

MINUTES

Columbus and Franklin County, Ohio

Continuum of Care Meeting

Thursday, June 9, 2022

12:00pm – 2:00pm

Virtual Meeting

Attendees

Continuum of Care (CoC) Members: Andy Keller, Ben Sears, Beth Fetzer-Rice, Carl Landry, Councilmember Shayla D. Favor, Debbie Donahey, Dennis Jeffrey, Donna Mayer, Emerald Hernandez-Parra, Kevin Boehm for Felisha Lyons, Hannah Estabrook, Jeff Pattison, Jerome Johnson, John Edgar, Jim Rose, Kelsey Strausbaugh, Kim Stands, Sue Villilo, Kier Scott, Jim Schimmer, Mason Alexander, Lisa Phillips, Michelle Heritage, Scott Scharlach for Charles Hillman, Lark Mallory, Sue Darby, Dr. Maria Houston, Terri Power, Tiara Ross, Tina Rutherford for Chip Spinning

Community Shelter Board (CSB) staff: Lianna Barbu, Steve Skovensky, Gillian Gunawan

Continuum of Care (CoC) Members (not in attendance: Buck Bramlish (Veterans Service Commission), Dion Robinson (Citizens Advisory Council), Michael Wilkos (United Way of Central Ohio), Orvell Johns for Joy Bivens (Franklin County Office on Aging), and Sheila Prillerman (CSB Board)

Guests: Ryan Cassell (Community Housing Network)

Administrative Issues

Minutes

Michelle Heritage asked for any corrections to or comment on the minutes from the January 26, 2022 CoC meeting. Scott Scharlach moved to approve the minutes, Jeff Pattison seconded, and the CoC agreed.

CoC Membership Recommendations

- < The CoC Board has made membership recommendations to the CoC. Lianna presented the current list of members with recommended changes and vacancies. The Columbus Mayor's Office and Youth Action Board have vacant seats.
 - < The CoC Board recommends that Community of Caring Development Foundation (Adam Troy) replace Church and Community Development for All People (Reverend John Edgar) in the faith-based organizations category.

- < The CoC Board recommends that Dr. Maria Houston replace Kenya Taylor as representative from Lutheran Social Services CHOICES for Victims of Domestic Violence in the victim service providers/advocates category.
- < The CoC Board recommends that Councilmember Shayla D. Favor replace Priscilla Tyson as representative from Columbus City Council in the local governments/ESG entitlement category.
- < The CoC Board recommends that Kier Scott replace Lisa Patt-McDaniel as representative from the Workforce Development Board of Central Ohio in the employment services category.
- < The CoC Board recommends that Steve Smith replace Sheila Prillerman as representative from the CSB Board in the businesses category.
- < The CoC Board recommends that Sheila Prillerman replace Dion Robinson as representative of the Citizens Advisory Council in the homeless or formerly homeless persons category.
- < The CoC Board recommends that Rei Scott serve as the primary representative and Kayla Hands serve as the alternate representative for the Youth Action Board in the Youth Advocates category.
- < The CoC Board recommends that Jim Rose replace Keith McCormish as representative of the Columbus Coalition for the Homeless in the advocates and other homeless subpopulation advocates category.
- < The CoC Board recommends that Homeless Families Foundation be updated to Home for Families, to reflect the organization's recent name change.
- < The CoC Board recommends that Michael Wilkos (United Way of Central Ohio) replace Keith McCormish (Columbus Coalition for the Homeless) as CoC and CoC Board Chair for the term beginning July 1, 2022.

Michelle asked for a motion to approve the CoC Board's recommended membership changes. Sue Villilo moved, Debbie Donahey seconded, and the CoC agreed.

Governance and Policy Statements and Annual Plan

- < Lianna reviewed changes made to the Governance and Policy Statements.
 - < In the Structure section, membership changes were reviewed.
 - < In the Meetings subsection, language has been updated to generalize meeting time frames.
 - < In the Community Shelter Board Responsibilities section, the Ohio Development Services Agency is now known as the Ohio Department of Development.
 - < In the Committees, Subcommittees, and Workgroups section, the HMIS Administrators Group subsection has been updated to remove references to

CSP (Community Services Portal), and to clarify language about agency designated administrators.

