

Draft

OHS Public Policy Committee Meeting Notes  
December 17, 2015

Present: Michael Sering, Marcia Moll, Melissa Sirak, Paul Herdeg, Keith Moody, Kathy Penman, Jen Pfeiderer, Anne Dennstedt, Loh, Joy Trachsel, Trent Charles, Curtis Carnes, Sue DiNardo, Eric Morse, Kate Nagel, Christine Horne, Brian Davis, Ramona Turnbull, LaTonya Murray, Brendan Woodburn, Shawna Darrington, Kathleen Jackson, Norman Wolfe, Karen McHenry; staff, Shari Weir

Michael Sering convened the meeting at 8:35. Minutes from the Aug. 20 meeting were accepted with no changes.

**County Update:** Paul Herdeg reported that

- The recently passed federal budget does not include the cuts in homeless and low income housing programs that had been proposed. For the most part, programs will be able to maintain current levels of operations, with no or very small increases. For the first time, the budget includes dollars for the Housing Trust Fund.
- Ken Surratt is seeking input from organizations and individuals working on affordable housing issues. Enterprise is coordinating scheduling.

**ESG:** Jen Pfeiderer and Anne Dennstedt provided a review of rapid re-housing for 2015 noting that

- From Aug., 2014 through Nov., 2015, 343 families were served.
- Through experience gained, RRH program has improved resulting in referrals occurring more quickly, more families being served and the time between application and passed inspection for households decreasing to 43 days.

In the follow-up discussion people raised several issues that still present challenges – mismatch between housing families need and what is available, need for more housing for high barrier families, problems with benefits such as families losing childcare when leaving shelter

**Stay in and bed rest protocol:** Eric Morse and Kate Nagel presented a draft protocol for shelter stay in and bed rest and noted that there are other issues related to shelter stay in & bed rest including lack of medical respite beds, hospital discharges of persons too ill for shelter stays, and the overarching need to help people to move out of shelter more quickly.

Kate Nagel said that Care Alliance will add a second time each week for being at Norma Herr and that the time will be during evening hours. Also, she said that Care Alliance does not issue bed rest orders often.

Shawna Darrington and LaTonya Murray explained how NHWC accommodates women with bed rest and stay in orders from medical professionals and answered a range of questions.

Before the next Public Policy Committee meeting, OHS staff will contact each shelter to ask on average how many residents per day have bed rest or stay in documentation from medical professionals.

Next meeting: Thursday, February 18, 8:30 ADAMHS Board, Cuyahoga Room.