure 5 – Number of persons who become homeless for the first time: These numbers mostly increased.
- < Measure 6 – Homeless prevention and housing placement of homeless persons: N/A

- < Measure 7 – Successful placement from street outreach, shelter, and rapid re-housing and successful placement in or retention of PH: Outreach, shelter, and rapid re-housing outcomes decreased. PSH outcomes increased, meaning more people either stayed in PSH or exited successfully.
- < Data Quality: Data quality presented no issues.

#### Point-in-Time Count Data

Lianna presented the results of the January 2020 Point-in-Time Count.

- < 2,036 people experiencing homelessness were counted on the night of January 29, 2020, an increase of 129 people or 6.8% over last year's count. 1,603 people were counted in emergency shelter or transitional housing and 433 people were unsheltered. The number of sheltered single adults decreased due to the loss of VOA's 40 shelter beds. This loss of capacity also contributed in part to the increase in the number of unsheltered people.
- < 1,399 people were counted as individuals (an increase of 58 people over last year) and 173 families were counted (an increase of 14 families over last year). Another 14 individuals counted were under 18 years old.
- < All subpopulations counted (severely mentally ill, chronic substance abuse, persons with HIV/AIDS, survivors of domestic violence) increased due to the overall increase in persons counted.

#### **System and Community Framework Updates**

##### System and Program Indicator Report

Lianna provided an overview of the Quarter 3 System and Program Indicator Report which includes data from January 1, 2020 through March 31, 2020.

- < YMCA and Southeast were recognized for their COVID-19 response efforts. Homefull was recognized as a new system partner, operating a new rapid re-housing program for single adults and providing services and operations for PSH programs.
- < Family emergency shelter system: The system served 8% fewer households compared to the same period last fiscal year. Average length of stay increased to 54 days. The employment rate and average monthly household income decreased. These could be early indicators of the impacts of COVID-19.
- < Men's emergency shelter system: The number of single men sheltered decreased 9% when compared to the same reporting period of last fiscal year, due to the closure of Volunteers of America's 40-bed shelter. The success rate decreased to 14%, reaching the lowest level on record. The long-term disability rate jumped by 11 percentage points compared to the same reporting period of last fiscal year.
- < Women's emergency shelter system: The number of single women sheltered increased 5% when compared to the same reporting period of last fiscal year. The employment rate at entry decreased compared to the FY19 annual rate of 29% to 23% currently, while average income decreased from \$607 to \$541.
- < The prevention system continues to perform very well, with 95% of households achieving successful housing outcomes. The rapid re-housing system also achieved its successful housing outcome goal, although the rates are higher for families than for single adults. The PSH system continues to perform well.

### A Place to Call Home FY21 Strategic Action Plan

Tom presented updates to the goals established in [A Place to Call Home](#), our community's framework for action to address homelessness in Columbus and Franklin County, as well as strategic actions supporting each goal informed by stakeholder input obtained in March 2020. The plan does not incorporate actions taken to address needs during the coronavirus pandemic. Tom emphasized CSB's focus on equity and reducing disproportionality in the homeless crisis response system. Staff will continue to review policies and procedures through an equity lens and participate in the County's equity efforts. Tom highlighted a few specific updates:

- < Veterans: Progress continues on achieving and certifying federal benchmark targets and improving efficiency of rehousing efforts. System capacity is sufficient to admit any Veteran who desires shelter.
- < Chronically homeless: The system will work toward providing more comprehensive services supports for those in scattered site PSH. ADAMH is a collaborator in this effort.
- < Families with children and pregnant women: Work continues on maximizing the reach of available services. A care pathway pilot program for pregnant women who are literally homeless is in the works.
- < Youth: Work continues on the approaches and goals included in [A Place to Call Home for Youth](#), as well as implementation of new YHDP-funded programs.
- < Single adults: In addition to increasing rapid re-housing capacity, work will focus on the use of progressive engagement approaches, including linkage to PSH when needed.
- < Affordable housing: CSB continues to cultivate landlord partnerships through its Home4Good initiative.
- < Equity: The plan commits to instituting cultural competency training and implementing race equity training through local initiatives like the Franklin County *Rise Together* blueprint to address poverty.
- < Employment: A pilot program is being implemented to support increased employment opportunities and income for adults in families experiencing homelessness, focused on improved connectivity with the workforce system and connection to transitional supports.
- < Healthcare: Efforts are ongoing to integrate aspects of the homeless crisis response system with the healthcare system, especially given the effects of COVID-19 and increasing rates of disability among the homeless population.
- < Criminal justice: Coordination work continues to prevent people from exiting the criminal justice system into homelessness.
- < Prevention: Implementation efforts are underway for a homelessness prevention network demonstration project, eviction prevention, and targeted assistance for sub-populations at risk of literal homelessness.

