

Chicago Planning Council on Homelessness

MINUTES

DATE: DECEMBER 18, 2013 START TIME: 9:31 AM

REVISED: NO

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY	Richard Rowe – Chair
NOTE TAKER	Kathleen Molnar
ATTENDEES	<p>Members Present: Sherri Allen Reeves, Connie Bacon, Arturo Bendixen, Katharine Booton Wilson, Nonie Brennan, John Cheney-Egan, Randall Doubet King, Fred Friedman, Felix Matlock, Audalee McLoughlin, Khen Nickele, John Pfeiffer, Ellen Ray, Richard Rowe, Erin Ryan, Ed Stellon, Gwendolyn Turner, Ray Willis, and Dorothy Yancy.</p> <p>Alternates Present: Amber Damerow (for Molly Burke), David Esposito, Candace Bodie (for Luz Hein), Jolene Saul (for Mary Howard), Becki Martello (for David Granberry), Maura McCauley, Sabrina Washington-Christmas (for Audalee McLaughlin), Abi Peterman (for Cary Steinbuck), Tathia K. Smalling, and Larry Smith (for Dennis Flint).</p> <p>Guests: Christine Haley, Jackie Edens, Richard Ductanzeiler, Debbie Culpepper, Mindy Taylor, Margaret Djekovic, Alicia Burton, Sandy Ramsey, Michael Banghart, Sterling Gildersleeve, Elizabeth White, Susan Reyna-Guerreo.</p> <p>Chicago Alliance Staff: Sherise Alexander, Lisa Mayse-Lillig, and Kathleen Molnar.</p>
ABSENT	Absent without an alternate: Debbie Reznick and Jim Lewis (neither has an alternate).
QUORUM?	Yes

Agenda topics:

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS	Richard called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Richard asked everyone present to introduce themselves and state who they represent. Richard Rowe noted that he contracts with A Safe Haven Foundation to provide substance abuse services. Fred Friedman also noted that he is on the Board of Thresholds which stands to be impacted by votes in today's meeting.
REVIEW OF AGENDA AND MINUTES	<p>The minutes from the October meeting were amended to change Russell LeBlanc from present to absent. The vote to approve the minutes with this revision passed with 1 abstention.</p> <p>The agenda was approved as written.</p>
PROGRAM MODELS CHART	Lisa gave a brief update on what the SPGTG group has been working on as they prepare a revision of the Program Models Chart. She thanked everyone who has been working on this task.
CRS UPDATE	Christine Haley from CSH gave an update on CRS. She is pleased to announce that Catholic Charities has taken on the role of CRS Managing Entity. Official notice will go out that CSH is no longer managing CRS. They will still be helping with the implementation of CRS by leading the CRS Advisory group. Christine directed people to the handout showing which agencies have attended CRS training, signed a MOU, and/or have a CRS user ID. The list does not reflect another 20 people who are attending training later today. 63% of agencies have attended trainings, 50% of agencies have signed a MOU, but the goal of at least 50% of the units pulling from CRS has not yet been met. Christine anticipates making the 6/30/14 deadline of having 100% of units using CRS.
COORDINATED ACCESS UPDATE	Maura and Nicole were scheduled to present on Coordinated Access last month but there wasn't enough time in the meeting to do so. Their report was distributed with the materials for the October meeting and Maura handed out a one-pager today. The group has been meeting every 3 weeks since the spring. Maura thanked the Co-chairs of the group, Sanja Stinson and Becki Martello and encouraged them to add any comments they had. Ideally they want to have 4 access points for services/housing: mobile outreach (for the most vulnerable), in person, phone, and internet/web. They've been trying to address issues like closing side doors to accessing programs, diversion, and assessment tools (looking at other options around the county via our TA providers). August and September were used to collect feedback from constituency groups and an open feedback group was also held. There is a plan to have a draft assessment to share with this group in the spring/summer.
DFSS AND CAEH	Nonie and John announced the news that we are doing a full unsheltered PIT count on January 22 2014

