

Continuum of Care Board

May 27, 2020
Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 3:35 PM.

Attendance

- **Board Members Present:** Pam Tietz, Edie Rice-Sauer, Sally Pritchard, Jennifer Haynes, Mark Mattke, Teresa Michielli, Angela Chapman, Shannon Boniface, Michele Harris, Robert Lippman, Tim Crowley, Cat Nichols, Braden Fish, Crystal Alderman, Arielle Anderson, Jan Simpson, Dale Brieese; Rayan Orbom
- **Staff Present:** Kelly Burnett, Becky Tuno, Matt Davis, David Lewis, Scott Rasmussen, Cecily Ferguson; Tija Danzig, Tim Sigler, Heather Newell
- **Guests Present:** Barry Barfield, Andrey Muzychenko, Kim McCollim, Billie Schwalb-Miliken, Joe Ader, Margaret Morrision

Introductions

Those who had joined the meeting were asked to introduce themselves.

Consent Agenda:

It was asked if anyone had any questions or changes that they would like to have made to the agenda or the minutes from the last meeting.

Motion to approve the agenda and board minutes as is by CoC Board Member Eddie Rice-Sauer and seconded by CoC Board Member Jan Simpson.

Update on COVID-19 Regional Governance Response

City Staff Member Tija Danzig provided the following information to the group.

- The EOC has been starting to phase out and there are a couple of parts that are still ongoing.
- The Regional Governance Response is comprised of members from the City of Spokane, Spokane County, City of Spokane Valley and Elected Officials.
- This group is trying to come up with healthy shelter solutions for the next 90 days.
- Currently phasing from the fairgrounds and moving to a hoteling type of model.
- Meetings are still happening, but now taking place every other week.

Some questions that came up from this update were could Staff Member Danzig please repeat who all was involved in the Regional Governance group. It was also asked who is providing the system consultation to the workgroup, as different topics are looked into, subject matter experts are asked to be part of these discussion to talk and provide their information to the group. It was also asked if someone could provide the Homeless coalition group information to Ariane Schmidt.

City of Spokane Report

City of Spokane Staff member Tim Sigler provided the following information.

Shelter Updates: Covid-19 response - Hope house has been moved to the bottom floor of the county building for the next 90 days. With trying to get the staying with Hope House all set up, we were able to utilize City Staff to help install showers and cameras that would have to have been contracted out, had we not had the emergency ordinance due to covid-19. The Spokane Arena is being used as a temporary Shelter and the finishing touches were being put on that today. There was a small event hosted today for support services and to help clear out the arena to build and install the new bunk beds. The health district was able to mobilize within 24 hours to give immunizations. Pizza and water were provided to those in need and the outreach team was there as well to help out and to connect those to other services if they were interested. Outreach did get a few people that were willing to talk to them that had been hesitant in the past. The County Building and the Arena are set to use the spaces for the next 90 days and the city is looking for another shelter site.

A question came in from one of the attendees on what will happen in 90 days if there isn't a new building in place. Will we be able to extend our contracts with the arena and the county? City responded that we are unable to extend past this date, and that it had been added to the contracts that there will be no chance for extensions.

Another question that was asked: With the flu season coming up in a few months what is the shelter system going to look like, what are our next steps going to look like and how can we prepare for this. Social distancing requirements will continue into the fall.

For the Regional Continues Stay Shelter - we have received criteria from the singles subcommittee to help us with getting this shelter operational.

Coc Chair mentioned that she would like CoC leadership and City Staff to have weekly meetings to see if we the CoC can be more involved with what is going on with the sheltering, we are hoping to hold these meeting on Thursday afternoons.

CoC Board Member Dale Briese asked the questions, on how the homeless doing with all of the site are moving and how they are being notified. Staff Member Danzig mentioned that site workers have been providing the sites with the information prior to the moves and also all operators have been informed and have been providing information when it is available.

Regional Governance Group will have long term planning and social distancing for all shelters. The City currently knows what shelters have 6 inches vs 6ft between beds as they have already been doing assessments on this since the beginning and have been looking for solutions. Regional leaders know that they need to reach out to the CoC Board and that they are involved.

