

CoC Governing Board Meeting
Meeting Minutes
May 28, 2020
Approved 06.25.20

Call to Order:

The CoC Governing Board Meeting was held on May 28, 2020 via Zoom. It began at 2:01pm and was facilitated by Chair, Kathryn Firmin-Sellers with Branden Lewis taking minutes.

Attendees:

Board Members in attendance: Stacy Lowry, Warren Wooten, Kathryn Firmin-Sellers, Tchernavia Montgomery, Dennis LaCaria, Deronda Metz, Stephen McQueen, Patrick Hayes, Aleasha Eaves, Maya Marshall, Hope Marshall, Rodney Tucker, Anthony Ryback, Lashieka Hardin, Lily Haken, Sonia Jenkins, Timica Melvin

Board Members not in attendance: N/A

Guests in attendance: Jane Shutt (Pineville Neighbors Place), Megan Coffey (Mecklenburg County CSS), Courtney LaCaria (Mecklenburg County CSS), Mary Ann Priester (Mecklenburg County CSS), Kim Sanders (Mecklenburg County CSS), Shamika Agbeviade (Mecklenburg County CSS), Kecia Robinson (VA), Karen Pelletier (Mecklenburg County CSS), James Lee (Stan Greenspon Center for Peace and Social Justice), Patricia Bryant (Cardinal Innovations), Sabrina Love (ABCCM), Janeva Tucker (ABCCM), Donna Schultz (UWCC), Trish Hobson (The Relatives), Tara Peele (Social Serve), Rosalyn Allison-Jacobs, Steve Moeller (Veterans Bridge Home), Michele Richardson (Oxford House), Thomas Jacobs (Veterans Bridge Home)

- **Motion:** Approve the April meeting minutes. (Stephen McQueen made motion; Patrick Hayes -second)
None opposed

COVID-19 Response Updates:

Reports provided by Deronda Metz (Salvation Army Center of Hope, City's Housing Task Force Member), Stephen McQueen (Roof Above) and Karen Pelletier (Mecklenburg County CSS):

Deronda Metz: The Salvation Army Center of Hope shelter is still open. Very thankful that staff were tested and there were no positive cases. There has been only one positive case among shelter residents. Currently there are 174 residents in the shelter and 252 residents in hotels. Deronda is representing the CoC on the City's Recovery Housing Task Force. The task force is working on a plan for those that are facing evictions along with a plan for the homeless population during the pandemic. \$8 million will be going to Charlotte Mecklenburg Housing Partnership (CMPH) for rental and mortgage assistance and \$2 million will be going to Roof Above. At a future meeting, Deronda and Tara Peele (Social Serve) will be giving an update on the hotel eviction situation. Deronda would like to propose that the CoC Governing Board form a workgroup to help form ideas around the homeless population and housing needs. During today's Task Force Meeting, INVIVIAN did a presentation and informed the group that they were not getting any new money related to the CARES Act that would bring more vouchers in the community but rather funding that would fill the gap for rental assistance for residents who loss jobs due to COVID-19.

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Questions/Discussion:

Patrick: Is there a referral process for CMHP? Deronda stated that there is a referral packet that her staff currently use. Tara Peele (Social Serve) suggested that the old referral packet not be sent yet because it will most likely be updated for the new funding.

Stacy: Is it possible to get a list of properties that this funding can be used for? Tara (Social Serve) stated that she would work on getting a list.

Stephen McQueen: Urban Ministry Center/Men’s Shelter of Charlotte has a new name, Roof Above. Statesville location currently has 132 residents, Tryon location is at its same capacity. A tent city is forming around the College St. location. After surveying they found that most the of the tents are being used for storage and people aren’t living in them. Roof Above has rented dorms and are moving people into the dorms that are working with the hope to move them into permanent housing. They are currently utilizing two hotels in the community as well. PSH is still being pursued in the community.

Karen Pelletier: Mecklenburg County Community Support Services has taken the lead on a Hotel Eviction Prevention Project. The project, which started in March, is continuing to evolve. So far, the project has served over 900 individuals including 400 families. There has been a successful partnership with Social Serve who has been able to provide financial assistance including two-week hotel assistance along with upfront cost assistance for those who move into housing. The project is now seeing that clients are returning for additional assistance for their hotel stay. Many agencies in the community have partnered with this project to provide case management services to these clients.

Home 4 Good Homelessness to Housing Response Framework Proposal (presented by Courtney LaCaria/Mary Ann Priester):

Courtney LaCaria and Mary Ann Priester created a framework for our homeless system in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The framework template was created by the National Alliance to End Homelessness. The name Home 4 Good (H4G) will be used for the framework—this will be used to help people get into permanent housing for good and this will be for good---for the health and wellness of those being served.

There is a lot of funding coming into our community. The framework will help the community work together and plan for allocating the funding.

