

## Meeting Minutes

### Rebuilding Lives Funder Collaborative Meeting

Wednesday, September 20, 2017

11am – 1pm

YWCA Columbus

#### Attendees

Rebuilding Lives Funder Collaborative (RLFC) Members: Becky Westerfelt, Carl Landry, Ron Lebsock, Deborrha Armstrong, Christy Hendricks, Donna Mayer, Emerald Hernandez, Val Harmon, Jeff Pattison, Sally Shaffer, John Edgar, Jon Welty, Callie Query, Karen Koster, Keena Smith, Kim Stands, Mary Wehrle, Michelle Heritage, Robin Harris, Steve Sielschott, Sue Darby, Terri Power, Veronica Lofton

Community Shelter Board (CSB) staff: Tom Albanese, Lianna Barbu, Heather Notter

Guest: Wil Spinner (National Church Residences Permanent Supportive Housing)

#### Welcome and Agenda Review

Michelle welcomed the group and reviewed the agenda.

#### Administrative Issues

Michelle asked for any corrections to or comments on the minutes from the May 16, 2017 RLFC meeting. Robin moved to approve the minutes, Carl seconded, and the RLFC agreed.

Kim provided an update on the youth 100 Day Challenge. We are in the midst of the Challenge and the team is working on two goals: 1) improve housing placement for youth from shelter and 2) help unsheltered or unstably sheltered youth move into stable housing. The 100 Day Challenge ends November 8.

Tom provided an update on veteran homelessness efforts. We are still hoping to meet federal benchmarks on ending veteran homelessness by the end of the year. Carl added that the VA is working to optimize strategies that will reduce the amount of time from homelessness to housing.

Michelle informed the group that Franklin County Emergency Management, Red Cross, CSB and other stakeholders will meet on September 21, 2017 to discuss preparations for families who may relocate from Texas and Florida after Hurricanes Harvey and Irma. Approximately 500 families relocated to Columbus from New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina. A community-wide effort will be necessary if a large number of people relocate from Texas and Florida.

#### Continuum of Care (CoC) Application

Lianna reviewed the HUD System Performance Report that will be used for the CoC application.

- < For the 2017 Point-in-Time Count (PIT), the number of people in shelter decreased from 2016 to 2017 and the number of unsheltered individuals remained about the same. The number of chronically homeless persons – both sheltered and unsheltered – increased.

- < The HMIS coverage rate for all program types is good, except permanent supportive housing (PSH). The PSH coverage rate is below 85% - HUD's threshold - because not all VA VASH beds are in HMIS. The VA continues to add data and coverage will be better next year. Terri asked if the VASH units are filled and Lianna confirmed that the units are occupied and veterans are housed, they just aren't entered into the data system. Carl added that some veterans haven't given authorization for their information to be entered into HMIS.
- < The number of PSH beds dedicated to chronically homeless individuals will increase gradually every year. The Unified Supportive Housing System (USHS) prioritizes chronically homeless individuals for all PSH vacancies, so in practice all PSH beds are dedicated for chronically homeless individuals. We will increase the number of dedicated beds gradually so we can show an increase each year.
- < The number of rapid re-housing (RRH) units dedicated to households with children changes each year because it is a point-in-time measure. This year the number of units is slightly lower than last year. The number of RRH beds for all populations also decreased.
- < On System Performance Measures, average length of stay and recidivism decreased. The Performance Measures use 2015 and 2016 PIT count data, not the most recent 2017 data.
- < Performance on income and employment declined. Metrics for successful placement from outreach and placement in or retention of permanent housing are good. Placement and retention for PSH went down slightly, but the overall percentage is high (93%).
- < Becky asked how the performance report informs program decisions and whether it's a good or bad report card. Lianna replied that some outcomes are good and some need improvement. Michelle explained that this report affects the points our community receives in the national CoC competition, which in turn affects our potential to get additional CoC funding.
- < Terri observed that if the unsheltered homelessness count is higher, we should look at the system and see where changes are needed. Michelle agreed and explained that this performance report helps inform program decisions when combined with all the other reports we have (e.g., the quarterly System and Program Indicator Report) and discussion with our partner agencies. Carl asked whether the numbers reflect more homelessness or more people served and counted. Michelle confirmed that more people served and counted probably affects these metrics, noting that we identify and serve more people as we drill down on specific subpopulations (such as the veteran by-name list). These efforts are good and we want to serve more people, but it may count against us in the CoC competition.
- < Tom added that this is the second year of HUD's performance report, and two data points don't make a trend. We don't yet have a clear indication of what direction we're going on HUD's performance indicators. We will discuss system direction further as we update the Rebuilding Lives Plan.