- 〈 An annual review of the CoC's DEI strategy was added to the Annual Plan.

Michelle asked for a motion to approve the Governance and Policy Statements with the changes noted above, approval of the Annual Plan as presented, reauthorization of the CoC Board to act on behalf of the CoC, and reauthorization of CSB as the Collaborative Applicant and Unified Funding Agency. Jeff moved, Scott seconded, and the CoC agreed.

Conflict of Interest Forms

Gillian reminded CoC members to complete their annual [Conflict of Interest disclosure form](#) by July 1, 2022.

Strategic Issues

Program Evaluation Results

Lianna explained that CSB prepares the Program Evaluation report annually. Because of the negative impact of COVID, CSB only assigned performance ratings to Continuum of Care-funded programs which require a rating for the CoC Competition. Out of 77 projects, 17 programs were rated high, 17 medium, and 3 low performers; 40 were not rated because of COVID-19, not being open the entire reporting period, or being too new to be evaluated.

Annual Funding Strategy

- 〈 Lianna reviewed the sources of funds for the annual proposed budget. Sources are based on budgets submitted by partners to CSB. Overall, there are \$66.5 million in program funding: \$26 million leveraged, \$18 million from the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and \$23 million from local funders. 61% of funding comes through CSB.
- 〈 Lianna highlighted changes in the Expenses section.
 - 〈 Crisis Services is a new project funded by the City of Columbus. The funding will support the placement of 20 FTEs in shelters and permanent supportive housing facilities. FY23 is the first year of implementation.
 - 〈 Prevention and diversion projects will continue their efforts. We have seen an increase in family homelessness, so homelessness prevention programs are working harder to prevent families from entering emergency shelters. CSB funded Huckleberry House to support the hiring of an additional YHDP Transition Age Youth (TAY) CARR position at Star House.
 - 〈 Shelters, independent of additional COVID funding, are receiving increased State ODOD funding. In FY22, shelters received upwards of \$500,000 in additional, nonrenewable COVID funding from the State. Compared to the pre-pandemic period, shelters are receiving more funding overall.

- ⟨ Family Overflow shelter remains necessary due to social distancing concerns and anticipated uptick in occupancy during the summer. Funds are set aside for the Shelter for Isolation and Quarantine and social distancing shelter for single men using temporary COVID funds that are now extended a year to September 30, 2023.
- ⟨ Mt. Carmel Street Medicine is the new street outreach partner.
- ⟨ Rapid Re-housing for families has a small increase in funding available.
- ⟨ Permanent Supportive Housing and Transitional Housing budgets are stable. HUD Supportive Services funds will be used for 300 new PSH units created with Emergency Housing Vouchers through CMHA.
- ⟨ National Church Residences Youth Housing is a new 20 units PSH at Commons at Chantry. The project received CMHA vouchers and services will be funded by HUD YHDP.
- ⟨ Lianna reviewed the FY23 Unit Cost Matrix, which shows budgeted average costs for different types of PSH projects. Operating PSH units costs \$15,328 on average. Single site operations cost more than scattered sites; single site will always cost more because of front desk costs. On average, PSH costs have increased about \$1,000 year-over-year.

Michelle asked for a motion to approve the Annual Funding Strategy for FY23 resolution as presented. Andy Keller moved, Ben Sears seconded, and the CoC agreed. Councilmember Shayla D. Favor, Sue Darby, and Sue Villilo abstained from the vote.

Annual Funding Allocations

Michelle asked for a motion to approve the FY23 Funding Awards resolution as presented. Terri Power moved, Mason Alexander seconded, and the CoC agreed. Sue Darby, Beth Fetzer-Rice, Kelsey Strausbaugh, Ben Sears, Councilmember Shayla D. Favor, and Jim Rose abstained from the vote.

DEI Strategy

The updated DEI strategy incorporates all changes proposed by the CoC and CoC Board in the January and February meetings. Lianna highlighted the addition of a mentorship program and encouraged members to sign up.

Michelle asked for a motion to approve the DEI Strategy as presented. There is no written resolution. Jim Schimmer moved, Kelsey seconded, and the CoC agreed.