6 impact areas of the framework: 1. Coordinated Entry 2. Prevention 3. Unsheltered Homeless 4. Sheltered Homeless 5. Permanent Housing 6. Strengthening Systems

4 phases of the framework: 1. Immediate Actions 2. Short Term Actions 3. Medium Term Actions 4. Longer Term Actions---the framework outlines what actions should take place and what funding could be used in each phase---will apply racial equity lens to the entire process.

Two asks of the board: adopt the temporary housing prioritization policy and form a workgroup for H4G.

Questions/Discussion:

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Stacy: Is there a way we can get a chart to compare how we currently use the funding sources by impact area? Vs. What it can be used for? ---Courtney stated yes, she can put together a chart.

Kathryn: It seems like there is pressure to keep the shelter population sheltered/housed (shelter) and there is also the pressure of the June 1 eviction moratorium ending (prevention).

Tchernavia: Appreciate the equity woven in the framework; what is the timeline? Kathryn stated that she believes the timeline is short and long term.

Deronda: City ESG funds have been allocated to SACOH to help keep people in hotels. The newest round of City funds can be used for non-tax credit units as well. They hope to have the guidelines in place by June 12th and start the project on June 26th.

Lashieka: For the prevention piece, are we prioritizing/considering home foreclosures?

Warren: Yes, funds for mortgage assistance is available. The AMI requirement is 80% or below. The City is looking at what is the flexibility of other funding.

Deronda: What does prioritization look like?

Kathryn: Are there any concerns with the framework overall? Can we get together a group for this work with support from Erin and Branden? ---Yes (group agreed)

Coordinated Entry Oversight Committee (CEOC) Temporary Housing Prioritization Policy (presented by Mary Ann Priester):

Proposed temporary prioritization tool using COVID-19 vulnerability risk score and living situation. Document presented by Mary Ann Priester.

There is already a COVID-19 vulnerability tool built into HMIS.

Questions/Discussion:

Deronda: Who would monitor whether the tool is working or not? --Mary Ann stated that the CEOC would monitor and there would be weekly matching led by Megan Coffey (CE Supervisor).

Stephen: Is this how we are currently prioritizing for RRH? Mary Ann---yes. Stephen stated that we should remember that PSH case management is very different from RRH case management. Mary Ann stated yes, this is the importance of the case conferencing/matching meetings that will take place.

Deronda: Trying to figure out the reality of this and doesn't want to be put in a situation where it's a problem with hindering people with getting housed. We may need to do this differently, give more thought to this prioritization. Also, remember that families are different than singles.

Kathryn: How often would this be visited? Mary Ann—there will be a monthly evaluation at CEOC meetings to see if any adjustments need to be made.

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Warren: Was there any other feedback given on changes from other shelter providers? Erin---Stephanie Shatto (Roof Above) and Liz Clasen-Kelly (Roof Above) supported.

Deronda: Does not see much difference between this prioritization process compared to the previous prioritization process.

Courtney: This prioritization only applies to CoC and ESG funded programs. This does not impact other funding.

Tchernavia: Where does prevention fall in all of this? Courtney---this is only for literally homeless. Our system does not prioritize prevention yet.

Motion: Approve the temporary prioritization tool as proposed by CEOC.
None opposed.

Motion: Formation of a workgroup to oversee the work of the proposed framework. (Stephen made motion; Stacy second) None opposed.

Volunteers for the workgroup: Dennis, Stacy, Stephen, Deronda

Point in Time Count (presented by Courtney LaCaria):

The annual Point in Time count was held in January. This is where we get a snapshot of how many people are homeless in our community for one night. The Housing Inventory Count also takes place so that we are aware of our housing capacity.

PIT/HIC submission impacts HUD dollars for our community.

The HMIS team reviews the data for accuracy prior to the final submission.

Questions/Discussion:

Stephen: Can we see the numbers before they are submitted? Courtney---we have not done that in the past and do not plan to do so.

Motion: Approve the process by which the CoC conducts the Point in Time Count and the process by which it is submitted to HUD. (Patrick made motion; Tchernavia second)

Membership/Nominating Committee (Erin Nixon)

The Membership/Nominating Committee held its first meeting on May 15th. The committee composition and structure document was reviewed. The committee will meet as needed. The first task of the committee will be to fill the vacant board seats.

Motion: Approve the Membership/Nominating Committee composition and structure as presented. (Deronda made motion; Stephen second) No objections.

Equity and Inclusion Committee (Branden Lewis)

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The Equity and Inclusion Committee held its first meeting on May 14th. The committee composition and structure document was reviewed. The committee will meet on a monthly basis.

Motion: Approve the Equity and Inclusion Committee composition and structure as presented. (Deronda made motion; Stephen second) No objections.

Other Business:

CoC Website agenda item will be shared via email.

Next meeting: June 25, 2020 2:00pm-4:00pm (Location TBD)

Meeting adjourned at 3:57pm (Stephen moved; Deronda second)

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