

MINUTES

Columbus and Franklin County, Ohio

Continuum of Care Meeting

Wednesday, October 12, 2022

10:30am – 12:30pm

Virtual Meeting

Attendance

Continuum of Care (CoC) members: Andy Keller, Roxann Payne, Beth Fetzer-Rice, Carl Landry, Christopher Maitland (representing Councilmember Shayla D. Favor), Sheila Prillerman, Donna Mayer, Emily Savors, Frank Beel, Jeff Pattison, Jerome Johnson, Jon Cardi, Jonathan Welty, Jim Rose, Kim Stands, Sue Villilo, Kier Scott, Genee Cosby, Mason Alexander, Michael Wilkos (representing Lisa Courtice), Nancy Smith (representing Lisa Phillips), Michelle Heritage, Scott Scharlach (representing Charles Hillman), Steve Smith, Sue Darby, Chip Spinning

Community Shelter Board (CSB) members: Lianna Barbu, Steve Skovensky, Kirstin Jones, Gillian Gunawan

Continuum of Care (CoC) members (not in attendance): Buck Bramlish (Veterans Service Commission), Debbie Donahey (OhioHealth). Felisha Lyons (Columbus City Schools – Project Connect), Hannah Estabrook (Sanctuary Night), Kelsey Strausbaugh (Equitas Health), Adam Troy (Community of Caring Foundation), Orvell Johns (Franklin County Office on Aging), Dr. Maria Houston (LSS CHOICES), Lark Mallory (Affordable Housing Trust Corporation), Rei Scott (Youth Action Board), Terri Power (Corporation for Supportive Housing), Tiara Ross (Office of the Columbus City Attorney)

Administrative Issues

Michael Wilkos asked for additions to and approval for the minutes from the September 20, 2022 meeting. Jeff Pattinson motioned, Michelle Heritage seconded, and the CoC agreed.

CoC Supplemental Application

Review and approve the 2022 CoC Supplemental NOFO Application

- ⟨ HUD released the Supplemental NOFO to Address Unsheltered Homelessness on June 22, 2022, due October 20, 2022. This NOFO is the first HUD application for funding specifically for those experiencing unsheltered homelessness and who have severe service needs. The Columbus and Franklin County CoC is eligible to apply for a total of \$9 million over 3 years. The application is highly competitive; HUD will prioritize funding

to CoCs with large unsheltered populations. Our CoC has a relatively small unsheltered population, so is unlikely to be prioritized.

- < The Supplemental NOFO Consolidated Application is very similar to the regular CoC Application, many answers were reused between the two applications.
- < CSB officially informed applicants of their project acceptance and ranking October 4, 2022. The Supplemental NOFO Consolidated Application will be posted on the CoC website on October 13, 2022.

Supplemental NOFO project scoring tool

- < CSB invited members of the Citizens Advisory Council to score project applications. Each applying organization submitted short recordings which summarized their project.
- < The Project Scoring Tool was built specifically to address the parameters of the Supplemental NOFO. 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.

Supplemental NOFO Project Ranking

The CoC is requesting \$9,123,297 over 3 years. LSS Faith Missions' funding request was reduced due to funding limitations. The CoC Board recommended the following ranking:

1. CHN Poplar Fen
2. NCR PSH Expansion
3. Mount Carmel Supportive Services Only
4. YMCA Beacon Communities
5. NCR Berwyn East
6. LSS Faith Mission Rapid Re-Housing
7. LSS CHOICES Rapid Re-Housing

CoC Plan for the Unsheltered Severe Service Needs Population

- < Early in the application process, CSB invited CoC members to join a Special Work Group to formulate the CoC Plan for Serving Individuals and Families Experiencing Homelessness with Severe Service Needs and to review project applications.
- < The CoC Plan complies with HUD's narrative and formatting guidelines.
 - o The CoC received a significant housing commitment from CMHA to subsidize all PSH projects submitted in this application. HUD wants to see local community support and significant leverage at project start.
 - o HUD also expects close collaboration between the homelessness system and local public housing authority. CMHA has to submit requests for vouchers also by 10/20/22.

- Michelle secured healthcare leverage commitments totaling \$1.7 million from Southeast, Lower Lights, Primary One, and Maryhaven.
 - The plan includes data that shows the negative impact of the pandemic on our performance. The systems saw a 31% increase in the amount of time it takes to house a client in PSH; this process now takes almost 6 months.
 - The Plan incorporates significant input from people experiencing homelessness in the section called Local Voices.
 - Current strategies include landlord recruitment, street outreach, and the non-congregate shelter pilot.
- ⟨ Jon Cardi thanked Lianna and her team for the substantial work needed to complete this application.

