

# Continuum of Care Board

**March 23, 2022**

Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at **3:04 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, Shannon Boniface, Serena Graves, Mary Logan, Hallie Burchinal, Amy Johnson, Finn Rankin
- **Staff Present:** Kim Clifton, Daniel Ramos, Heather Page, Brian Walker, Devin Biviano, Eric Finch, Amira Djulovic,
- **Guests Present:** Barry Barfield, Amy Johnson, Shannon Boniface, Brandi Peetz, Brian McClatchey, Bridget Cannon, Zack Zappone, Edie Rice-Sauer, Morgan Smith, Julius Henrichsen, Christy Jeffers

**\*\*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\*\***

**April Meeting Location:** Ben asked if anyone would like to host the next meeting in person. Jenn said the Council Chambers might be available. (Later on, it was found that the Council Chambers were not available but space at the Shadle Library was and that is now booked for the April meeting.)

## **Approval of the January Board Minutes:**

Motion to approve the January minutes, made by Board Member Mark Mattke, seconded by Board Member Arielle Anderson, all aye, no nay, no abstentions.

➤ BOARD MINUTES APPROVED

## **Additional Approval Items**

**New Board Members:** Approval for the appointment of Shannon Boniface of Catholic Charities to the Temporary Housing position of the board and approval of the Honorable Judge Mary Logan of Spokane Municipal Court to the Law and Justice position of the board.

**Motion** by Arne Woodard, seconded by Arielle Anderson, to approve Shannon and Judge Logan to the board; **approved** – all aye, no nay, no abstentions.

**DSHS Offices:** Arielle and Ben gave a brief synopsis surrounding the concern for the Social Security Administration Office still not being open. Arielle asked for the Board to write a letter to the local Social Security asking them to reopen since it is causing a huge barrier for getting award letters to homeless people which could help them find housing. Discussion followed with Arne asking if we could get someone at the state level such as Department of Commerce to also write a letter

requesting they reopen. Ben suggested the CoC write the letter first and if there is no response after 3 or 4 days that CoC raise it up to Commerce. Arne agreed with that suggestion. Dale Briesse also suggested that the letter include that this is an attempt to also make sure that the CoC programs are inline for any audits or monitoring. Ben and Arne agreed to that as well.

**Motion** by Dale Briesse, seconded by Arne Woodard, to draft a letter to send to Social Security encouraging them to reopen; **approved** – all aye, no nay, no abstentions.

Workgroup for Coordinated Entry: Arielle gave a brief overview of the workgroup that had been around in the past and said that it is going to be revived. Ben asked if it should be formally voted on. Arne said it wouldn't hurt and a vote followed. Gage asked during the discussion if this would have space for youth coordinated entry or if it was specifically for singles or families. Arielle said there wasn't a specific youth coordinated entry yet, but that there would definitely be space for it to be included. Bridget Cannon asked about who would be sending out the invites and Julius Henrichsen answered.

**Motion** by Arne Woodard, seconded by Judge Logan, to resurrect the Coordinated Entry Workgroup for policies and procedures; **approved** – all aye, no nay, no abstentions.

Updates: Heather gave an update on where CoC is with HUD and what the next steps are. Awards were included in the chat (and will be attached to the end of the minutes). Heather mentioned that one of the projects was not selected for funding from HUD. Ben asked for clarification on if the funding had been moved internally or cut off entirely. Eric Finch said that it fell into the tier 2 range. Since it was the lowest performing project and funds were limited, it was not funded. However, there was an extra project that was funded in parallel. Ben brought up that it is a vital service for getting people off of the streets during the day and Eric said that the scoring rubric may provide answers but since HUD is also more housing focused it may have scored lower just because it isn't housing specific. Dale included that there may have been some COVID considerations for that project as well. Jenn confirmed that was noted in the narrative. Ben requested that day services be added to planning and prioritization. Heather concluded her update with the UFA app which is being worked on and due April 7.

Board Openings: Heather and Ben explained that there are three openings, one was a resignation and is the Permanent Housing Supportive Homelessness Services Provider. The Business Community and K-12 Education representatives are the other two openings which have applications in with the executive committee. Ben asked for people who want to be included in the review process with the executive committee to let him know so the positions can be filled in April. (A position representing the Spokane Regional Health District is also vacant but was overlooked during the meeting.) The permanent supportive housing position can be appointed via nomination.

