

Continuum of Care Board

April 22, 2020
Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 3:34 PM.

Attendance

- **Board Members Present:** Pam Tietz, Edie Rice-Sauer, Sally Pritchard, Jennifer Haynes, Mark Mattke, Teresa Michielli, Angela Chapman, David Singley, Shannon Boniface, Michele Harris, Erik Larkson, Robert Lippman, Tim Crowley, Cat Nichols, Mike Dunn
- **Staff Present:** Niki Madunich, Becky Tuno, Matt Davis, David Lewis, Scott Rasmussen, Cecily Ferguson
- **Guests Present:** Bridget Cannon, Arielle Anderson, Morgan Koudelka, Heather Thomas-Taylor, Kristine Williams, Barry Barfield, Andrey Muzychenko, Kim McCollum, Crystal Alderman, Jennifer Haynes

City of Spokane Report

Scott Rasmussen introduced himself to the board, provided experiential background information and provided the following information:

- The city is participating in the regional response effort.
- As part of efforts to comply with Spokane Regional Health District guidance and social distancing, shelter capacity has been reduced in the system.
- In response to the capacity reduction, a temporary shelter space has been set up on the first floor of the downtown library. The library shelter space is being occupied by two groups, Jewels Helping Hands and Hope House, and has a combined 100 beds. The space has been contracted through May 15, when construction on the library is slated to begin. Efforts are underway to locate a replacement space.
- The first round of COVID response aid was received from Commerce last month. This aid is being used to fund an isolation facility at the fairgrounds. The facility is being run by the Guardians and is medically staffed by CHAS. The isolation facility has been identified as best practice by the State of Washington. To-date, no positive tests have been returned from the isolation center.
- ESG funds are enroute to the community and are expected to be received within the next seven days. These ESG funds are part of the CARES act and total just under \$1 million. The city has posted a rolling RFP for the distribution of these dollars. Funds are to be used shelter space to maintain social distancing practices.
- The Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is working on a strategic plan for funds as they're received. The County expects to receive roughly \$91 million for the region and local leaders from both the county and city are soliciting community comments on how funds should be used. Survey links will be forwarded to board members.
- Within the shelter system, family populations have consistently run low on open beds, so options to add additional family beds are being explored.

City Staff member, David Lewis, provided an update on Point in Time Count results:

- PIT Count numbers are ready and waiting for release approval from department management after a mayoral briefing. As soon as management approves distribution, data from the count will be released.

City of Spokane Valley Report:

Morgan Koudelka provided the following information:

- Spokane Valley has been participating in the regional response efforts at the EOC and contributing to work being done to prioritize regional needs as different funding sources come through.
- Participated in social service funding through the Innovia Foundation.
- Spokane Valley is continuing to work with homeless populations who are sheltering in place and outreach staff has been helping to visit encampments to educate campers on resources and provide supplies to stay safe and healthy. Campers are currently allowed to shelter in place so outreach workers are providing for their needs where they are.

Innovia Foundation Funding Report:

CoC Board member Sally Pritchard participated in the Innovia Foundation funding allocation and provided the following information:

- Innovia Foundation is hosting funds from a number of local private funders. Funds received through local philanthropy are much less than what is being made available in the public sector.
- An advisory group was formed to help develop strategy for dollars available. Representatives from City, County and Valley participated.
- A total of \$250,000 was distributed during this round, mostly to marginalized populations to help fill the gaps where public funding does not typically reach.
- An additional funding round is expected to take place in the next couple of months to examine current and emerging needs to see where private philanthropy can continue to help fill the gaps in our communities.

HEN Funding Award Approval

City staff member Matt Davis presented information regarding the RFP committee's recommendation for HEN funds allocation. The current RFP for HEN funds will run through the city's already-in-process 5 year performance period ending in June 2024. The RFP application window concluded this winter and only one application was received from Goodwill Industries, the current operator. No applications were received for the facility-based model, so it is the recommendation of the RFP committee to allocate the entirety of funds available to the sole applicant, Goodwill Industries.

Motion made to approve the recommendation to award HEN funding to Goodwill made by CoC board member Mark Mattke and seconded by Edie Rice Sauer. CoC Board member Michele Harris abstained from voting.

- RECOMMENDATION TO AWARD HEN FUNDING TO GOODWILL APPROVED

Announcements and Updates:

- Goodwill has recently received new funding to help with supportive services for veteran families to expand emergency housing and prevention services. Goodwill is pulling together a plan for how funds will be used and expects to start implementation by May 4.
- The Workforce Development Council has seen increases across all service providers, including WorkSource and Next Gen Zone. Currently operating remotely with staff assisting customers both via phone and electronically. Largest issues and concerns are around food security and income support. Due to closures related to the virus, many patrons are struggling to access computers.
- Becky Tuno is transitioning to a new role at the city and replacement efforts are underway. An offer has been made to an applicant, and if accepted, should start with the city May 4. Becky will be available to knowledge share even as she starts her new role. Once her replacement starts work, her contact info will be distributed to the board.
- The Homeless Coalition is working to update their website with current information around resources.
- A Transitions intern just completed a comprehensive review of youth and women's drop-in centers, it will be distributed to the board.

Meeting adjourned at 4:12 PM.

The next CoC Board Meeting is scheduled for May 27, 2020.