FY21 CoC Program Competition Debriefing

The Debrief is for the CoC Application submitted November 2021. The Columbus and Franklin County CoC scored 158 out of 173 points, above the median score of 143.

- < Because the CoC scored above median, we received \$76,000 in new bonus project funding. When the CoC scores above median, we are more likely to receive new HUD funding.
- < The majority of points lost were under the System Performance category. The CoC scored 18 out of 23 points. 2.5 points were lost because of lack of increase in employment-related and non-employment-related income; 2 points were lost because the CoC did not meet the recidivism and the length of stay in shelter performance metrics.
- < Under the HMIS category, the CoC lost 2 points because the LSS HOPWA program does not participate in HMIS.
- < Under the Project Capacity, Review, and Ranking, the CoC lost 4 points. 3 points were lost under the scoring category because HUD wants to see projects scored based on vulnerability of population served, but all PSH projects serve the same population in our CoC.

Review of PH Concept Papers and funding for supportive services

- < Michelle noted that the CoC does not usually receive so many project proposals. The CoC must prioritize because there are more projects than available funding. This is the first step in developing new Permanent Supportive Housing projects. The second step is the Project Plan, an intensive plan that describes in detail the project, neighborhood work, funding commitments, and a 15-year budget.
- < Lianna reviewed the PSH Projects in Development summary. There are 8 projects to discuss:
 1. CHN Touchstone Field Place – Phase 1 & 2 is being built. Phase 1 was awarded tax credits in 2020, Phase 2 was awarded tax credits through ARPA funding in 2021. The project will absorb 78 non-senior residents from YMCA's 40 W. Long St. Existing CSB funding currently allocated to YMCA' 40 W. Long St. will carry over with the transferred clients to fund services. CMHA vouchers will fund rental subsidies. The project is fully funded and is not asking for CoC prioritization.
 2. CMHA McKinley Manor is a new project in the Franklinton area. CMHA agreed to have McKinley Manor absorb seniors (55+) from YMCA's 40 W. Long St. Like Touchstone Field Place, existing CSB funding allocated to 40 W. Long St. will carry over with the transferred clients to fund services. CMHA vouchers will fund rental subsidies. The project is fully funded and is not asking for CoC prioritization.
 3. NCR Berwyn East Place will have 36 homeless units. Berwyn East Place received tax credits through 2021 ARPA funding for construction, and is requesting FY22 CoC prioritization to receive CoC funding for supportive services.

4. CHN Poplar Fen will have 35 homeless units. CHN received 2022 OHFA tax credits for the project. Poplar Fen is requesting FY22 CoC prioritization to receive CoC capital and services funding.
5. Homefull is proposing the addition of 70 PSH units by converting the hotel currently used for the Shelter for Isolation and Quarantine, similar to the Mediterranean model. Homefull is requesting FY22 CoC prioritization to receive additional CoC service funding.
6. Beacon Communities is new to the Columbus and Franklin County development market. They purchased the former Knights of Columbus building at 80 S. 6th St and are proposing renovating the building into 45 homeless and 30 low-income units. Services will be provided by YMCA. Beacon Communities is working with CMHA to secure rental subsidies and is requesting FY22 CoC prioritization for CoC service funding.
7. CHN Replacement Project is a proposal to replace aging CHN properties. CHN is requesting FY23 CoC prioritization. If the concept paper is approved, the CoC would ask CHN to submit a Project Plan in the meantime.
8. Diff-ability Services submitted an incomplete concept paper.
 - < Terri Power asked for clarification on which projects have a target population of people age 55 and over.
 - < Lianna stated Berwyn East Place, because of NCR's experience in senior home living; CMHA's McKinley Manor, which will be a replacement project for YMCA's 40 West Long Street; and CHN's Poplar Fen. Ryan Cassell from CHN added that Poplar Fen is an opportunity for inter-generational programming between youth and seniors because of its proximity to Marsh Brook Place.

Prioritization of new projects for FY22 CoC Competition

Michelle asked for a motion to approve the CoC Board's recommendations for prioritization for the 2022 CoC Competition.

