

Meeting Minutes

Rebuilding Lives Funder Collaborative Board Meeting

Tuesday, November 17, 2015

11:30am – 1:30pm

Community Shelter Board

Attendees

Rebuilding Lives Funder Collaborative (RLFC) Members: Nancy Case, Jeff Cutlip, Sue Darby, Jennifer Voit (*for Karen Days*), Lisa Defendiefer, Steve Gladman, Michelle Heritage, Matt Kosanovich (*for Janet Jackson*), Patrick Jarvis, Carl Landry, Veronica Lofton, Marissa Michaels, Piper Moore, Jeff Pattison, Rollin Seward, Deborrha Armstrong (*for Chip Spinning*), Kim Stands, Robin Harris, Nicole Harper (*for Councilmember Priscilla Tyson*), Mary Vail, Jonathan Welty

Community Shelter Board (CSB) Staff: Lianna Barbu, Amy Price, Heather Notter

Guests: Sue Reamsnyder (Volunteers of America Greater Ohio), Tiffany Nobles (Community Housing Network), Ryan Cassell (Community Housing Network), Amy Rosenthal (National Church Residences), David Kayuha (National Church Residences), Faith Williams (YWCA)

Welcome and Agenda Review

Michelle welcomed the group and reviewed the agenda.

Administrative Issues

Michelle asked if there were any corrections to or comments on the minutes from the June 3, 2015 RLFC meeting. Steve moved to approve the minutes, Rollin seconded, and the RLFC agreed.

Michelle provided system updates.

- < Both family shelters (YWCA and Van Buren) are full.
- < Shelters are beginning to open overflow beds. Sue updated the group on YMCA overflow planning.
- < Lease-up for Columbus Area Integrated Health Services (CAIHS) projects continues.
- < The new Van Buren Village PSH project is scheduled to open in mid-December.

Michelle has been discussing next year's funding with the City of Columbus and Franklin County.

- < CSB requested increased funds from the City and County to clear the single adult waiting lists, fully fund the Navigator program, and fund the new Van Buren family shelter.
- < The current version of the City budget cuts \$117,000 in funding compared to last year. The County may be able to increase funding.

Continuum of Care Application

Lianna reviewed the HUD Continuum of Care (CoC) application and process, beginning with the options for prioritizing projects that the RLFC Board considered. Lianna explained the criteria that the RLFC Board used to rank projects and why the RLFC Board recommended option four. Lianna reviewed the differences between Tier 1 and Tier 2, which differentiates which projects' funds are secure (Tier 1) and which funds possibly are at risk (Tier 2). Lianna gave an overview of the new projects in the application, explaining that this year HUD is giving CoCs the opportunity to apply for more new funding than they have in the past. CSB plans to submit the CoC application on November 18, 2015 on behalf of the RLFC.

- < Mary asked if there could be low-scoring projects in Tier 1 and whether low-scoring projects are subject to performance improvement plans. Lianna explained that the rankings are based on a variety of combined criteria. Michelle confirmed that low-performance projects are subject to performance improvement requirements. Michelle emphasized that as a community we would not choose to put any existing project's funding at risk, but HUD requires us to do so.
- < Patrick asked why the Southeast/CAIHS Supportive Housing Leasing project is Tier 1 even though the performance score is low. Lianna explained that the RLFC transferred the project from Southeast to CAIHS last fiscal year and the RLFC Board did not want to penalize CAIHS for past performance issues of Southeast, thus an average score was given to this project.
- < Nicole asked what would happen to the projects in Tier 2 if HUD de-funds them. Lianna and Michelle responded that we would have to close the projects. Michelle indicated that our community has not had this happen previously, but it is a possibility, depending on HUD application scoring. Lianna explained that HUD's decisions regarding Tier 2 are based on a combination of project type, project score, and the overall CoC application score.
- < Nancy asked why Southeast New Horizons is in Tier 2 when the overall performance score is good. Michelle explained that option 4, if chosen, prioritizes Permanent Supportive Housing over Transitional Housing. HUD prioritizes Permanent Supportive Housing projects over Transitional Housing projects like Southeast New Horizons.
- < Carl asked if HUD has disclosed their point system for application scoring and Lianna confirmed that they have, but we don't know exactly how HUD will evaluate and assign points.
- < Related to the section on participation in the CoC, Lisa asked whether correctional facilities are interested in partnering with the CoC. Michelle explained that we have reached out to correctional facilities, but they have not been interested in engagement. Veronica asked how case conferencing occurs with hospitals and Lianna responded that providers engage hospitals when an inappropriate discharge to shelter occurs. Lianna noted that the RLFC Board will consider the composition of the RLFC at a future meeting, based on the HUD CoC application questions.
- < Regarding inclusion of VA VASH vouchers in the local HMIS, Michelle asked Carl if other communities include VASH vouchers in their local HMIS databases. Carl said no, because the VA only recently released guidance on VASH and HMIS. Prior to this guidance, local VA offices tended to be conservative about data sharing. VA participation in HMIS likely will increase. Our local VA will have complete data in the local HMIS by January 2016.

