

Continuum of Care Board

January 26, 2022

Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at **3:05 PM.**

Attendance/Introductions

- **Board Members Present:** Ben Stuckart (Chair), Dale Briesse, Arielle Anderson, Daniel Klemme, Andrey Muzychenko, Angela Chapman, Bob Lutz, Mark Mattke, Jennifer Haynes-Harter, Gage Spicer, Tim Crowley, Jenn Cerecedes, Robert Lippman, Brian Davenport, Eric Robison, Arne Woodard, David Sackmann
- **Staff Present:** Kim Clifton, Daniel Ramos, Heather Page, Brian Walker, Devin Biviano, Eric Finch, Julius Henrichsen, Morgan Smith, Amira Djulovic
- **Guests Present:** Barry Barfield, Amy Johnson, Shannon Boniface, Brandi Peetz, Brian McClatchey, Bridget Cannon, Zack Zappone, Edie Rice-Sauer

The Attendance roster listed above may not capture all the individuals that attended virtually if they joined the meeting after it had started due to the limitations of the virtual meeting platform

Introduction of Jenn as CHHS Director.

Approval of the December Board Minutes:

Adjustment of December minutes to place Barry Barfield as a guest instead of a board member. Motion to approve the December minutes, as adjusted, made by Board Member Dale Briesse and seconded by Board Member Angela Chapman, all aye, no nay, no abstentions.

➤ BOARD MINUTES APPROVED

Additional Approval Items

Board Changes: Public Housing Representative will be Arielle Anderson from Spokane Housing Authority; Youth Representative will be Gage Spicer as requested from the Youth Subcommittee; Accept appointment of Arne Woodard from City of Spokane Valley with Brandi Peetz as alternate. Motion to approve board changes made by Arne Woodard, seconded by Mark Mattke; all aye, no nay, no abstentions.

Coordinated Assessment Process: Ben gave a brief background about the letter of concern from PSH providers describing the population being referred to PSH and rising in the SPDAT was not in line with the population on the streets. The SPDAT tool is not working. In order to fix the tool and still comply with Fair Housing laws, a subgroup was formed to research and find a new tool. Julius shared his screen to give a brief presentation for PSH Age Prioritization. The subgroup was unable to develop a procedure that addresses racial disparities, but age demographics do not fall under the purview of the Fair Housing Act, so the subgroup focused on that. Morgan then shared that the goals are to reduce active homeless population for target age groups, reduce evictions within PSH projects, reduce length of time in PSH before moving to independent housing, and

reduce the number of incident reports within PSH projects. The formula that will be used will be based on percentages of the population as assessed on an annual basis via local By-Name Lists. Beginning February 4, 2022, all PSH referrals will be offered to individuals in the waiting pool from the 62+ and 18-24 age ranges until allotments are filled or the waiting pool has no remaining eligible participants. The effectiveness of this process will be analyzed for an 18-month period. Discussion and questions followed the presentation.

Motion by Arne Woodard, seconded Mark Mattke, to approve the change and start using the new formula for coordinated assessment; all aye, no nay, no abstentions.

Updates: Board openings for K-12 Representative, Business Representative, Shelter Representative, Law and Justice Representative. Openings have been posted for multiple weeks on the City Community Update, CHHS Updates, on the CoC website – there have been only two applications. One would fit for Shelter Rep, the other doesn't really fit in a current opening. Call for current members and guests to recruit if they know anyone that would be a good fit.

Conflict of Interest Statement: 11 of 20 have been received, it is a requirement so please get that in as soon as possible as it is a HUD requirement and a requirement from the CoC bylaws.

HOME ARP Udate: Ben will send a short one-page update to Kim to include in the minutes (attached at the end of the minutes). Tim Crowley gave a brief overview of the grant funding that is expected and what activities would be eligible for the funds: Development of supportive and affordable housing, tenant-based rental assistance, provisions of supportive services, and acquisition and development of non-congregate shelter units. Jurisdictions are required to put together an implementation plan to show how the money will be allocated. This is a good opportunity to collaborate with the City of Spokane since there is already a Regional Homeless Plan. There will be more information available later but there is a subgroup already starting the work to get the funding and start implementing the plan.

