

Alliance for Housing General Membership Meeting Minutes

Bi-monthly Business Meeting; Tuesday, January 8, 2013

Meeting Minutes - Respectfully submitted by Daniel Kelly

Attendance:

Dan Kelly (South Oakland Shelter), Donnell Cravens (JVS), Jenny Poma (South Oakland Shelter), Ann Langford (Area Agency on Aging 1-B), Jennifer Lepard (CHN), Linda Riggs (Rochester Area Neighborhood House), Whitney Calio (O.C. Comm. & Home Imp.), Don Wiggins (TTI), Kevin T. Bogg (TTI), Amy Conniff (CHN), Marylynn G. Hewitt (CHN), Jamie Christofel (CHN), Karla Chambers (CHN/Springhill Housing), Julia M. Drew (Hope Hospitality Warming Ctr), Stephanie Osterland (Habitat–Oakland County), Janice Skinner (More, Inc.), Barb Baker (Elder Living Construction), Al Hearn (Elder Living Construction), Roger Burghdoff (Elder Living Construction), Helen Arthur (Easter Seals), Fatima Elchanti (Easter Seals), Kaili McKnight (Easter Seals), DianHart (Jewish Family Service), Leah McCall (Lighthouse), Rob Boyle (Furniture Bank), Debra Hendren (CHN), Jill Shoemaker (CHN), Sara Sporny (Common Ground), Jessica Mumma (CHN), Deacon Johnny Vaneste (St. Thomas More), Roslyn Johnson (CHN), Preston Vanvliet (CHN), Katrin Michael (Iraqi – American Center), Ernestine McRae (HAVEN), Gloria Lutey (OCHD), Kelly Bidelman (LAD), Jill R. Anderson (MDHS Oakland), Liz Lucas (OLHSA), Jessie Kurte (CAW), Alex Plum (Baldwin Center), Herman Proby (Baldwin Center), Sara Orris (Oakland Schools), Jim Perlaki (Common Ground), Kirsten Elliot (CHN), Deborah Busch (Housing Agent for MSHDA), Marc Craig (CHN)

Introductions

Marc Craig called the meeting to order at 1:34pm.

Marc Craig called for introductions. Each present gave their introductions.

Marc Craig called for the approval of the minutes from the November 13, 2012 general membership meeting. Liz Lucas motioned for approval it was seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Kirsten Elliott asked to add Health Care for the Homeless Information to the agenda. Al Hearn of Elder Construction asked to add to the agenda whether or not he could make a presentation at the next general membership meeting. Both topics were added to the agenda under new business.

Announcements

Alex Plum announced that as of immediately the Baldwin Center is out of prevention funding. He said a meeting is scheduled for noon next Wednesday, January 16th at the Baldwin Center for their Prevention Committee. Please contact Alex at 248-332-6101 for more information.

Gloria announced that the next Homeless Health Care Collaborative meeting is next Friday, January 18 at the Oakland County Executive Building.

Jill Anderson announced that DHS is in schools applying for DHS cases for food assistance, day care, or cash assistance. She also said the programs are online as well now.

Dan Kelly gave an announcement about the social security online system at ssa.gov. He stated the system was very helpful for getting client income information when the individual is receiving social security benefits.

Sara Orris stated the Summit Place is not available for the next Alliance general membership meeting. Whitney Calio stated she would check into the Oakland County Executive Meeting Building being available; she later announced space in that building was not available. Meeting location will be determined closer to the general membership meeting date.

Presentation

Holly Halloway presented for Oakland Schools. Holly stated they are underserving those in need in Oakland County for services. She stated that population statistics dictate that there would be up to 6000 families needed for McKinney-Vento funding in Oakland County, however they are only serving about 1000 people per year.

She stated the main challenge is that the families do not say they are homeless because they fear that their children will be forced to leave the district they are because of their homeless or precariously housed status.

