

Continuum of Care Board

December 27, 2023

Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at **3:02 PM**.

Attendance/Introductions

- **Board Members Present:** Audrie Meraki, Pink Varela, Reese McMullin, George Dahl, Jenn Morris, Eric Larson, Daniel Klemme, Matt Anderson, Robert Lippman, Gage Spicer, Scott Ferguson, Chris Dorcheus, Aaron Riley, Shannon Boniface, Jennifer Wilcox, Arielle Anderson
- **Staff Present:** Kimberly Babb, Kimi Clifton, Zoe Hjelm, Kimberly McCollim, Ted Colley
- **Guests Present:** Nicolette Ocheltree, LaKedia Davis

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 virtually meeting platform

Approval of the Board Minutes:

Jennifer Wilcox noted that the November minutes have Lucy Lepinski listed as a board member and that will need to be corrected.

MOTION by Jennifer Wilcox, seconded by Arielle Anderson, **to approve the November minutes as amended; unanimously approved.**

Approval of the Agenda:

MOTION by Arielle Anderson, seconded by Jennifer Wilcox, **to approve the Agenda; unanimously approved.**

Discussion and Action Items:

County Update: George Dahl provided an update on the County. An RFP will be opening on January 26th for Homeless, Affordable Housing, and Community Development funding types. There will be two technical assistance workshops at the Hive but will also be available online. There will also be calendars available to schedule meetings with staff 24-hours in advance if the need additional assistance. The RFP will close on March 8th.

- HHAA: Chris Dorcheus wanted to inform people of these contracts being extended for the current contracts for 6 months with a same rate funding increase.

Spokane Valley Update: Gloria Mantz provided a quick update regarding new representation on the CoC Board for the Valley in January.

The Valley will also extend their HHAA contracts for 6 months.

Executive Committee Update: Arielle would like to start getting an executive committee report out to the board starting in the new year.

Robert Lippman is stepping down from the board. The executive committee and the CA are working on the new HUD standards and trying to meet with David Lewis and HUD for technical assistance and providers should be at those meetings as well to make sure everyone is able to receive the same information at the same time. Arielle emphasized the need for frontline staff to be included as well.

The executive committee would also like to send out a Request for Information ASAP to see who is likely to apply to become the new CA if an RFP were to be submitted.

HHOS Funding: Kerri Cederquist provided an overview of the HHOS grant and process. Discussion followed.

Collaborative Applicant Update: Kimberly Babb

- Point-In-Time Count: Training for volunteers will be held on January 9th and 11th, currently we have about 115 volunteers but are looking for more, but we are in the last weeks and in full PIT mode.
- HUD Released AHAR and 2023 PIT: There was a 12% increase in homelessness nationwide. Spokane County has 2,136 homeless people. Kimberly believes that there are monthly reports she can do with CMIS to help showcase what providers are doing.
- NOFO: Some ways for Spokane to earn more points for the NOFO would be to increase the affordable housing supply, prevent criminalization of homelessness, and reverse existing criminalization policies.
- Governance Charter Updates: The vote will be in February. Kimberly has received information regarding the budget as requested by the executive committee and how the CoC can get a new CA. With that information and some information from HUD, there is more clarity in looking for a new CA. The current charter will need to be updated to include Spokane as the CA. The CoC can still be registered in the spring and a new CA can be named in the fall.
- Written Standards Updates: The standards are being worked on, but there is a good chance that not all of them will be ready before registration. However, the ones that will be complete will need to be voted on in February in order to include them in the registration.
- Grants Administration: Ongoing discussions with VOA to consolidate PSH grants as the grants have not kept pace with the rising costs of rents and services while the required outcomes do not change. Ongoing discussion with HUD is happening to get this finalized. Vote to approve the consolidation should be ready in February. Discussion followed.

CMIS: Adam Schooley provided a brief update on adding more projects and more technical assistance available.

Anchor Community Initiative: None.

Youth Action Board: LaKedia Davis provided a brief update stating that data is being collected for the by name list so case conferencing can start.

Diversion: Jasmine Bower provided an update stating that diversion completed some training in November and there is still funding leftover for CDF and so they have been talking this month about what to do with it.

Youth and Young Adults: LaKedia Davis provided a brief update stating that the main focus is housing YAB.

Equity Workgroup Update: Reese McMullin provided a brief update about trying to recruit for the workgroup and making a list of potential trainers for the CoC over the next 6 months.

Coordinated Entry Workgroup: Shannon Boniface provided an update about the launch of the youth system on December 1st and how there were some hiccups, but it seems to be going well now. There is still work being done on the pools and the universal tool for CE. There will be workgroups soon for testing and Arielle requested that the Board be involved with learning the new tool when the testing happens.

Singles: David Sackmann said that they are looking for new co-chairs as Eric and David are about to hit three years. The new date and time will be the third Thursday of the month at 2pm.

Veterans: Arielle provided a brief update about a “boot camp” for VASH vouchers she attended. Jennifer Wilcox updated that they are still working on the outreach team and that Goodwill is changing the case conferencing contacts because of staffing changes. The subcommittee is also looking to revise their goals for the strategic plan.

Family: Heather Eddy provided an update on discussion for referrals and collaboration with Catholic Charities and Family Promise.

General: Arielle Anderson as a Housing Authority rep that she is going to share quarterly their utilization rates for PSH, vouchers, and partner vouchers.

Nominations Committee: Arielle Anderson asked for at least two more people to volunteer to help with the nomination process for new leadership. Jen Morris and Chris Dorcheus volunteered.

Announcements: None.

Meeting Adjourned at 4:38 PM.

The next COC Board Meeting is scheduled for **January 24, 2024 from 3:00-5:00 pm.**