CHHS Update: Jenn gave a brief update on the warming center – there is still a search for a location in progress. Jenn did not have an update for the Way Out Shelter yet. There are still positions in the department that we are trying to fill and the City is still trying to support the CoC as much as possible.

PIT: Daniel and Amira gave an update on the PIT Count. The PIT is being postponed to next month due to COVID-19 cases rising. New start will be February 24th for the sheltered count. The unsheltered count will be February 25th – March 1st. There will be trainings to teach people how to do the count, how to use the app, and how to stay safe. Amira asked for volunteers and asked people to volunteer or to share to others who may be interested. Daniel gave an overview on the plan for completing the count successfully. Daniel wants to put all the information together from the PIT count and what has been observed in the City for the last two years to give an analysis on the full situation in Spokane.

Ben briefly spoke on his experience as a volunteer in the past and asked for people on the board to consider volunteering for the PIT Count.

A brief discussion followed about the different ways to find volunteers.

Racial Equity Workgroup: Brian D. gave an update about some of the concerns with an anti-discrimination policy regarding the process – grabbing another community’s policy and swapping out geographic language was concerning to the group. Brian mentioned it was done out of necessity because of COVID and needing to get a policy in place quickly for a deadline. Next time it would be done more as a community. Another concern was that the document was more of a legal document than a useful document, so making it more accessible in the future would be better. Also, now that we have established what not to do, there needs to be some information on what to do. Class seems to be absent from the policy so there needs to be a fix to make sure that socio-economic status isn’t used in a discriminatory fashion. Need more information on what the expectation is from the CoC for the workgroup.

Retreat: Ben gave a quick update on the retreat. According to the Doodle Poll, the best date for the retreat is going to be February 14, 2022. The plan is to invite the CHHS Board, County, all elected officials – over 100 people will be invited to the meeting. The goal is to get everyone on the same plan over all the jurisdictions so we can tackle our homelessness problem holistically as one functioning system instead of multiple agencies doing their own thing with little to no communication or collaboration.

Meeting Adjourned at 4:28 PM.

The next COC Board Meeting is scheduled for **March 23, 2022 from 3:00-5:00 pm.**

Meeting video link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dx5qRG9-Uak>

HOME-American Rescue Plan Program (ARP):

In September, Spokane County was notified by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) that \$3,005,209, in HOME ARP funding would be awarded to Spokane County, for the purpose of providing homelessness assistance and supportive services. HOME-ARP funding will be administered through the County’s HOME Program to perform activities that primarily benefit qualifying individuals and families who are homeless, at risk of homelessness, or in other vulnerable populations. Eligible activities include: 1. Development and support of affordable housing, 2. Tenant-based Rental Assistance, 3. Provision of supportive services; and 4. Acquisition and development of non-congregate shelter units.

Before Spokane County can begin allocating ARP funding, the County is required to develop a HOME ARP Allocation Plan. The Plan must describe the distribution of HOME ARP funds and the process for soliciting applications and/or selecting eligible projects, including identifying any preferences being established for eligible activities or projects. The Plan must also include:

Consultation with Continuum of Care serving the region, homeless and domestic violence service providers, veterans’ groups, public housing agencies, public agencies that address the needs of the

qualifying populations, and public or private organizations that address fair housing, civil rights, and the needs of persons with disabilities, at a minimum.

Public Participation that encourage citizen participation in the development of the allocation Plan. Before submission of the plan, the County must provide reasonable notice and an opportunity to comment on the proposed HOME ARP Allocation Plan of **no-less than 15 calendar days**; and, hold **at least one public hearing** during the development of the allocation plan.

Needs Assessment and Gaps Analysis in evaluating the size and demographic composition of qualifying populations within its boundaries and assess the unmet need of those populations.

Collaboration with the City of Spokane in working toward developing a regional allocation plan, that includes planning for the City of Spokane's HOME ARP award. A regional HOME ARP Allocation Plan Team has begun meeting and has established a timeline, and briefed members of the Governance Workgroup. Christy Jeffers is leading the joint-allocation planning effort with city's new staff. The City of Spokane's HOME ARP award is \$4,600,000.