UPDATE	<p>from 8pm-2am. Through a generous grant from the VA Chicago is able to conduct back to back counts which will provide more timely data than an every other year count. DFSS and the CAEH will be working closely together on this project along with the lead agencies. The grant has allowed us to hire a consultant, starting 12/22/13, to help coordinate the project. Many volunteers will be needed and anyone interested should email homelesscount@cityofchicago.org. There will be 2 trainings sessions (at 1pm and 5pm) on 1/17/14.</p> <p>The RFP for the new Homeward Bound project (formerly Street to Home Initiative) was released last Friday and there is a bidders conference coming up for anyone who is interested (details are available online and in the materials emailed out with the RFP).</p>
YOUTH VULNERABILITY INDEX AND CRS RECOMMENDATIONS	<p>Flora explained the history of how a group of youth providers began to explore how to measure youth vulnerability. The Vulnerability Index (VI) for single adults measures risk of death, the VI for families measures the risk of family disintegration, and the proposal is that the VI for youth will measure the risk of long-term homelessness. Per Mark the group has talked with Jamie Ewing at CSH about the logistics of creating a 3rd list (single adults, families, and youth) which would be seamless for the end user. There was a question about people above 18 y/o: can they be on both the single adult list and the youth list? There was a question about how applicable a tool developed in CA will be to Chicago. The recommendation is that we pilot the tool via the same process we have used for the single adults and the families.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Adopt a Youth Vulnerability Index which has been piloted in CA 2. Single adult housing providers 3. CRS would pull up the top 30 names..... <p>There was some discussion about the fact that the recommendations didn't go out to the group so members didn't have the opportunity to see what they are being asked to vote on. The presenters didn't realize that the recommendations had not been sent out for review so they will share those so a vote can be taken at the February 2014 meeting. Christine also asked that people send any questions about the recommendations in advance so they can answer them or come prepared to answer them.</p>
GOVERNANCE AND STRUCTURE	<p>Tony Mastracci gave a brief update on the kind of work the Governance and Structure group has been addressing. A much more detailed update will be coming in the future. They've looked at the mission, goals and values of the CoC and these items have already been before this group. In June 2014 the group will ask the Planning Council to approve the charter which has been developed. There was a question about the different kinds of members/memberships and how dues will work. Consumers will be able to vote without the expectation of paying dues.</p>
HUD LOCAL UPDATE	<p>Ray Willis gave a brief update. About 300 people attended the Peer to Peer conference this fall. HUD local has been providing 1 day trainings on how to manage contracts and 2 day trainings for local governments. He is looking into ways to share the data HUD collects about the services provided and the funds spent. They are also looking at economic development and anti-poverty efforts in various jurisdictions around the state.</p>
NEW PROJECT SELECTION PANEL	<p>Perry Vietti of the panel gave the report from the group. A report from the group was also sent out with the materials for the meeting. He explained the history of the group and the duties they have been responsible for in previous years when they have taken on the responsibility of selecting bonus projects. There were questions from Fred and Richard about why the Selection Panel did not follow the recommendations of the Planning Council. Perry responded that the Panel conducted a thoughtful, 4 month process for the 2012 new/ bonus projects. Betsy and Khen, members of the Panel, spoke about the conversations the group had when they met. There were additional questions from the membership about the process.</p>
HEARTH FOTG RECOMMENDATIONS	<p>Lisa gave a brief NOFA summary for anyone who has not yet read it. Chicago's response is due to HUD on 2/3/14. This is a 2 year application so any decisions we make will impact our funding for 2 years. There will be separate funding priority lists (ranking) for each year but the score Chicago receives will stand for both years, meaning we need to maximize our performance this year. HUD is focusing their scoring of CoCs on how well they are aligned with the priorities of "Opening Doors" and the number one priority of this plan is ending chronic homelessness by 2015. 5% of CoC funding needs to go into Tier II (HUD still has not released the confirmed total for Chicago). Last year we were extremely lucky and Tier II was funded but we have been</p>

told not to expect this to happen again and to prepare for Tier II not to be funded. We, as a community, need to respond to HUD on a number of issues (ex. 85% of beds need to be dedicated to chronic homelessness and we need to explain how we do this or how we will do this) and Lisa is looking for volunteers to help develop our response to HUD so this is not written by the Alliance. There was a question about how the budget legislation which just passed will impact what we've been told about cuts due to sequestration. Per John there is \$63b in sequestration relief in the budget which passed but Randall commented that some of the funds we're discussing are for 2013 so they will not be impacted by any improvement.

