

Continuum of Care Board

December 18, 2019

Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 3:30 PM.

Attendance

- **Board Members Present:** Joe Ader, Chrystal Alderman, Dale Briese, Angela Chapman, Tim Crowley, Teresa Michielli, Sally Pritchard, Jan Simpson, Pam Tietz, Shannon Boniface, Mark Mattke, Erik Larson, Edie Rice Sauer, David Singley, Arne Woodard, Robert Lipman
- **Staff Present:** Tija Danzig, Matt Davis, Tim Sigler, Niki Madunich, David Lewis, Becky Tuno
- **Guests Present:** Dawn Kinder, Sharon Stadelman, Nick Drake, Ami Manning, Morgan Koudelka, Arielle Anderson, Jennifer Martin, John Kroll

Introductions

Attendees went around the table and introduced themselves.

Approval of the Consent Agenda:

Before approval of November Board Meeting Minutes, Mark Mattke requests correction to his name listed as Mark Messia.

Motion to approve the November Board Meeting Minutes, Board Agenda and Written Committee Reports with correction made by CoC Board Member Edie Rice Sauer and seconded by CoC Board Member Arne Woodard.

- MEETING SUMMARY APPROVED

City of Spokane Report

Tija Danzig provided the following information regarding the upcoming 2020 Point in Time (PIT) Count:

- The 2020 PIT Count will occur on January 23 and is being spearheaded by city staff member Jenna Collins.
- This year's approach is slightly parred down. Donation drives will only be accepting items for care bags, to include personal hygiene items, granola bars, and water bottles as well as hats, gloves, socks and scarves. The goal is to be prepared to distribute 1300. Donation boxes are being placed throughout the community this week.
- To promote the PIT efforts and encourage participation the city has been posting blog posts for each subcommittee population; thus far the Veteran blog post is up and soon a Youth post will be added. Each blog includes links for additional information on service providers, community involvement opportunities and donation opportunities throughout the community.
- This year survey questions asked during the PIT will only include HUD required questions. This approach allows the focus of the community to be redirected to the superior data already being collected in the HMIS system and allows the PIT count to be understood for its true intention as a snapshot on one given night. A

specific question being cut from the account centers on the reasons for individual homelessness, but it's important to understand that this information is being collected by Coordinated Entry (CE). Data collected in expanded PIT questions tended to be less uniform and more inconsistent than data collected every day by CE. The data entered from CE is more robust and higher quality. No information is being lost long term, this switch will hopefully lead to a deeper understanding community-wide of the entire response system, rather than emphasizing the PIT count.

- The Youth Subcommittee is organizing youth-specific events around the community to encourage greater participation amongst that population. There is also a Spokane Valley event aimed at expanding county-wide count efforts.
- Volunteer recruitment is ongoing and registration portal is live. Board members are encouraged to volunteer!

Becky Tuno provided the following information regarding the upcoming Veteran Stand Down, a 2020 PIT Event:

- This is the second veteran specific event held during the PIT count. This year's event is an official Stand Down and is expected to be much larger than last year's effort. The event planning committee has organized an entire program including speakers throughout the day.
- The Stand Down is scheduled for January 25 at the West Central Community Center from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm.
- Vendor space for service providers is maxed out and donations received thus far exceed \$3,000.
- Attendee targeted communications are beginning shortly which will provide additional information.

Time Sigler provided the following information:

- Quarterly HMIS reports will be sent out to highlight data quality, as required by the five year plan.
- Capacity is available throughout shelter system with the exception of family population; Family Promise has been consistently at-capacity. Catholic Charities should have overflow family shelter up and running at the Rising Strong campus within 48 hours. Overflow families will check in at Family Promise and be transported to overflow space.
- The current shelter availability system (211) is not working, but nightly reports are being sent to SPD, CHHS and EMS providers.
- HMIS and IT are working together on an external-facing display of the current shelter capacity reporting. The project has two phases: phase one will be a public-facing site relaying information about the previous 24 hour shelter bed availability, phase two is to create a real-time report. Phase one is close to being up and running, once posted it can be continually refined through phase two completion.
- HMIS does not currently track shelter refusals, issue merits further discussion.

- Mayor Elect has appointed Tija Danzig as Senior Manager of the CHHS department and Tim Sigler as Director. Tija's vacated Homeless Program Manager position will be posted both internally and externally.

Mark Mattke provided the following information regarding the recently awarded Resource Center grant:

- \$1.7 million grant will be used to staff navigators at the Spokane Resource Center. Grant funds are an important investment to bolster the model, utilization and services delivered at the center.
- Navigators will work specifically with SNAP recipients in an attempt to get participants to reach 200% of the poverty level. The program aims for 250 successful participants.
- Program will provide training to employment and a sustainable path to financial stability.
- Pioneer Human Services has received an additional \$1.5 million grant for services at the center.

Spokane County Report:

Tim Crowley provided the following information:

- The Advisory Committee held an allocation night with RFP submitting organizations and the Board of County Commissioners approved the recommended \$4 million for sustaining shelters and others like the new application submitted by City of Spokane.
- Allocation night was a new process for the committee, typically had been given packets but having applicants present worked well so that questions could be asked and answered immediately. There was also a new application and rating system used.
- Workforce Council staff will be in contact with approved grant applicants to gather information in order to have contracts ready by the end of January. The Council will also go over perception and expectations of the scope of work and reporting requirements so that there are clear understandings on both sides, leading to an overall successful RFP.
- The city application received was for a targeted capacity shelter with a five year commitment ask, well outside the standard 18 month commitment for other applicants. This was the city's first application to the county's RFP.
- Getting ready to submit CDBG to Advisory Committee to evaluate budgets and hopefully have a new RFP for Affordable Housing/Rehab Acquisitions ready for spring.