Carl and Sue thanked Tom for his leadership and service during his time at CSB.

### Homeless Crisis Response System COVID-19 Response

Michelle provided an update on COVID-19 response efforts. CSB is planning for the next 12-24 months of needs, including possible continued operation of deconcentration and SIQ shelters. Collaborations have begun with other operators of congregate settings like group homes, treatment centers, and domestic violence shelters to develop a coordinated response. Most SIQ residents have entered directly from a treatment facility or the justice system, not from emergency shelter or the land. CSB is also doing long-term planning around overflow season, which has been extended

to accommodate need during the pandemic. Michelle thanked the many partners CSB has had during this time. Sue commended CSB for its long-term response planning.

## **New Project Updates**

### Permanent Housing Concept Papers

In January, the CoC will prioritize new permanent housing projects for 2021 OHFA tax credits. There are currently four projects that could seek prioritization. The CoC has already approved Project Plans for two projects: N^^ Berwyn East Place and CHN Poplar Fen Place. These projects were prioritized second and third, respectively, for 2020 OHFA tax credits but did not receive awards. CHN has submitted two new concept papers for replacement housing for current residents of YMCA's 40 W. Long Street building: Touchstone Field Place – Phase 2 and CH-PSH YMCA Replacement (an unnamed project). CHN is pursuing two parallel funding strategies for Touchstone Field Place – Phase 2; this concept paper is for their 9% LIHTC strategy. The CoC Board has recommended that the CoC request Project Plans for CHN Touchstone Field Place – Phase 2 and CHN CH-PSH YMCA Replacement.

Lisa Patt-McDaniel moved to request Project Plans for CHN Touchstone Field Place – Phase 2 and CHN CH-PSH YMCA Replacement. Robin seconded and the CoC agreed. Sam abstained from the vote.

### Prioritization of New Projects for FY20 CoC Competition

HUD has indicated the FY20 CoC Competition process may be different from usual due to COVID-19. The following prioritization discussion relates to FY20 CoC bonus funds, should they be available to us.

There are currently four projects requesting FY20 CoC Competition prioritization.

- < CHN Parsons Place: This project was awarded tax credits in FY16. It replaces the current Parsons Avenue Apartments and adds 37 new units. CHN now anticipates a need for additional supportive services funds and has submitted a Concept Paper that includes this request.
- < N^^ Berwyn East Place: A Project Plan was approved by the CoC and prioritized second for 2020 OHFA tax credits but did not receive an award.
- < CHN Touchstone Field Place: A Project Plan was approved by the CoC and prioritized first for 2020 OHFA tax credits. It did receive an award so the project will move forward. CHN has submitted a Concept Paper that includes services funding and a capital funding request.
- < CHN Touchstone Field Place Phase 2: This Concept Paper is for CHN's other funding strategy (4% LIHTC funding) and includes a capital funding request. This is CHN's preferred strategy for Phase 2, as cost savings would result from building the two phases simultaneously. In this strategy, 20 of the 44 units are dedicated to individuals with severe mental illness (ADAMH).

Emerald reported that she is still hearing concerns from the Southside community about the new Parsons Place development and noted that support from CoC members would be welcome. Sam reported that construction is almost complete on this project and a Good Neighbor Agreement is in place, but CHN will look into whether additional outreach would be helpful. Sam also reported that CHN has reached out to the Marion Franklin community about developing a Good Neighbor Agreement for Touchstone Field Place, which was promised if the project received OHFA tax credits.

Kim asked whether the community is aware of CHN's plans for a second phase of Touchstone Field Place. Sam answered affirmatively; CHN presented the project as a 100-unit development from the start. No further zoning changes are needed. Michael offered to speak in support of either project at public meetings, as a CHN PSH neighbor and a CoC representative.

Kim reviewed the FY20 CoC competition resolution. The CoC Board has recommended that the CoC approve the following proposals and prioritizations for the FY20 CoC competition and request CoC applications up to the available FY20 CoC Bonus funding, on the condition that CHN attempts to secure services funding for Parsons Place from an alternative source and informs the CoC Board of the funding status prior to the start of the CoC application process. If CHN is successful, the project will be removed from the FY20 CoC competition prioritization and the remaining projects will move up in the prioritization accordingly.

1. CHN Parsons Place
2. CHN Touchstone Field Place
3. CHN Touchstone Field Place – Phase 2
4. N^^ Berwyn East Place

Michael moved to approve the prioritization and condition as presented and the CoC agreed. Jon Welty and Sam abstained from the vote.

#### PSH Development Update

CHN's PSH development update was not discussed but is available in the meeting packet for review.

**Meeting Adjourned.**