Warming Center/Temporary Shelter Update: Eric Finch gave a brief update on the warming center – because of the real estate transaction piece, the address cannot be released at this time. CHHS is extending the RFP by one week and there will be a technical assistance workshop prior to the RFP submission deadline to help. Eric included that NHHS/CHHS will be working with whichever provider is selected to divide up the space to make it have beneficial use and

progression within the site. The city is looking at a number of different methods with the facilitator to accomplish that – for example using the interior and exterior to create a progression. (No specifics given since it is dependent on the space and provider.) Eric also reminded everyone that capacity should not be a barrier as shelter space is a symptom but not a root cause. Eric is already looking to focus on those next steps which would tackle the causes of homelessness (such as mental health issues and addiction). Integrated case management will be on-site at the new shelter, ideally at least 5 days a week to help with individual needs such as getting documentation and working with service providers. The city wants more frequent case management so there is more follow-up with people so they can be more successful. Eric also pointed out that this new site is not meant to close other sites but to add more to what Spokane has. Eric concluded with the need for sustainable funding to avoid trying to operate at a deficit when the COVID funding ends and that he and Jenn are already working on that piece and has broad support from the administration and the council. The State budget should also provide some funding in the next 6-12 months. It is seen as a progressive addition and Eric looks forward to the conversation it brings.

Ben asked if it was permanent or just inclement weather. Eric said that it is to be 24/7/365 with additional flex space for inclement weather/wildfire smoke shelter. Ben asked on behalf of other current providers who have seen new places open and be fully funded by the city yet they have extreme funding problems on their own and only get 10% of their funding for the city – Ben understands the need to increase capacity but struggles to understand how providers have been doing this for 20 years without COLA increases and public dollars only pay for about 10% of their operations, yet a new facility opens and it's 100% paid by public dollars and it seems unequitable. There is confusion in how that can be reconciled with a provider that has been running an established shelter that isn't fully funded. Eric said the short answer is it would fall under "new costs" and that everyone is looking to make sure that funding stays in place for established providers because the goal is to add space and increase help, not take any away. Ben mentioned that it seems like being roped into something that will be set in stone when there should be prioritization done and it is being skipped. Eric said that he is happy to hear from CoC about prioritization and take it on board. Eric Robison asked if Catholic Charities is closing and if so if he has any idea if the people there will be at the new facility. Eric said that he is not tracking that they are closing but is aware of an evolution that will ultimately result in an expansion as they have found that a more disbursed model seems to work best.

Quarterly Performance: Eric provided info on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter APR reports being ready through HMIS and notification has been sent to providers to be able to pull and review the APRs. The deadline for the reports will be April 29. Ben and Eric concluded that the information should be presented to the CoC board at a meeting to help them understand it all to help them be informed to make decisions as needed later on.

NHHS/CHHS Hiring: Eric Finch explained that CHHS is being given the green light to begin the recruitment process by Civil Service in the next 60-90 days for one HMIS position, and a second HMIS position would follow after that. In the meantime, there is permission to get some temporary assistance into the department and coordinating resources to fill gaps is turning into a priority for Eric as Jenn takes more on in her role.

Ben will connect with Eric later via email regarding the Empire Health Foundation and CoC Five-Year Plan.

Coordinated Entry and the Way Out Center: Eric Robison gave an overview of the Way Out Center and how it is a clean and sober program – you don't need to be clean and sober the day you walk in but you do for the rest of the time and random UAs are required. The first 72-hours have high supervision. Eric will send out information about how to make referrals to the Way Out through CMIS. Eric noted that there haven't been any referrals through CMIS as of yet, but that the system is up and ready for use. Eric will also include a FAQ about the Center so people can be matched to it appropriately, so people are set up for success. However, Eric said there are still a number of concerns about the program they are not assisting people based off of prioritization from the SPDAT (referrals sent via CMIS will be prioritized but that doesn't mean the Way Out Center will honor that prioritization), they have barriers to services such as requiring people to be clean and sober, and they have to take care of their own needs. These items put the Salvation Army out of compliance with the five-year plan. Another issue is that if Transitions refers someone to the Way Out the metrics will only show the person succeeded (or failed) from the Way Out so Transitions won't receive credit and the metrics will be skewed. The Way Out is a medium barrier shelter that only accepts people who are more likely to be housed so it is an issue for other programs who refer people to it.

Ben agreed that it is unacceptable that the Way Out Center doesn't follow the five-year plan, prioritization, it doesn't guarantee someone a spot, and it puts other partners in a bad position. Dale mentioned that we will need to be mindful of this with the new shelter because a lot of medium shelters are more about diversion. Eric Finch asked for clarification on what transitional housing (or the Way Out Center) should look because knowing how it should look or better connect because if the Way Out Center is more like transitional housing, that could create better dialogue and ways to evolve. Ben agreed that it would be great if there was a plan we (city, county, boards, providers) all agreed on. Hallie has concerns about referring people to the Way Out because it is a publicly funded shelter using antiquated understanding of recovery and addiction and she would like to understand how this came to be. She wants to know what model and evidence-based practices it was based on. Dale asked about how credit works currently in HMIS so we can work on fixing the numbers piece of it and then he mentioned going to the outreach and not hearing about religious participation mandates. Eric Finch said he is going to work on the metrics to see about properly identifying numbers. Jenn also added that all projects require oversight and monitoring and while not perfect if there are issues, CHHS is happy to look into them and takes that very seriously. Matt Davis included some historical perspective that before the center was created three priorities were put forward to fill the gap as 24/7 services were winding down at HOC. Those priorities were a Young Adult Shelter, capitalizing on the success of programs like at Women's Hearth that included daytime spaces and way to connect with services, and an interim housing model building on the success of places like St. Margaret's so someone who was ready for housing could be in the shelter to maintain their homeless status while having a higher degree of stability while working to access that permanent housing. Tim Crowley just added that he thinks we will need to rely heavily on what the plan says to determine what changes may need to be made. That CoC/County/City need to learn from this and come up with clear definitions for the types of shelters/services are needed and how they fit into the plan.