Michael asked for a motion to approve the Resolution to Approve the 2022 Continuum of Care Special NOFO Application and Project Ranking. Michelle motioned, Sheila Prillerman seconded, and the CoC agreed. Sue Darby, Beth Fetzer-Rice, and Roxann Payne abstained.

System & Community Framework Updates

Annual SPIR

Lianna reviewed the July 2021 to June 2022 report.

- ⟨ Michelle asked Lianna to explain recidivism. Recidivism occurs when people re-enter the homelessness system after being successfully housed. Michelle explained that there is increasing concern about people who become housed, but are not able to link with the on-going resources necessary to stabilize and prevent recidivism.
- ⟨ The entire system's performance has been negatively impacted by the ongoing pandemic and affordable housing crisis. We are a re-housing system without adequate affordable housing.
- ⟨ 19% more families needed shelter in comparison to FY21. The success rate at exit from shelter decreased 12 percentage points to 34%, the lowest rate observed historically; average length of shelter stays increased by 12 days. The overall lack of safe, decent, and affordable housing in our community has made it very difficult to successfully move families out of shelter and into housing. Family shelters have a fixed capacity of 114, but consistently served at least 130 households at a time, making Overflow accommodations necessary the entire year. 20% of families had more than one shelter stay during this time period.
- ⟨ Similar to the family system, the Men's System saw an increase in average length of stay in shelter, and a decrease in success rate at exit from shelter. 57% of single men self-reported having a disability at shelter entry,
- ⟨ Number of people served stayed flat for both the men's and women's systems.
- ⟨ The Women's System also had to utilize Overflow accommodations throughout the time period. 69% of single women self-reported having a disability at shelter entry.

- < The average length of stay in emergency shelter increased to 66 days. The average age of people served went up from 41 to 43; 70% of people served were newly homeless; 59% self-reported having a disability; 275 veterans were served, a year-over-year increase.
- < Youth accessing shelters decreased by 21%.
- < The Homelessness Prevention Systems saw great success, with a 91% success rate.
- < Rapid Re-Housing programs saw a decrease in number served because of significant vacancies in partner agency staffing.
- < Permanent Supportive Housing programs saw an 8% increase in number served; but, occupancy decreased to 89% due to scattered sites programs facing difficulty with securing units and obtaining necessary household documentation. The Social Security Administration office was closed to in-person appointments during the majority of this review timeframe.
- < The ratio of population age 55 plus in PSH increased to 50%, compared to the previous year's 31% rate. This indicates an aging PSH population, and the necessity for units that provide services specifically for the aging population. CHN's Poplar Fen and NCR's Berwyn East will provide such units.
- < Lianna highlighted the breakdown of successful housing outcomes by program type and race, and by program type and gender. These charts are used to monitor equity in each program. For example, for Transition Age Youth, 43% of youth entering shelter identify as male, but only 32% successfully exit.

FY22 Gaps Analysis

Lianna reviewed the FY22 Gaps Analysis. The Gaps Analysis is an annual report which analyzes the system for gaps in housing needs by population served.

- < Some assumptions must be made. For example, the 2022 PIT Count reported 189 unsheltered people, but we can assume that some unsheltered individuals were missed and a rate modifier was used for the analysis.
- < 100% of people experiencing chronic homelessness need Permanent Supportive Housing. We assume that 10% of non-chronic homeless families need PSH units, and 35% of non-chronic homeless single adults need PSH.
- < 35% is based on the single adults self-reporting having a mental health disability.
- < When calculating Rapid Re-Housing/Transitional Housing needs, we subtract 10% of individuals assuming PSH intervention, and 25% assuming self-resolution.
- < The summary table shows existing capacity, annual availability, annual demand, and annualized over/under (gap). Overall, the system needs an additional 94 PSH units for families and 1790 for single adults.
- < We consider PSH availability based on annual turnover: not all PSH units are available at all times; some individuals stay for 5 years or more. We have a 1,458 unit gap in PSH and a 764 unit gap in rapid rehousing. Due to significant staff vacancies in rapid

rehousing programs, the current gap for these programs is even higher, exceeding 1800 units.

- < For homelessness prevention and based on Homeless Hotline data, there is an additional need in the Homelessness Prevention Network to address at risk families and single adults. Single adults are difficult to divert due to lack of single adult homelessness prevention programs. Overall, the gap shows 1,185 placements.

Meeting adjourned.