Lianna explained that the RLFC has to re-visit the May 16, 2017 resolution on prioritization of PSH projects because of HUD decisions on National Church Residences (N^^) Commons at 161 project.

- < N^^ Commons at 161 was awarded funding in the FY 2015 CoC competition, but did not receive tax credit funding from Ohio Housing Finance Agency (OHFA) in 2016 or 2017, preventing construction of the project.
- < HUD extended the grant for Commons at 161 until June 30, 2019. With the extension, N^^ would have to begin providing rental assistance to tenants by September 12, 2018 to meet the requirements of HUD's FY 2015 Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA). N^^ cannot meet this deadline.
- < Community Housing Network's (CHN) Briggsdale II project – the RLFC's first priority new permanent supportive housing project per the May 16, 2017 resolution – is under construction. CSB asked HUD if the RLFC can move the Commons at 161 funding to Briggsdale II. CHN agreed to use the Commons at 161 funding for Briggsdale II instead of applying for new funding in the CoC competition, pending RLFC approval.
- < HUD approved the change of sub-recipient from N^^ to CHN, with the condition that CHN provide the same number of PSH units that N^^ planned to provide at Commons at 161. N^^ planned for 60 PSH units at Commons at 161. Briggsdale II will provide 40 units. CHN agreed to meet HUD's condition by using the Commons at 161 funding to provide 40 PSH units at Briggsdale II and 20 additional PSH units via scattered sites rental assistance, starting July 1, 2018.
- < CHN asked CSB to confirm that they can use the 20 scattered sites units toward a future site-based PSH project (e.g., Parsons Place), if needed. HUD agreed that CHN can reallocate the rental assistance funding to another project in the future, via the normal CoC reallocation process, pending availability of CoC funds. The RLFC can't guarantee future funding for any provider.
- < The RLFC Board recommends that the RLFC reject CHN's CoC project application for Briggsdale II, since with HUD's decision the project is now fully funded. N^^ Commons at 161 would then be the first priority bonus project in the CoC application and CHN Parsons Place would remain the second priority bonus project.
- < Jon moved to approve the revised PSH resolution, Christy seconded, and the RLFC agreed.

Michelle explained that HUD requires each CoC to prioritize all CoC-funded projects every year for the annual funding competition. Some projects will be at risk of losing funding. Using the 2017 CoC Review, Score, and Ranking Procedures that the RLFC Board previously approved, the RLFC Board considered six prioritization scenarios. The Procedures look at program performance and how much of the previous HUD grant the program spent. The RLFC Board also took into consideration community needs, how much funding would be at risk, and how many units would be at risk. The RLFC Board's goal was to maximize funding, mitigate risk, and reward high performers.

Lianna reviewed the scoring of projects, explaining that this year 94% of the CoC's Annual Renewal Demand will be in Tier 1 and 6% plus bonus funding will be in Tier 2, per HUD's NOFA. Projects in Tier 2 are at risk of losing funding.

- < First-year renewals are always prioritized first because they have not been operational long enough to assess performance. The first-year renewals are CHN SRA III, Volunteers of America of Greater Ohio (VOAGO) Van Buren Village, and VOAGO PSH Expansion, which is a new project, but started July 1, 2017 via reallocation and is therefore a first-time renewal.
- < The scoring procedures take into account the amount of funding that each project did not use and program performance. Lianna reviewed the points that correlate to each of these scoring elements and how the projects are ranked.
- < Based on these scoring elements, the RLFC Board recommends option 3a. Option 3a lists renewal projects in the order of their performance with projects that don't fit in Tier 1 listed in Tier 2. For projects with the same performance, projects are prioritized based on the funding amount, descending, to maximize Tier 1. CHN Family Homes, The Salvation Army (TSA) Jobs2Housing (J2H), N^^ PSH Expansion reallocation, and both bonus projects (N^^ Commons at 161 and CHN Parsons Place) are in Tier 2. The RLFC Board recommended this option because it risks the fewest number of units. We would not un-house anyone under this option because CHN Family Homes has Section 8 vouchers and TSA J2H is temporary rental assistance. N^^ PSH Expansion is a reallocation, but doesn't have people in units yet.
- < Lianna assessed that the likelihood of getting new funding (N^^ Commons at 161 and CHN Parsons Place) is low because we do not expect to score higher on the CoC application than last year. We are hoping that all renewal projects will be funded.
- < Lianna reviewed the overall CoC application, highlighting areas that correspond to the Performance Report and areas where we will lose or gain points in the competition. She also highlighted the ranking of projects according to Option 3a discussed above and the rejection of CHN Briggsdale II project, per the revised PSH prioritization resolution.
- < Carl moved to approve the CoC application, priority listing, and selection of ranking option 3a, Terri seconded, and the RLFC agreed. Becky (Huckleberry House) and Sue (YMCA) abstained because their agencies have projects participating in the competition.

