

ADVISORY BOARD AGENDA - November 21, 2019

Introductions and Announcements:

Attendance: Sign-In Sheet is attached.

Announcements: Chris Knestrick invited everyone to attend a Candlelight Vigil, on December 20th, a memorial for homeless persons who have passed away during 2019. A flyer with the details of the Memorial Service is included with the Minutes.

1. Decision Issues:

a) Minutes of September Advisory Board –

The Minutes of the September meeting were not voted on. Chris Knestrick requested that the Minutes be edited to include comments he made at the meeting. The revised September Minutes will be sent to the OHS Advisory Board prior to the January 2020 meeting for approval.

b) “Coordinated Entry Evaluation Work Group” Matt White, Housing Innovations

Matt discussed the objectives of the Coordinated Entry Evaluation process which include

- i) assessing the policies and practices of the CE system; ii) documenting practices and policies; and iii) recommending improvements.*

Matt will coordinate the work of the Committee with the goal of presenting recommendations to the OHS Advisory Board by the May Board meeting. Chris Knestrick expressed concern that the Work group should include persons with lived experience. How to include more input from currently and formerly homeless persons was identified as a key topic on the CE Work Agenda for the meeting that was taking place that afternoon. Ruth White of Front Steps volunteered at the meeting to join the Work group.

Motion: To appoint the following persons or designee to a CE Work Group for the purpose of evaluating the CoC Coordinated Entry System: Chris Knestrick, NEOCH; Kate Lodge, A Place 4 Me; Norika Hancock, VOA/SSVF; Beau Hill, Salvation Army; Loh; Reaver Nelson, VA; Jen Griffin, EDEN, Inc.; Marcia Zashin, Project ACT; Allison Gill, OHS; Nick Butina, FrontLine Service; Abby Staudt, Legal Services; Melissa Sirak, Catholic Charities, Ruth Smith, Front Steps; and other CoC members who wish to participate.

A quorum attended the meeting. The Motion passed. 19 in favor with 2 opposed.

c) Ending Veteran Homelessness -

Motion: To approve the submission of a “Request to Review the Cuyahoga County Continuum of Care Submission of Documentation of Meeting the US Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) Ending Veteran Homelessness Benchmarks”

LaTonya Murray presented the most current Benchmark data that helps communities calculate whether they are identifying and housing homeless Veterans within a 90 day time frame. If the answer is “yes”, the Community can submit the documentation to the US Interagency Council for confirmation. Although Cuyahoga County is not able to answer “yes”

on all the Benchmarks, the Ending Veteran Homelessness Committee wishes to submit our community for review for 2 reasons:

- We are very close to meeting the **Benchmark values** in all cases; and
- We have a system in place that has demonstrated over time, a consistent and progressive practice that supports the goal of achieving and maintaining Functional Zero.

The Motion passed unanimously.

- 9) **The Board Co-Chairs moved Item 9 – PSH report** up to this time in the Agenda to accommodate Sherri Brandon’s request. The Front Steps’ Project, St. Joseph Commons is about 20% completed; no delays are expected at this time, making October 2020 the expected completion time frame. Michael Doud of EDEN confirmed that Emerald Alliance XI is also progressing according to the proposed construction schedule and is expected to be completed in August 2020.

RETURNING TO THE STATED AGENDA:

2. **Bylaw Revisions – Governance Committee Discussion**

*Revising the Bylaws to more accurately reflect the CoC Committee structure and improve the transparency of the Executive Committee is the basis for the **proposed Bylaws** revisions passed out at the meeting. Abby Staudt, Board Co-Chair, will communicate with Board members who volunteer for the Governance Committee to identify a meeting date/time in January to discuss the amendments.*

3. **City of Cleveland Consolidated Plan – 5 Year Up Date, Michiel Wackers**

Michiel Wackers provided a description of the process and timeline to develop the City’s 10 Year Housing Plan. The City wants to meet with grantees and community persons as well as look at the existing data to understand the Housing Needs of the City. The City is committed to getting as much community input into the process as possible. Michiel provided a handout that explains what the Consolidated Plan is and the steps the City must accomplish in preparing the Plan to submit to HUD. The handout is attached to the Minutes.