Richard talked about the work of the HEARTH FOTG and the difficult conversations which have taken place around trying to address the need to put 5% of the projects in Tier II. The recommendation from the HEARTH FOTG is to rank all the SSOs in Tier II (even though 1% of SSOs will still be in Tier I so the CoC will not be eligible for the 2 bonus points HUD is offering for putting all the CoCs SSOs in Tier II). John raised the concern that the recommendation from the group does not secure the bonus points for getting all the SSOs in Tier 2.

Art made a motion, which was seconded, to split three items from the HEARTH FOTG into 3 separate recommendations:

1. Chicago CoC Ranking Order
2. Additional Criteria Used for Ranking
3. Proposed Resolution (to form a task group)

This passed with 21 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 1 abstention.

Ellen Ray made a motion, which was seconded, to present the Service Providers Commission Executive Committee's Alternative Recommendation alternate proposal :

1. Alternative ranking policies (as detailed in the handout).
2. That the SSOs in Tier II be ranked on evaluation scores and "additional criteria used for ranking" from the HEARTH FOTG only be used as a tie breaker.
3. Add language to the final paragraph of the HEARTH FOTG proposed resolution to read "The HEARTH FOTG recommends the PC establish a task group to investigate and provide a June 2014 report on ACTION STRATEGIES to access NEW service dollars for our Chicago homeless programs".

Richard asked for people to alternately speak for and against Ellen's motion. Examples of the concerns raised include: housing will be unsuccessful without SSO support for consumers, and Chicago has a plan to end homelessness which prioritizes housing and HUD has been sending the message that SSOs are no longer a funding priority. There was a motion, which was seconded, to call the question without further discussion. There were only **2 votes in favor of the motion** with the vast majority of members voting against it so it did not pass.

Conversation continued with several clarifying questions about what various scenarios mean for Chicago. Khen spoke against both recommendations from the HEARTH FOTG and the Service Providers Executive Committee. Susan spoke about the impact of cuts especially following DFSS funding cuts, saying many SSOs would not be able to continue to provide services if they are not funded. The question was called. The vote was as follows: **6 in favor, 10 against, and 5 abstentions**. The alternate recommendations from the SPEC did not pass.

A vote was taken on recommendation #1 of the HEARTH FOTG. **The vote resulted in a tie of 9 in favor and 9 against with 3 abstentions. Richard as Chair, voted in favor of the recommendations so it passed.**

Discussion opened on #2. John Chaney Egan raised the question of how to keep outreach and mobile assessment in our system. There were questions of how the evaluation instrument plays a role in this process. There was a question about how geography will be used for SSOs since their official location might be in one community but they might provide services all over the city. The impact of cuts to employment

	<p>programs and how this may negatively impact scores on questions about increasing employment and employment income was raised. The question was called and it was unanimously approved.</p> <p>Vote on #2 of SPEC recommendations: Y 9, N 11, A 2</p> <p>Vote on #2 HEARTH FOTG: Y 16, N 5, A 1</p> <p>#3-The HEARTH FOTG accepted a friendly amendment of 3 words to their 3rd recommendation. This motion passed with 21 yes votes, 1 no vote, and 0 abstentions.</p>	
ANNOUNCEMENTS	<p>Nonie thanked Richard Rowe for a great year of leadership of the Planning Council!</p> <p>John Chaney Egan announced that the state now has a group working on homelessness statewide and a plan to end homelessness. The Mayor’s task force on youth homelessness is close to putting out a handbook on locating housing.</p> <p>Sandi Murray of the Homelessness Prevention Call Center announced that the HMIS Committee is looking for new members in 2014. You don’t have to be a “techno nerd” to contribute to this group, just interested in how we collect and use our data.</p> <p>Richard thanked Lisa Mayse-Lillig for jumping in and taking on her new responsibilities so well.</p>	
ADJOURNMENT:	MINUTES SUBMITTED BY:	APPROVED BY:
Adjourned at 12:25pm	Kathleen Molnar	