## **Strategic Issues**

Lianna reviewed the System and Program Indicator Report for the fourth quarter (4/1/17 through 6/30/17). Programs of excellence are Huckleberry House Transitional Housing, Equitas Health, N^^, and VOAGO Emergency Housing for Veterans.

- < The number of families needing shelter decreased by 7%, which is good. Successful exits are too low and average length of stay (ALOS) in shelter is too long.

- ⟨ The number served in the men's system decreased by 13% because the ALOS in shelter increased, resulting in less turnover and fewer people served. CSB expects successful exits to increase as YMCA's RRH program continues to ramp up.
- ⟨ The number served in the women's system decreased by 10% because the ALOS in shelter increased, resulting in less turnover. Outcomes in the women's system have also decreased.
- ⟨ The permanent supportive housing system continues to operate effectively.

Michelle updated the group on efforts to update the 10-year Rebuilding Lives Plan, which is about to expire. She explained that there is consensus that an expensive, months-long planning process is not necessary. Instead, CSB is recommending a 3-year plan with 1-year updates that are aligned with the State and Federal plans.

- ⟨ Tom presented a draft timetable and process for updating the Plan. CSB will present a draft plan framework in the November/December RLFC meetings. Committees and lead organizations will be identified to move the goals forward.
- ⟨ Tom highlighted the youth and veteran efforts to demonstrate the value of having multiple stakeholders involved. He emphasized the need for accountability and a reporting framework to move the plan forward and measure results.
- ⟨ Kim asked if the RLFC will receive a wrap-up of the results from the 10-year plan before embarking on the new plan. Tom agreed that we can collectively look back at the achievements and challenges from the 10-year plan during the initial session for the new plan. Michelle added that going forward CSB would like to better tie activities to federal and state goals and develop more integrated reporting on each goal. Michelle encouraged everyone to participate in both the planning process and implementation.

Tom informed the group that CSB is participating in efforts led by the Data-Driven Justice and Behavioral Health Design Institute. A group from Columbus attended a two-day conference in Maryland with 12 other communities to begin better integrating data and systems from the criminal justice, mental health, and homelessness systems. The goal is to identify people who disproportionately use these systems and develop strategies to better address their high needs. The attendees are working on an action plan with two goals: 1) apply for funding for a pilot project on high utilizers, with the aim of reducing their use of services by 25% and 2) developing a long-term integrated data model.

### **Permanent Supportive Housing Project Development**

Lianna explained that the OHFA 2018-2019 Qualified Allocation Plan includes in the PSH pool a set-aside for transition-age youth. Projects that apply for this set-aside must have a letter of general support from the local CoC. The CoC does not need to prioritize projects for the set-aside, like CoCs do for the overall PSH pool.

- ⟨ Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority (CMHA) submitted a Concept Paper that proposes using the 2018 youth set-aside to develop 25-30 housing units for youth that are aging out

of foster care, are homeless or at risk for homelessness, and are attending an accredited higher educational institution.

- < The RLFC previously approved CHN and Huckleberry House's Concept Paper that proposes 20 PSH units for youth. CHN and Huckleberry House are developing a Project Plan for RLFC review at the November/December meetings. CHN and Huckleberry House intend to submit this project for both the 2018 youth set-aside and the 2019 overall PSH pool.
- < CSB prepared resolutions and letters of general support for RLFC consideration for both the CMHA and the CHN/Huckleberry House projects. The RLFC Board recommends that the RLFC approve the resolutions and letters.
- < Jon moved to approve the resolution recommending that the RLFC provide a letter of general support for the CMHA project, Christy seconded, and the RLFC agreed. Ron abstained. Deborrha moved to approve the resolution recommending that the RLFC provide a letter of general support for the CHN/Huckleberry House project, Karen seconded, and the RLFC agreed. Becky abstained.

**Meeting Adjourned**