



Continuum of Care Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

5/18/2023

11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Attendance:

Board Members: Laura Golino de Lavato, Patrick Reynolds, Brandi Tuck, Drew Grabham, Ian Slingerland, Mark Morford, Sherelle Jackson, Katie Cox, Jessica Harper, Xenia Gonzalez, Elise Cordle Kennedy, Jamar Summerfield, Hannah Studer, Stuart Zeltzer, Amanda Esquive
[Absent – Cammisha Manley, Christina McGovney, Jennifer Chang, Justin Barrieault, Lizzie Cisneros]

JOHS & County Staff: Alyssa Plessner, Bill Boyd, Malka Geffen, Caitlin Capbell

Special Guests: Matt Olsson and Patrick Wigmore (Homebase)

Agenda Item	Discussion Points	Decision/Action
Opening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land & Labor Acknowledgment Review Community Agreements Review Agenda 	
Action: Family Unification Program Vouchers Approval	<p>Ian Slingerland (Home Forward) presented to the CoC Board an opportunity for the County to apply for 75 family unification program vouchers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eligibility for this kind of housing choice voucher is for families who have child welfare involvement and housing is either a necessary component to reunification of the kids with the parents or housing is necessary to preserve the family and to prevent kids from being removed from the household. The other category is for youth 18 to 24 who had a history of engagement with the foster care system and are now either experiencing housing instability or homelessness – referrals for both populations come to us directly from our participating child welfare agency, which is the Oregon Department of Human Services District 2 Child Welfare Division. Youth are also identified through screening through the Homeless Youth Continuum for the coordinated entry for the youth system in our continuum. There's a committee that includes folks from the Homeless Youth Continuum, Home Forward, and DCHS that identify folks eligible for the youth HUD vouchers. Home Forward currently has 244 family unification program vouchers and so this is an opportunity to apply to increase the number 	

	<p>that we have to serve families and use them in our community. One of the things that is required as part of the competitive NOFO process is that there is an MOU that is signed by, at a minimum, the Housing Authority/Home Forward, the participating child welfare agency/DHS District 2 and the Continuum of Care. HUD's interest in an MOU that includes the CoC is primarily around the youth side and ensuring there's a process by which youth are identified through coordinated access and assisted with housing. To be successful with these competitive applications, the Housing Authority has to document through the MOU a commitment to provide aligned support services: both housing search and retention services, and case management services for both families and youth. The commitment to fund those services happens on the youth side through JOHS and on the family side historically through Multco's Youth and Family Services. For these 75 vouchers, DHS is actually committed to fund the additional services for these families, using the same set of providers.</p> <p>Q: Can you comment on the ability to meet the CoC's responsibilities before we vote on it?</p> <p>A: This is language in our existing MOU that we're currently meeting and it shouldn't be an issue.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Caitlyn Campbell, who supports our Youth Coordinated Access System, told the Board that the Joint Office has committed to providing the supportive services that go along with these vouchers because it's an awesome resource for youth and for families as well; so that's an ongoing commitment from our end. - Ian added that HUD's Foster to Independence program is only for three years of voucher assistance, with the ability to extend for a couple of additional years. Home Forward has established a local preference, so that once they use all their eligibility through the youth voucher, they can transition to a traditional housing choice voucher because we recognize that the the difference between income and rents is such here in our community that expecting youth with experience in the foster care system to shift from homelessness to housing stability and five years is unreasonable. <p>Co-chair called for a fist-to-five vote: all 5s; two abstained.</p> <p>Board member moved that the CoC Board approve the application for this NOFO; another Board member seconded. The motion passed.</p>	
Emergency Solutions Grant Board Certification	<p>Caitlin Campbell, senior program specialist and State work plan liaison, shared some details around the state funds related to the emergency solutions grant (ESG).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - OHCS gives funding to DCHS as the main gatekeeper and then DCHS gives the Joint Office funds to provide homeless services. JOHS uses ESG funds to help fund the shelter operations at 	

	<p>Path Home's Family Village Shelter.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We need the CoC Board to approve the ESG activities in order to submit the State work plan. It's signing off on what we've been doing already. - Path Home's Village Shelter operates for 17 families at a time. We're on track to serve 70 families in shelter by the end of the fiscal year. Over 90% will have moved into housing by the end of the year. The average length of shelter stay is 87 days. 56% of people in shelter are children; 70% of parents are employed; 73% of clients are BIPOC. <p>Q: What is your harm reduction policy for people living in the shelter? A: We are a low barrier shelter, so there is no drug testing; we welcome all family types and pets, and we use the coordinated entry list, which has 800 families on it. The only requirements are that you identify as a family, including children under 18, and you are homeless.</p> <p>Q: What do services for transgender folks in families look like? A: All are welcome. We've had kids who are transitioning. Our staff is very diverse; 55% of our staff is BIPOC, 47% identify as LGBTQ, 37% have experienced homelessness.</p> <p>Q: What does it look like after families are housed? A: While in shelter, families have a peer support specialist and a housing specialist case manager, who stays with them once in permanent housing, for as long as needed (usually around a year). We provide a year or so of rent assistance and intensive case management (mobile). Two years after services about 90% of our families are still in permanent housing.</p> <p>Q: What's the rate of people coming in and out? A: Between three shelters, we serve about 200 families per year; 10 nonprofits do rapid rehousing, so many families go straight from the list to housing. Each year, about 500 families come off the list; a family may be on the list for a year or more. Oregon has the highest number of unsheltered families of any state in the country; Portland has the second highest of any large metro area.</p> <p>Co-Chair moved that the Board vote fist-to-five to approve. All 5s and two abstained. The motion passed.</p>	
Collaborative Application Committee Update	<p>CAC member shared with the Board the changes that the Committee has made to the application process. See 5/18 presentation slides 8-16. <u>Discussion</u></p> <p>Priority Populations (slide 11)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We looked at maximizing the amount of points awarded by HUD as well as what populations were not included. • CoC Lead: For context, Priority Populations is worth 5 out of 90 points for renewal projects, with the formula of all of the participants who meet one or more of these categories as the numerator and the denominator is all participants in the program, with points then assigned based on the percentage (scoring scaled). • It took several meetings and a special meeting to discuss and 	

