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OHS Public Policy Committee
August 20, 2015 Meeting Notes

Present: Beau Hill, Michael Sering, Brendan Woodburn, Melissa Sirak, Jen Pfeleiderer, Anne Dennstedt, Keith Moody, Kathy Penman, LaTonya Murray, C Loh, Melissa Scott, Anita Cook, Robert Robinson, Brian Davis, Helen Murphy, Mary McNamara, Shauna Darrington, Marcia Moll, Paul Herdeg, Diana Cyganovich, Kathleen Jackson, Nathan Munn; staff, Shari Weir

Beau Hill convened the meeting at 8:30. Notes from the June 25 meeting were accepted with no changes.

ESG

Mary McNamara reported that 54% of persons served with ESG prevention funds receive both case management and financial assistance. The average financial assistance provided is \$350. Most referrals come from Cleveland Housing Court and staff in senior buildings. A challenge for participants and case managers is locating affordable units that will pass inspection.

Jen Pfeleiderer and Anne Dennstedt reported on rapid re-housing. Jen reviewed the numbers noting that 86 families are currently receiving rental assistance, with 9 of those families in the 4th (and last) month of assistance.

Anne discussed positives from implementing milestones including helping families to more quickly exit shelter and standardizing approach to services.

Paul Herdeg announced that the County's Department of Development is seeking comments on uses for CDBG and HOME dollars for the next funding cycle and encouraged individuals and organizations to contact him with questions and recommendations.

Shelter Standards

The Committee discussed three standards prioritized by the Homeless Congress and took the following actions:

Proposed: The shelters must accept "bed rest" orders from legitimate health professionals including Care Alliance. The shelters need to figure out a strategy to serve people who have mobility or are recovering after surgery to provide bed rest.

To be recommended: The shelters must accept bed rest and resting time orders from health professionals.

Proposed: Discharges must be in writing with grievance procedure on back of the page. There can be an immediate discharge only for illegal activity – otherwise must wait until next day.

To be recommended: Discharges must be in writing with grievance procedure on the back of the page.

Proposed: Shelters need to provide reasonable accommodations as outlined in the local Fair Housing regulations to individuals residing in the shelters. This must include disabled individuals using comfort animals and respect for the sex of the individual in which they present. Same sex couples need to be treated in the same manner as married heterosexual couples who present at the shelter.

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No recommended standard: Funder contracts require that shelters follow applicable HUD Fair Housing and Civil Rights laws which cover these points. *This reflects the majority view; consensus was not reached.*

During the discussion on bed rest, Michael Sering reported that Metro is considering funding a pilot for persons with medical conditions not appropriate for shelter stays but not needing hospitalization. He agreed to invite a representative from Metro to the Oct. 15 Committee meeting to present on this.

Moving Forward

The plan had been for Committee members to discuss possible areas of work for the Committee to pursue to discuss with OHS Executive Committee and Advisory Board. Because the discussion of standards ran longer than had been anticipated, this discussion did not take place.