Holly gave the statistic that every time a child moves it takes 4-6 months for that child to catch up on their studies. She stated that statistically, every time a high school student changes schools, their likelihood of graduation drops by 50%. She informed the group that families can receive funding when doubled up if they are displaced due to medical emergency, eviction, utility shut-off, etc, among many other qualifying factors. The key is that they are temporarily doubled up. Holly stated children in foster care may also qualify for assistance if they have been in that home for less than 6 months. She stated when they move they regain eligibility. She stated that unaccompanied youth can involve themselves in school if they lack a fixed, adequate nighttime residence. She stated families staying in motels or hotels because they lack an affordable alternative are eligible for McKinney-Vento funding as well.

Holly stated students eligible for McKinney-Vento have the rights to maintain their current school for the rest of the school year. Holly stated students who are homeless are not required to submit proof of residency in order to attend a certain school. Holly stated their programs goal is to remove barriers to the student fully participating in school. She said they provide backpacks, free lunch, clothing, and assist with any fees to participate in extracurricular activities at school.

Holly stated they have limited funds to pay for motel/hotel vouchers if there are no other options for a family. She explained that their budgets are very limited in this area.

Anyone seeking assistance should contact Sara Orris at 248-209-2414. Ms. Orris passed around referral forms.

She stated they cannot help with McKinney-Vento funding if families agree to split the rent together and be on a lease together.

Holly stated that Charter Schools and pre-schools apply under the McKinney-Vento laws as well.

Committee and Workgroup Reports

Board Report

Marc Craig presented on Board Activities. He asked Kirsten Elliott to present on the submission of the COC's consolidated application for the COC's homeless assistance programs.

Kirsten stated there have been significant changes to the COC program this year and that she is assisting with the completion of the consolidated application. She said agencies apply for renewal funding each year in the COC consolidated application. She stated the COC was applying for about 5.5 million dollars this year.

Kirsten stated every year the COC applies and that some years they get funded for new grants. She stated we have permanent supportive housing grants, transitional housing grants, supportive services only grants, COC planning, and HMIS grants that are funded.

Kirsten highlighted that this year, there may be cuts from Housing and Urban Development (HUD). She stated that the COC is forced to place grants into two tiers, tier 1 or tier 2.

Kirsten stated that a review committee convened on December 31st and scored and ranked each grant. She stated the committee consisted of Jeff Brown, Pat Wolschon, Bob Campweis, and Ernestine Mcrae. She stated that she and Dan Kelly were there to provide assistance in the process.

The group looked at project capacity, project performance, community-wide performance, and negative impact on the community-outcomes. She stated the majority of projects received a 2 percent cut and were placed into tier 1. She stated that admin costs are capped at 5 percent this year for COC funded grants. She stated that funds were reallocated to COC planning dollars. She also stated that two reallocation grants were created, one for HMIS, and the other for a permanent supportive housing project.

She noted that the Board committee strategically made these decisions. Kirsten noted that this is a complex process; however she is willing to talk to anyone if they need clarification. She asked grantees of these funds to be as responsive as possible should she or Kathy contact them.

Marc presented further on Board activities. He noted that the COC has continued to receive technical assistance from the Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH). He said that the COC is officially incorporated and now has bylaws. He stated that the business plan is very close to being approved. He stated these steps are in order to receive 501(c)(3) status with the state.

Marc disclosed that he and Jim Perlaki will be the signers on the new checking account that will be created. Marc stated that sometime before the next COC application is due, he would like to have paid

staff for the Alliance for Housing.

Marc stated he is hoping to have each working committee of the Board to report at each COC general membership meeting.

Jim highlighted that a budget has been created as well as code of conduct and conflict of interest policies for the Alliance for Housing Board of Directors. Jim highlighted that during the process of tier selection for COC funds, the Board members who had a conflict of interest did not vote.

Discharge Planning

Ernestine McCrae reported that the committee is forming and that they are seeking members. She passed around a sign-up sheet. She also said that the CIST committee is seeking membership as well.