- < The CoC Board recommends moving the following projects into the Project Plan phase:
 1. Homefull hotel/motel
 2. Beacon Communities 80 S. 6th St
 3. CHN Replacement Project
- < The CoC Board recommends prioritizing the following projects for FY22 CoC bonus funding:
 1. NCR Berwyn East Place – 1st
 2. CHN Poplar Fen – 2nd
 3. Homefull hotel/motel PSH – 3rd
 4. Beacon Communities 80 S. 6th St – 4th
 5. Diff-ability Services House Us Too (H.U.T.) – Not ranked

Terri Power moved, Carl Landry seconded, and the CoC agreed. Lark Mallory, Sue Villilo, Sue Darby, Jim Schimmer, and Scott Scharlach abstained from the vote.

System & Community Framework Updates

Review updated Community Plan

- < Steve reviewed the Executive Summary. The Community Plan was last updated March 2020.
- < The Community Plan update is very mindful of the current affordable housing crisis, eviction rates, COVID impacts, and other environmental factors. The update was developed over the course of a series of meetings last fall with stakeholders, partners, the CoC, community members, and other such entities.
 - < Partners rated proposed actions as high, medium, low value. If partners ranked a proposed action as high value, the action stayed as is. If a proposed action was ranked medium or low value, the action was reassessed for further development, with the question in mind of what kinds of actions are within the bandwidth of the system.
 - < 6 out of 9 goals focused primarily on meeting HUD performance measures. If the system can perform better according to HUD's assigned metrics, the community is ultimately better served through these improvements. 3 out of 9 goals are not directly related to HUD performance measures: strengthening workforce capacity, decreasing incidents in shelters, and advancing social equity. These measures are significant to the well-being of clients and partners, and to the sustainability of the system.
 - < Goals are further broken down in terms of internal and external actions. This highlights intersections among different systems of care, and poses the question of how to best leverage these intersections for clients.
 - < Steve briefly reviewed the 9 goals:
 1. Strengthen partner workforce capacity
 2. Decrease in alcohol, drug, and mental health incidents in congregate settings & permanent supportive housing
 3. Advance equity
 4. Improve diversion & prevention to reduce number of people experiencing homelessness (HUD measure 5)
 5. Decrease length of stay in shelter (HUD measure 1)
 6. Decrease recidivism back into shelter or unhoused locations (HUD measure 2)
 7. Increase earned & non-employment cash income for those in shelter, those leaving shelter, & those in housing (HUD measure 4)
 8. Increase permanent housing placements from shelter (HUD measure 7)

9. Increase permanent housing placements from outreach (HUD measure 7)

- < Lisa Phillips asked how institutions of Higher Education play into the plan.
- < Steve stated that Higher Education is involved through Success Bridge and the new Crisis Intervention Specialist program. The Re-Entry Advisory Board met yesterday and discussed connecting with people in academia and higher education for assistance in evaluation and linkage to educational support for re-entry clients.
- < Michelle shared that the system is exploring the potential of a certificate program at Columbus State Community College specifically for Crisis Intervention Specialist training, pending an award of additional funds from Franklin County, Ideally the program would begin in the 2023 – 2024 school year.

COVID-19 Update

Steve reported that occupancy at the SIQ flattened after the Omicron variant surge. Currently, 2 clients are staying at the SIQ. At the end of May, the YMCA transitioned the SIQ from a site-based to a room-based model. The SIQ is now at America's Best at Morse and Sinclair Rd. Steve noted that, prior to the move, CSB notified the Northland Commission, Columbus Police Department, Fire Department, and other key and public health partners.

System and Program Indicator Report

- < Lianna reviewed the January through March 2022 report.
 - < Family shelters saw a 43% increase in family households needing shelter compared to last year. 135 families were served, historically the most the system has seen for this timeframe.
 - < Scattered sites PSH has been having occupancy issues due to a lack of available affordable housing.
 - < In general, the system's ability to successfully exit homeless families and individuals to housing is limited because of lack of housing units. This triggers an increased time in emergency shelter and shelters running out of capacity.
- < Michelle emphasized that the re-housing system has hit a wall in terms of availability of safe, decent, and affordable housing.
 - < Scott echoed this assessment from CMHA's perspective. At any given time, at least 1,000 vouchers remain unused as fewer landlords accept vouchers or units are not available to lease.

Meeting adjourned.