City Staff Member Scott Rasmussen provided the group that the 2020 renewal RFP and will be dropping in the next week and will be open for the next month. City Staff are still waiting for HUD to release the NOFA for the new awards.

2020 Pit Count Update: City Staff are currently working on their part and just waiting for a response from management and then should be getting the information out to the public. The intent is to have this in front of administration first and then the CoC Executive Committee; the hope is to have this presentation ready and out for review in mid to late June. City Staff Member David Lewis mentioned that they are analyzing the data with other data systems and comparing the pit count data with longitudinal data. Want to share the pit data, and want to highlight the other federal reports that capture the regional need. Looking to find the best way to package all of this data and present it in a way that does not confuse people.

It was asked if the PIT data will be used to help with decisions about the new shelter. City Staff informed the group that this continuous stay shelter will not have enough space for all of the unsheltered in the area.

Proposed City Council Ordinance: City Staff Member Sigler talked briefly about this ordinance that City Council has created. Ordinance has not been sent out to all members of the board yet. This ordinance will be reviewed by the CoC Executive Board before it goes out to the whole board. Both of the Chairs of the CHHS and CoC Board have decided that this ordinance should have gone to the board for discussion before being voted on at the City Council Meeting. CoC Chair Tietz will send out the ordinance that she had received from Tim. The group was informed that this ordinance is scheduled for final reading by the Council on Monday and that the CHHS board is to send a letter requesting that they slow down and allow for the board to weigh in and be part of the discussion. CoC Chair Tietz suggest that the CoC Board do the same. Another question was brought up to the group as to why this ordinance is going out before the PIT Data and or why it is not part of the 5 year plan.

Spokane County Update: No one from the County was on to give the board an update.

Action Items - Adopt Spokane CoC Moving-on Strategy: Information regarding the move on strategy was sent out in the agenda packet for review. The purpose of this move on strategy is an attempt at standardizing the move out processes to increase predictableness and ensure participants are getting the same base level of care throughout their housing journey. This is to encompass all programs, and be broad enough for all programs that have a PSH program. It is a forward thinking approach and it would start when you move into the PSH program and would give an individual support of they wanted to move on. There was a lot of discussion between members about this move on strategy with the following question asked.

Are there any protections for Case Managers when trying to come up with a move on plan? If a person does not make it on their own and ends up back in the PSH program, is there anything that would come back on the Case Manager and if so how are they protected. -This was answered that if a person wants to move on then they can move on a case manager is not a gate keeper for someone and shouldn't be the person to tell someone that they should or should not be allowed to move on. Another question that was raised during the discussion; is there going to be is this the only framework for this program, is there some kind of plan and uniformity in training for all case managers. It

was noted that there will be training for users and that there will be some sample assessments. More information was provided on this that the system is limited to funding and the leasing money, this move on strategy is a rough draft model that we can see and is something that could be used or shared with new intakes into the system. This program is low barrier and gives those who are entering into the system something else to think about when they enter. During the discussion another question was asked regarding if we currently have a base line on move out/move on currently. Is there something that we can use to see if this is strategy is working? Do we have anything to help us with tracking what a successful candidates looks like, what barrier did/did not have before the move out it. We need to have some kind of tracking system that should be implemented with this new strategy so that we can see if this is working or if there are any areas that need to be tweaked.

It was brought up again that it seems like there still needs to to have some type of protection or accountability as a case management, what would this look like, should there be a form that case managers and clients need to sign that gives consent that they understand that if they lose their housing that it does not come back on the case manager. Another question that was asked; what will after care look like? Will someone be able to come in as needed or to come in once a month? The response to this was that there will be proactive aftercare, but this will be dependent on the agency as we do not know which agencies may or may not have budgets for this. It was reiterated that our system needs this and that we need adopt this into our system.

Motion to approve the adoption of the Move on Strategy was made by CoC Board member Crystal Alderman and seconded by CoC Board Member Robert Lippman.

Meeting adjourned at 4:57 PM.

The next CoC Board Meeting is scheduled for June 24, 2020.