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OHS Public Policy Committee Meeting Notes
June 25, 2015

Present: Michael Sering, Melissa Sirak, LaTonya Murray, Anne Dennstedt, Jen Pfeiderer, Lehman Busbee, Kathleen Jackson, Diana Cyganovich, Dorothy Zdzieborski, Robin Adelman, Megan Bonem, Brian Davis, Miss Loh, Linda Uveges, Trent Charles, Brendan Woodburn, Marcia Moll, Angie Sulak, Beau Hill; staff, Shari Weir

Beau Hill convened the meeting. After introductions, notes from the April 16 Public Policy Committee meeting were approved without change.

ESG Reports and Discussion

Diversion: (Cleveland Mediation Center) – Lehman Busbee provided an overview of the approach CMC staff use to assist persons/families who come to CI to explore options other than entering shelter. CMC staff can provide mediation as well as limited financial assistance (food cards, bus tickets to return to an out-of-town location, etc.) when that limited assistance may prevent homelessness.

Kathleen Jackson distributed a handout with charts showing diversions by quarter of single men and single women and families for calendar year 2014 and the first quarter of 2015. (Chart is attached.)

Coordinated Intake and Assessment: (Frontline Service) - Angie Sulak distributed data on families presenting at CI/A from June 1 through June 22, 2015, including number of families diverted, placed on waitlist, and referred to shelter and overflow. (Data attached) She explained that staff let families know that shelters are full and ask how the family can be assisted to return to where they were staying. When asked about domestic violence screening, she explained that the screening is very thorough; CI staff work closely with the Domestic Violence and Child Advocacy Center, and safety is always the primary concern.

Rapid Re-Housing: (EDEN) - Jen Pfeiderer and Anne Dennstedt gave an overview of current status, noting that 52 families are searching for units and 61 families are now receiving RRH rental assistance, with 12 of the families in the fourth month of assistance. RRH partners are strongly committed to ensuring that no families get evicted and are meeting regularly to review family progress on specific milestones, including linkages with community resources.

Shelter Standards Discussion

There was a lengthy discussion on how the Committee determines recommendations to make to the OHS Advisory Board. The OHS bylaws do not set voting procedures for committees. It was ultimately generally agreed that, to the extent possible, the Committee will strive for consensus. When consensus cannot be reached, dissenting view(s) will be included in the Committee's report to the Board.

Two modifications were agreed to for The Procedure for Submission and Consideration of Shelter Standards:

- Scope of shelter standard, first line – change normal to reasonable
- Date change - Beginning in 2016 (changed from 2015) Standards submitted in the previous year and not recommended by the Public Policy Committee to the Advisory Board for adoption will not be considered for the subsequent year.