4. **Right to Counsel at Eviction Hearing – Abby Staudt**

Right to Counsel at an Eviction Hearing in Cleveland Municipal Court will become available for low income families with a minor child. Abby Staudt, Legal Aid, explained how this initiative evolved, starting with the Sisters of Charity providing funding to research and develop the concept, to the City of Cleveland passing the ordinance. Having Counsel at an eviction action has been demonstrated to reduce both the number of evictions that are filed as well as significantly improve the permanent housing outcomes for the households.

5. **Opening EDEN Mainstream Vouchers Waiting List – Michael Doud**

A handout was provided at the meeting and is attached to the Minutes that describes how to apply for a Mainstream Voucher through EDEN. Mainstream Vouchers are targeted to non-

elderly persons who have a disability. This award further targets persons who are, or have been homeless, or who have left an institution. Please see the attached flyer for full details.

6. Supporting Partnerships for Anti-Racist Communities (SPARC) Training January 8th, 2020, Angela D’Orazio

The Sisters of Charity Foundation is sponsoring an opportunity for the community to increase our understanding of equity and homelessness on January 8th. The flyer is attached, and all are invited to respond to the invitation and register.

7. Coming Soon – New HMIS ! – Allison Gill

The Office of Homeless Services has conducted an RFP process to identify a Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) vendor for the community. Community HMIS users were included in the Vendor/Product review portion of the proposal selection process. Bitfocus was selected. Data migration, end user training and implementation will begin early in 2020. Thanks to all who participated in the product review process and evaluation !!!

8. RRH Report – Outcomes/Challenges

- a) Singles
- b) Youth
- c) Families

Please see attached RRH report, 1/01/19 – 10/31/19, for all populations. Key data points:

- *447 households received RRH assistance from January – October (10 months)*
- *This reflects a 23% increase in the number of HH served for the same time period in 2018*
- *The utilization rate increase is due to more single adults and single youth being referred*
- *The average length of time from when the Housing Locator meets the client to when the client is housed, for all programs, was 42.2 days. There was a very slight decrease from 2018.*

9. PSH Report – a) Front Steps; b) Emerald Alliance XI -Reported on Page 2 of the Minutes.

9.5 Housingcleveland.org – *Chris Knestrick had requested an opportunity to express his concern that the housingcleveland.org contract was not being continued into FY2020. Ruth explained the reasons that contributed to the decision: less money; unclear benefit to homeless persons in shelter; availability of Housing Locator staff for CoC clients seeking PH and PSH; availability of free apartment listings. The Advisory Board co-chair asked Chris if he would like to convene a group to discuss the issue further and explore other funding possibilities if the group so decided. Chris agreed that he would do this.*

10. Updates: *These items were not presented at the meeting because of time available.*

- a) Dedicated Case Management implementation**

FrontLine Service staff have outreached to each family shelter to explain how to access Client benefit status through a dedicated JFS contact. This streamlining of access to information on behalf of families in shelter is intended to increase shelter staff ability to develop a sustainable income strategy for the family while they are in shelter, that can be continued when the family moves back into the community.

b) Moving On Initiative

CMHA, the CoC, EDEN, FLS, and Enterprise Community Partners are working together to implement a process through which households currently receiving a long term subsidy with CoC funds, can be transitioned to a subsidy provided by a Housing Choice Voucher.

PLEASE NOTE THE OHS ADVISORY BOARD 2020 MEETING DATES:

Calendar for 2020 9:00 – 11:00 AM at the ADAMHS Board, 2012 W. 25th St.

**Third Thursday of January, March, May, July, September and November:
January 16th; March 19th; May 21st; July 16th; September 17th; November 19th**