Legislative Update: Ben sent out a legislative update and is asking if anyone sees a hotel for sale in Spokane County to let him know because we didn't advantage of the rapid acquisition dollars last year and need to this year to qualify for funding next year.

Racial Equity Workgroups Update: There is no update at this time.

Coordinated Entry Workgroup: Morgan provided an update on the changes that were made and so far, they are counting it as a success as people who wouldn't have been referred based off of their SPDAT were now being referred. They are still working with CMIS to get percentages, so they know which targets they need to hit. There is also a request to change the 62+ age to 60+ as they have almost made it through the 62+ group. Julius is hopeful that the numbers will be available by the end of the week so the conversation about expanding age ranges can be more informed. Ben asked for clarification if there should be a motion now anyway to expand the age range.

**Motion** by Dale Briese, seconded by Gage, to expand the age range to 60+ if the data supports this change; **approved** – all aye, no nay, no abstentions.

Ben followed up by asking if we are still having the issue of not referring enough BIPOC or are we waiting for that to be the next tackle. Morgan said that it is the next tackle and has been integrated into the racial equity workgroup.

HOME ARP Regional Planning: Christy Jeffers shared her screen and presented on HOME ARP Regional Planning along with Jenn Cerecedes. A survey and ability to ask questions was provided after the meeting.

Better Help Together: Ben asked Melissa Morrison to present on the Coordinated Community Plan, Ben had attached a copy of it to the board via email and asked for feedback to be sent in by Friday so they can finalize a plan and then Ben requested a vote for next week so he could sign the plan on behalf of CoC. Melissa then gave the presentation on the Coordinated Community Plan.

Retreat Recap: Ben gave a recap of what happened during the retreat and some of the work that has been started since then such as forming subgroups to help work on each part of the system and help from Empire Health as consultants. Some discussion about including businesses followed.

**Meeting Adjourned at 4:56 PM.**

The next COC Board Meeting is scheduled for **April 27, 2022 from 3:00-5:00 pm.**

**The next meeting will be held at the Shadle Park Library.**

## **HUD Awards - WA-502 - Spokane City & County CoC**

Catholic Charities PSH Support Rent FY 2021 CoC \$204,154  
City of Spokane CoC Planning FY 2021 CoC \$110,494  
City of Spokane UFA Costs FY 2021 CoC \$110,494  
VOA PSH Scattered Sites FY 2021 CoC \$206,648  
WA0109 Catholic Charities SMS TH FY 2021 CoCR \$67,755  
WA0111 VOA PSH Off Site FY 2021 CoCR \$316,746  
WA0126 VOA Alexandria's House FY 2021 CoCR \$76,201  
WA0128 VOA Hope House FY 2021 CoCR \$58,495  
WA0129 VOA Off-Site PSH FY 2021 CoCR \$322,964  
WA0130 VOA Samaritan 05-06 FY 2021 CoCR \$229,046  
WA0218 VOA Samaritan III FY 2021 CoCR \$145,958  
WA0288 Catholic Charities RRH for Families Consolidation FY 2021 CoCR \$479,759  
WA0329 City of Spokane HMIS Project FY 2021 CoCR \$197,468  
WA0330 SNAP Singles Homeless Coordinated Assessment (SHCA) FY 2021 CoCR \$77,345  
WA0331 SNAP RRH for Households without Children FY 2021 CoCR \$187,576  
WA0353 YWCA RRH for DV Survivors for Households with Children FY 2021 CoCR \$330,899  
WA0373 Catholic Charities Homeless Families Coordinated Assessment (HFCA) FY 2021 CoCR \$249,018  
WA0374 Catholic Charities PSH Consolidation FY 2021 CoCR \$219,869  
WA0418 Catholic Charities PSH II FY 2021 CoCR \$226,746  
WA0420 YWCA RRH for Survivors of DV FY 2021 CoCR \$333,068  
WA0457 VOA Hope House 2.0 PSH FY 2021 CoCR \$183,156