City of Spokane Valley Report:

Arne Woodard provided the following information:

- Spokane Valley is unsure if they can support and sustain a five year commitment for funding from the City for the targeted regional shelter, 18 months is typical standard and can be committed.

- The City of Spokane Valley needs assurance that they will be able to start coping with their camping and homeless populations which will require additional information such as who is experiencing homelessness, how many are there, do they want services and if so, what kind?
- Applicants for RFP funds should submit more detailed proposals, many received this round were vague and without personal knowledge of projects, would have been unable to evaluate solely on what was submitted.
- The targeted regional shelter is important because there are private dollars wrapped into it, not just public funds. Demonstrable results will lead to more private funding.

Board Recruitment and Nomination Update

CoC Board Chair Pam Tietz provided an update as to the current board recruitment and nomination progress which will be prioritized in January. There is a current need for both youth and veteran lived experience board members. The Board will also need to rotate the homeless services and homeless coalition seats.

Action Items

Review and Approve Built for Zero Initiative

City Staff member Matt Davis presented Built for Zero (BFZ) initiative to the board. Built for Zero is a Community Solutions program that seeks to end chronic and veteran homelessness. Community Solutions has partnered with Kaiser Permanente and invited Spokane to participate in their program which includes targeted technical assistance to build out community and data infrastructure for system improvement projects, including a by-name list.

The ACI statewide initiative to end youth homelessness already utilizes the framework of BFZ, so some resources are already in place or in process. So far, 42 communities have achieved a measurable reduction in targeted homelessness populations, 10 have ended veteran homelessness and three have ended chronic homelessness.

BFZ will provide a consultant who will work with separate leadership teams for veteran and chronic homelessness subcommittees and stakeholders within the community to facilitate cross-community communication with other program participants.

Costs associated with the BFZ program would be paid by Kaiser. The interest of private funders in CoC Board activities may be useful, moving forward, to mold perspective and strategically plan funding, as private funders have more flexibility. The RFP Funding Committee has discussed recruiting members who are private funders.

Motion to approve participation in the Built For Zero Initiative with Community Solutions and Kaiser Permanente made by CoC Board Member Joe Ader and seconded by Sally Pritchard.

- INITIATIVE PARTICIPATION APPROVED

Review and Approve Homeless Families Coordinated Assessment Proposal

CoC Board Member Shannon Boniface presented a proposal from the family subcommittee to adjust the youth referral prioritization rate. For background, in November Catholic Charities made changes to the rapid rehousing (RRH) program so that they are working with referred families for longer periods of time. As a result, less referrals are pulled each month and this is causing nearly all of the pulled referrals to be youth-led families. Youth-led families make up about 17% of the referral pool which makes the current rate of nearly 100%, an overrepresentation. In order to be more equitable amongst that referral pool, proposal is for youth prioritization to be 25% of total referrals pulled each month.

Motion to approve proposed youth prioritization rate of 25% made by CoC Board Member Arne Woodard and seconded by Angela Chapman.

- **PRIORITIZATION PROPOSAL APPROVED**

Appointment of AdHoc Member to Community Housing and Human Services Board

The Community Housing and Human Services (CHHS) Board has requested that the CoC board appoint a board member to attend monthly meetings. The CHHS Board meets the first Tuesday of every month from 4pm-6pm (no January meeting). Mutual board attendance will facilitate cross-board communication and enable mutual discussion. CoC board member Jan Simpson will attend CHHS Board meetings moving forward.

Appointment of Workgroup Chair for Moving-On Strategy Development

There is a need for a workgroup chair to head strategy development for the Moving On strategy. The Moving on Strategy is important for two reasons: first, CoC funding application gives points for established permanent supportive housing (PSH) strategy and second, Spokane cannot build itself out of its issues and will need to better utilize the resources available in order to help those who are ready to move on from transitional housing (TH) into PSH.

There are already project-based vouchers that can be turned into tenant-based vouchers when participants are ready to move on, which is a head start for the Moving On strategy. It's important that the Chair on this project have extensive PSH and case management strategy knowledge as the goal is to standardize practices across all PSH units. Other Moving-On workgroup participants should have an understanding of the gap between income and benefits.

Board will ask CoC Board Member Fawn Schott (not in attendance) to handle workgroup chair responsibilities.

Announcements and Updates:

SHA has applied for 75 additional vouchers for a family unification program. Vouchers received will go to those aging out of foster care or to system involved families.

Edie is taking a group to Housing Advocacy Days in February. The trip is overnight and will cost participants \$10. Ideal candidates include staff, volunteers or program

involved.

Transitions is working with the West Central Development Project to help campers and homeless currently at the Cottages learn to tell their story and be empowered. Eventually this could be a system-wide training.

The Spokane Regional Health District (SRHD) has data suggesting the Hepatitis A outbreak is on the decline. So far the outbreak has effected 70 people in the community and caused two deaths. The outbreak is statewide but is concentrated in Spokane County. The SRHD has given 1800 vaccinations since September and 110 clinics since June. The SRHD seeks input or guidance as to their role in the CoC.

Meeting adjourned at 4:50 PM.

The next CoC Board Meeting is scheduled for January 22, 2019.