- < Patrick asked if our community will meet HUD's goal of ending veteran homelessness by 2015. Lianna clarified that the deadline is the 2016 Point-in-Time (PIT) count, which will occur in January 2016. Michelle and Carl discussed the difference between absolute zero (no homeless veterans) and functional zero (the community has the capacity to serve known homeless veterans). Amy explained that we will designate some Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) units currently focused on prevention to Rapid Re-Housing to help reach functional zero. Carl added that our community is close to functional zero. The VA is working to ensure that the methodologies and data for measuring HUD's four benchmarks on veteran homelessness are sound.
- < Amy informed the group of the 2016 PIT count timeframe and volunteered additional information to anyone interested.
- < Mary asked whether adding new projects in the HUD application every year will increase the community's ongoing costs and decrease opportunities to apply for new project funding in the future. Michelle explained that the CoC application changes every year, so it's difficult to know what future funding opportunities we will have. Lianna added that we will always maximize our opportunities for new funding by applying for the maximum amount available, since future opportunities are unclear.
- < Carl asked whether we can analyze the points from this year's application for future strategic planning purposes. Lianna responded that the exact points may be difficult to determine, but we can see from the application areas where our CoC can improve, particularly regarding opportunities to work with other systems.
- < A member moved to approve the resolution on the 2015 HUD Continuum of Care Application and Project Ranking, Jennifer seconded, and the RLFC agreed.

Strategic Issues

Lianna reviewed PSH Project Concept Papers from National Church Residences (NCR) and Community Housing Network (CHN).

- < NCR's project is included in the 2015 CoC Application. NCR proposes to develop Commons at 161, which will consist of at least 60 units of one-bedroom apartments with on-site supportive services in the Northland community of Columbus. NCR will dedicate 60 units for homeless persons who meet HUD's chronic homelessness criteria.
- < NCR's project is the first time our community has applied to use HUD bonus funds for rental subsidies, instead of using Section 8 vouchers. Amy and Dave from NCR expressed their excitement about testing this new funding model. Michelle thanked NCR for the very quick turnaround on the CoC application and other related requirements. Carl asked if the subsidies would function like Project-based Rental Assistance (PRA) and whether NCR would go through CMHA. Lianna confirmed that the subsidies would function like PRA, but would not be mobile or transferable and would be administered by NCR, not CMHA.
- < Lianna reviewed the budget for Commons at 161, explaining that if NCR receives the HUD funding, the project will not require local funding.
- < CHN proposes to expand the existing Briggsdale Apartments project, adding 40 new one-bedroom units and bringing the total number of units at the Briggsdale Apartment development to

75. CHN will dedicate 32 of the new units for homeless persons who meet HUD's chronic homelessness criteria.

- < CHN would need additional services funding, but would gain efficiencies because of the co-location with an existing project.
- < Michelle updated the group on the preference of the Ohio Finance Housing Agency (OHFA) to have each community submit two projects this year so they can keep the PSH tax credit pool subscribed. There is potential for OHFA to approve tax credits for both NCR and CHN's projects, but Jonathan explained that it will depend on what projects other Ohio communities submit. Jonathan and Steve praised NCR and CHN for stepping up and applying to maximize the chances of retaining access to OHFA's PSH pool.
- < The RLFC Board recommended that the RLFC support both projects and award priority designation to NCR. The RLFC Board also recommended conveying to OHFA that both NCR and CHN will have the same access to Rental Assistance funding out of the CoC's current inventory, if HUD does not approve new rental assistance subsidies.
- < Patrick moved to approve the resolution on the PSH Concept Papers, Jonathan seconded, and the RLFC agreed. Lianna explained that the RLFC Board, Citizen's Advisory Council, and Providers will review the Project Plans for NCR and CHN's projects and will make recommendations to the RLFC for a decision at the January 8, 2016 RLFC meeting.

Lianna reviewed the FY 2015 System and Program Indicator Report.

- < The report highlights PSH providers – CHN, Maryhaven, NCR, YMCA, and YWCA – as Programs of Excellence because of the programs' high-quality and effective housing and services.
- < Lianna explained that outcomes in the Family System are improving, while outcomes in the Single Adult System are not yet where we would like to see them. Jeff asked why Length of Stay statistics for single adults increased and Michelle said that there has been a lot of change in the system over the past year and the programs are still adjusting. CSB expects outcomes to improve as the Navigator system and other changes continue to solidify.
- < Lianna highlighted the new dashboard for the crisis response system that will help keep track of additional outcomes and pathways for Navigators' clients.

Lianna reviewed the Occupancy Report, explaining the reasons for some programs with low occupancy and what the programs have done and will continue to do to raise occupancy.

Lianna reviewed the Financial Report, highlighting that Actual Revenue was 93 percent of Budgeted Revenue. The community did not use all HUD funding granted for FY 15, drawing only 86 percent of the total HUD grants. Lianna introduced new measures that calculate project costs per household and project costs per capacity so that the community can better track and evaluate program performance.

PSH Project Updates

Ryan Cassell provided an update on construction of CHN's new Terrace Place PSH project, which is on track for residents to move in November 2016.

Sue Reamsnyder from Volunteers of America Greater Ohio updated the group on the new Van Buren Village PSH project, which is nearing completion. Tenants will begin to move in the week of December 14, 2015 and all units should be occupied by January 31, 2016.

Faith Williams from YWCA provided an update on the WINGS program and renovation of the Griswold building, which began in spring 2015. WINGS program residents were temporarily relocated until renovation of the residential portion of the project is completed in mid-2016. Michelle praised YWCA staff for their excellent relocation planning and implementation.

Meeting Adjourned