

Continuum of Care Board

February 26, 2020

Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 3:38 PM.

Attendance

- **Board Members Present:** Chrystal Alderman, Dale Brieze, Jan Simpson, Pam Tietz, Shannon Boniface, Robert Lippman, Jennifer Haynes, Sally Pritchard, Tim Crowley
- **Staff Present:** Tim Sigler, Niki Madunich, Becky Tuno, Matt Davis
- **Guests Present:** Bridget Cannon, Arielle Anderson, Steven Cash, Meg Morrison, Morgan Koudelka, Heather Thomas-Taylor, Kristine Williams, Naaman Griffin, Andrey Mozychenko, Billie Milliken, Sharon Stadelman

Introductions

Attendees went around the table and introduced themselves.

Request for Presenters/Panel Members for Upcoming Events:

CoC board Chair Pam Tietz asked for volunteers to attend two events where organizers have requested CoC Board participation. The first request came from the Spokane Homeless Coalition. Coalition president and CoC Board Member Robert Lippman would like to foster greater awareness and understanding of the CoC within the Coalition. To that end, CoC Board members are invited to attend the March meeting of the Coalition for a 20-30 minute interview panel at the Gathering House on March 5 from 9:00 am to 10:00 am. The stakeholder position currently held by the Coalition on the CoC board is a requirement of the Department of Commerce so engaging with the Coalition and maintaining that relationship is important. The focus of the interview will be on learning and education. CoC Board Members Dale Brieze, Pam Tietz and Tim Crowley will attend.

The second request for CoC participation came from Leadership Spokane who request a 40 minute presentation to education on the work of the CoC Board. The event will take place Friday, March 6 from 1:00 pm to 2:00pm. CoC Board Members Dale Brieze and Jan Simpson will attend. Pam Tietz will send event specifics to volunteers.

Approval of the Consent Agenda:

Motion to approve the January Board Meeting Minutes, Board Agenda and Written Committee Reports made by CoC Board Member Sally Pritchard and seconded by CoC Board Member Jan Simpson.

Prior to vote on motion made, Dale Brieze and Becky Tuno provided a brief summary on the progress of the Move-On Strategy Committee, as it was not provided with the agenda packet. The Move-On Strategy Committee has put together a process flow rough draft. The committee's proposed process would require marketing of the Move-On strategy in order to create awareness and community energy around it. The strategy aims to encourage successful candidates to help neighbors who are system involved to

navigate through their housing path. At this point, there are two models for Moving-On: a leasing rental assistance and support services with vouchers through Spokane Housing Authority. The committee's goal is to make the models comparable and equitable for participants. In order for either model to work, the committee seeks to engage community partners such as senior housing providers and private landlords. The committee would like to meet with HMIS staff to ensure that the correct data is being collected upon exit. The committee would like to utilize a checklist for participants which would be used to evaluate progress throughout the entire system process and standardize its use across the system. A full summary of the Moving-On Strategy Committee will be provided at a later date.

➤ MEETING SUMMARY AND AGENDA APPROVED

City of Spokane Report

Tim Sigler provided the following information:

- The 2020 Point-in-Time (PIT) Count is complete. HMIS is cleaning and analyzing the data gathered in the count and anticipates a report will be ready for an April release.
- First round interviews have been completed for the open Homeless Program Manager position. All candidates interviewed are well qualified and would be an asset to the department, the decision making process will be difficult.
- Planning for the regional targeted capacity shelter is underway. Stakeholders from Avista, City of Spokane, Spokane County, Spokane Valley and others recently met to discuss plans. In the future, a site selection committee will be assembled to choose a site with the best utility for the entire region and community needs. The goal is to have the shelter running by next winter.
- Mayor's Homelessness Taskforce is separate from the regional targeted capacity shelter effort, although eventually the hope would be to merge that group with the regional governance group in order to reduce duplication of efforts.
- Washington State Governor is visiting Spokane next week to meet with city leadership and discuss strategy for homelessness, including possible young adult shelter, daytime space, and the regional targeted capacity shelter.
- Cannon Warming Center will close at the end of March.