Kirsten stated that there are five new committees and each committee has subcommittees/workgroups associated with it. Kirsten noted to the group that if you were on a previous committee, those have been merged into the new committee structure.

Ernestine asked everyone to become active on these committees.

HMIS

Jill Shoemaker presented. She stated that she is seeking committee membership on the Outcomes committee. Jill said she is prepping to submit the AHAR report; an important demographic report to HUD.

Marc Craig highlighted that this year the HUD COC consolidated application is geared toward outcomes

Public Awareness

Marylynn Hewitt presented. She stated the initial thing they are working on is a condensed paragraph that can be placed at the bottom of a press release highlighting what the COC's purpose and function is.

HARA

Amy Coniff presented. Amy stated that since the beginning of this fiscal year, the HARA has identified 80 new cases. These are individuals who are either homeless or at-risk of being homeless. She stated the HARA has completed housing assessments and created housing plans for these individuals. She stated the HARA has also made strides to identify landlords to work with in Oakland County who work with those with bad credit, felony convictions, or other barriers to obtaining housing. She said they have created an affordable housing list to aid in this effort.

Street Count

The bi-annual homeless street count, a count that HUD requires the COC to conduct every other year is coming up on January 23rd 2013, 7-11pm. Kirsten Elliott presented. She stated that the street count is going to be required every year from now on. It is to be conducted the last 7 days of January each

year. There is training from 7-8pm the day of the count. She stated the street count utilizes a train the trainer method of training. She stated they are still in need of 15 team leaders. Team leaders are responsible for recruiting 4-5 team members. She stated that the count is also in need of homeless ambassadors. These are individuals who are currently homeless or were homeless. She stated that Ashley Gardhouse at SOS has created the packets. Press release will go out the week of the count.

Kirsten asked anyone who was interested in participating to contact Elizabeth Ireland at 248-928-0111, ext. 1366.

CRD report

Kevin Bogg presented on the CRD. He stated there were many people there and that there is a call scheduled for next week. Numbers on the count will be presented at the next meeting.

Housing Choice Voucher Update

Jamie Christofel presented. She stated that they are taking applications for homeless preference vouchers for any individual that is literally homeless. She encouraged anyone to submit applications to CHN so that they can submit them to the MSHDA housing agents. She stated that individuals who have been pulled off the wait list have been scheduled a meeting 10 days after their names have been pulled to confirm their identity, get documents pulled in, etc.

She stated Deborah Busch pulled 25 more names off the waiting list and there is a preliminary meeting scheduled for next Thursday, January 17th at CHN. She stated individuals who had their vouchers pulled are able to attend this meeting and if they bring their documentation to the meeting, they could have a voucher in a week or less.

Dan Kelly asked what the outcome has been of the meeting thus far in terms of the success rate for vouchers pulled vs. those that obtained housing. Deborah stated that 3 out of 25 vouchers pulled from the first meeting have been successfully housed. Deborah stated that 15 of the 25 vouchers pulled were issued.

New Business

Kirsten Elliott presented. She stated that the FQHC for Oakland is Oakland Primary Health. She stated the Oakland Integrated Health Network (OHIN) is applying for full FQHC status. She stated the OHIN is adding a health care for the homeless aspect to this FQHC. She stated there will be a lot of work that has to go into creating this clinic. She stated this will be done in the next three months. She stated if interested, please attend the Health Care Collaborative Meeting next week.

Gloria Lutey added that the timing is perfect as the group has been convening a hospital discharge taskforce and this work fits well into this service. She said that part of this process will be creating a place where people can go when they are discharged from the hospital. Kirsten said information about these health care centers will be sent out on the listserv.

Elder Living Construction

Roger of Elder Living Construction stated he would like to be placed on the agenda for next meeting. Al Hearn will present at the next meeting for 15 minutes.

Adjournment

The next OCHTAH general membership meeting is Tuesday, March 12, 2013 from 1:30 – 3:00, meeting place to be announced.

Meeting adjourned at 2:52pm.