	<p>come to a decision.</p> <p>PSH Retention in Program/Positive Exit (slide 13)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A big sticking point was the definition of "retention" here. • Q: What's the variance in services provided based on the point system? A: below a certain point it's not certain which returning applicants will get funding. CoC Lead: HUD requires we rate and then rank the project; CAC has ultimate deciding authority in what the ranking looks like. Lower ranked projects are less secure in their funding. The CAC also rates and ranks new projects when HUD releases bonus funds. In the end, we turn into HUD a ranked list of projects that are rated based on our local competition; HUD looks at how we run our local competition, and that's part of our score as well. • Q: How will we determine if someone returns to homeless services and where will this data be pulled and verified? A: By whether they show back up in the homeless services sector. It's imperfect data because if someone returns to homelessness but not to services it is assumed they are still in housing. <p>Reallocation (slides 14-16)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CoC Lead: CAC's intention is to meet HUD's requirements but not meant to be punitive – meant to be collaborative to ensure programs get the support needed to run as HUD expects and supports our overall system performance. • There was much discussion about how we are supporting providers. 	
Preliminary PIT Count Numbers	<p>CoC Lead shared highlights of preliminary PIT count numbers. See 5.18 presentation slide 18.</p> <p>Homeless Research & Action Collaborative at PSU led the tri-County process and will come out with more data later in the year.</p>	
Finalization of CoC Board Action Plan	<p>Home Base & CoC Lead presented the draft CoC 2023 Action Plan. See 5/18 presentation slides 20-26</p> <p><u>Discussion</u></p> <p>Co-Chair said it would be good to confirm that the draft looks like what the Board wants.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q: In strategy 2, action step 1a, the word "bottleneck" isn't clear in this context. Are we talking about impediments to solving particular issues or underlying/contributing factors? Maybe we need a better word or description of what we mean. Co-Chair: I think it's an important point to clarify. Home Base: Board approval will be needed for the approach of this strategy, and the Lead or Co-Lead could think through what the Board was aiming for here. • Q: Are we looking to get Board approval of this as a draft today? A: The hope was that we use the time to dig into questions people have about the draft, and this becomes the action plan, and that the Board can move forward toward 	

	<p>implementation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Co-Chair: There should be no pressure to approve it today. ● Board took a 5-minute break to review the draft. ● I suggest focusing on the topic of voicing our opinion as a CoC to the community and replacing current wording with "develop guiding principles for the CoC's voice to the community." ● Co-Chair asked if people were ready to vote on the draft as the final plan. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Second Co-Chair added that since the draft will dictate how we interact for a pretty long time, we should make sure these are the right initiatives. ○ Board member: What do people need to provide feedback and/or vote? ○ Board member: Generally comfortable with most of this, but I do have some concern about how advocacy interacts with jurisdictional partners. ○ Home Base: This is a working draft. ○ Board member: I would vote today to make it a live document. ● Board member said they cannot understand what strategy 2 is about, and it has generic action steps. They don't understand what "bottleneck" is intended to mean. Suggested strategy: Understand factors contributing to homelessness in the community and impediments to permanent housing solutions for families and individuals experiencing homelessness, ● Board member said they prefer keeping it as "a voice" and not "the voice" and would like to hear from members who were at the ad hoc meeting. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Patrick (Home Base) suggested evaluating the strategy in a year. ● Q: How is a living document updated? A: usually biannually, to list outcomes when a task is completed or to change direction. ● We're not talking about a never ending edit but taking time for refinement. ● Working groups will wordsmith the list of possible solutions; however, we need to get the high-level strategy statements right. It doesn't make sense to improve a document and then say but we're going to edit it and then do a final approval. We should take one meeting cycle to get strategy statements refined; let's give folks the opportunity to provide input over the next week on the strategy statements and the how would you measure success statements, and then finalize so working groups have clear direction. ● It seems like this document talks about what we do when we're not working on the HUD-based requirements (HMIS & application). First let's make sure we have enough time and bandwidth for these activities, and second, are these action plans already duplicated in our committee work. If this is 	
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	<p>something we're assigning to the CAC (and is something we already do), then do we need it in our action plan? These look like great opportunities for us to learn about our comm., in addition to working on advocating for marginalized communities within our funding stream.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● CoC Lead: while it is the charge of the CAC, it did come up in brainstorming of priorities and then as a top priority. So even though someone is tackling this, we put it here to articulate that as a work priority. This is a foundational document, as this is an iteration of the Board, and so reaffirming it as a Board priority and this Board wants carried over. ● If this document is going to encompass all of our work, then it should include the HMIS management. If this is the core document by which future iterations work, then should we add in our core function? ● Co-Chair: Let's take a vote on who's comfortable voting to approve this as a living responsive document today. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Fist-to-five yielded one 2 vote. ● CoC Lead: I need to double check our governance charter, but maybe we could give folks an additional week to review and submit comments, I can incorporate them, and then we can vote over email, which would be included in public notes. Folks are wanting the measurable outcomes and strategy statements reworded. We can also save the vote for the next Board meeting. ● An email is a good idea, so we can see what suggestions people have (use Reply All to submit comments). ● Board gave thumbs up to this suggestion. 	
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