Spokane County Report:

Tim Crowley provided the following information:

- The county received their federal allocation notification on February 18. The allocation is a slight increase over last year's funding and allows the county to get the ball rolling in terms of their CDBG and HOME investments but it is not sufficient to create additional units.
- On March 6, the County's Advisory Committee will hold a public hearing at the Spokane Regional Health District at 6:00 pm. The public hearing is an opportunity for the community to provide feedback on performance, policies and procedures, homelessness etc. It's also an opportunity for the Advisory Committee to put faces to agencies and talk about unmet needs, opportunities and solutions.

- \$85,000 has been received to-date in 1406 funds.

City of Spokane Valley Report:

Morgan Koudelka provided the following information:

- Spokane Valley is working through establishing a homelessness process and providing consistency in their approach through standardized messaging.
- Currently, Valley staff works with police and outreach staff to coordinate next steps with individuals and families, educate on ordinances and limit impact on local neighborhoods.
- A presentation will be given on affordable housing in order to get feedback from council on options they'd like to see with tax revenues.
- Most Valley homeless have no desire to go into the City of Spokane for services, shelter or appointments. There is a need for service locations in the Valley and local government is open to helping facilitate that expansion.

HMIS - Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) Data

City staff member Matt Davis and Julius Henrichson of VOA briefed the board on a proposed change to the collection of sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) data in the HMIS system. Currently, questions around SOGI in HMIS are optional, and therefore not consistently gathered within the system. The data is important not only because LGBTQ community members are overrepresented in the homeless community but also as a part of several programs including the Anchor Community Initiative (ACI).

Currently, the ACI is working on a real-time tool by-name list that has piggybacked off the efforts of the veteran homelessness tool. Once the list is functional, and quality data has been achieved, the ACI will begin testing system improvement ideas to move toward population reduction and make an impact on key indicators through the lens of continuous improvement science. Current data analysis for the ACI is being done by hand and is labor intensive but rewarding in terms of the illuminating data on how young people interact with the system. The homeless youth population has consistent numbers within those groups participating in the HMIS system and typically sits around 230-240, a measurement of how many young people have come homeless within a month. The inflow of youth into the system is consistently higher than the outflow.

It is important that the system capture SOGI data in order to ensure equitable outcomes for subpopulations such as LGBTQ and minority ethnic groups. If the data is not a mandatory collection point, it will not be possible to determine if outcomes are equitable, which is a benchmark of the Five Year Performance Measurement Plan. The HMIS subcommittee has tentatively approved this change, as long as training is provided to providers asking for SOGI. Thus far, two training sessions are planned. Participants in those two trainings will pilot the program and provide feedback on how the data collection is progressing.

There is some concern around the collection of this data and many suggestions as to how this change might be implemented. For example, in addition to training providers, it's been suggested that the rollout be done in a tiered approach, beginning with youth

and young adult families (where all members are under age 25) and expanding out to eventually incorporate all of Coordinated Entry. There is also concern as to how the data might be used, especially as there is data being collected regarding minority ethnic groups who are overrepresented in those experiencing homelessness but nothing has been done with that data. It's possible that in the future, SOGI may be used to prioritize program participants or to make the case for LGBTQ-specific housing.

Coordinated Entry Evaluation Project

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) released a self-assessment guide to be completed by CoC boards to ensure that requirements are being met. Coordinated Entry (CE) workgroups are working on addressing policies and procedures in order to be responsive to HUD and Commerce requirements. The workgroup has identified issues with long wait lists of people who could tolerate permanent supportive housing (PSH) but, due to low scores, are stuck on the wait list. By utilizing a dynamic prioritization approach (which many providers are already using through diversion practices) the CE group hopes to formalize the way in which providers are already addressing this concern and through doing so increase their responsiveness to community needs, SPDAT scores and to HUD and Commerce requirements. The larger CE group will split into smaller groups to address specific policies and procedures in accordance with individual group members' areas of expertise. Updated policies and procedures should be presented to the board in June or July.

CoC Effectiveness, Composition and Recruitment

The task force established at last month's meeting has convened and submitted recommendations to the CoC Executive committee. The Executive Committee is planning an expanded session (three hours) to review those recommendations next month.

Announcements and Updates:

Next month's March 25 meeting will be chaired by Fawn Schott in Pam Tietz's absence.

Meeting adjourned at 5:05 PM.

The next CoC Board Meeting is scheduled for March 25, 2020.