

ADVISORY BOARD Minutes – July 20, 2023

1. Welcome & Open Remarks

Board Members Present : Jennifer Croessmann (for Karen Anderson), Dr. Michael Seidman, Barb Karam, Dorivette Nolan, Martin Bielat (for Michiel Wackers), LeVine Ross (for Councilwoman Conwell), Mary McNamara, Paul Mosher, Claire Rosser, Natasha Wynn, Linda Uveges, Fred Berry, Billie Gilliam (for Teresa Sanders), Beth Graham, Angela Glassco, Melissa Graves, Sheryl Thomas-Washburn (for Melissa Graves), Elaine Gimmel, Mike Sering, Raymond Mills, Loh

Others: Kate Lodge, Jacqueline Salter, Michaela DeAlexandro, Sharon Parries, Erin Rearden, Nick Butina, Michael Bernot, Courtney Kerr, Mitch Wasserman, Matt White, Jennifer Harrison, Ebony Clayton, Shawna Gurley, Allison Gill, Angeal D’Orazio, Candace Robinson, Rochelle Ensly, Phil Buck, Melissa Sirak

2. DECISION ISSUES

- i. Approval of Advisory Board Minutes 5.18.23
- ii. Approval of RRH Policy Standards-
 1. Matt White- The standards speak to the case management and when clients are first enrolled in rapid rehousing. What are the attributes for when a household can be moved from the program? What’s new for the conversation are just those standards that are applicable for the rapid rehousing project. Program policy committee has spent great time looking at these rapid rehousing standards. Any new rapid rehousing provider would be held to this. The PPC is recommending adoption today. These standards will be reviewed annually and building over time with the practice of rapid rehousing. The PPC will recommend continuing quality improvement that reflect the actual practice.
 2. **Motion to approve rrpc- No opposed**
 3. OHS is going out and reviewing policies and these standards just provide more guidance for how the existing monitoring will take place. Monitoring will be aligned with the standards that are now in place. The city has a monitoring plan in place. These will be expected in the contracts with the county, they will all align.

b. 2023 NOFO Update-

- i. Howard Burchman- HUD issued the NOFO on July 5th the only thing that HUD has released is that notification. They have not released the details. The deadline is the 28th of September. Two days in advance of this deadline so by September 26th.
- ii. There will be special meetings to get approval in order to meet HUDs requirements. Record and post online a training for renewal grantees on the OHS website on the 2023 renewal process. It will be available July 21st.
- iii. Changes in the competition- the amount of bonus funds has increased but the TIER II renewal dollars has increased as well 7% of annual renewal demand. 2.5 million. Tier II anything is at risk. DV bonus funds this year. HUD for the first time ever will allow you to make minor changes of 10% of budget lines changed. You can also now open a new budget line. They are continuing the healthcare and housing leverages.
- iv. If you have substance use treatment and can make a commitment to that you meet that leveraging criteria as well. 14 points out of the 200 possible are leveraging. Everyone should have their applications in by August 28th 30 days before the HUD deadline. HUD does not do cost of living increases anymore and some of these grants were set by HUD in the 90’s or even 80’s the amount does not change.
 1. Special meetings
 2. August 3rd- NOFO review committee
 3. August 10th- larger group 9-10:30am and hold it virtually based on timing. It will still be a public meeting

4. If you are a board member and cannot come please have a proxy in place.
 5. The application for this year requires a letter of support from someone with lived experience on the board.
- c. Unsheltered Strategic Plan Update- Matt White a draft plan. The group has been meeting every other week since April. Working towards an end to unsheltered homelessness and what an optimal system in Cuyahoga county.
1. 5 core strategies- Housing options that need to be accessible and geared towards folks who are unhousing. Expansion of PSH that are aligned with unsheltered folks, Rapid Rehousing, expansion of a pilot project that was started by LMM the Direct Cash Transfer (providing modest financial assistance when that is the only barrier), Establish a permanent emergency shelter- very low barrier, intensive supportive services. 3rd category outreach- developing stronger coordination plan among outreach. The group wants to coordinate multidisciplinary teams in a mobile setting so it can be more engaged. 4th- housing search and location services that are more accessible to people that are unsheltered ideas like worker dorms. 5th advancing housing justice- if someone has a voucher giving them more leverage for that voucher. Homeless bill of rights. Unsheltered LGBT and woman are particularly vulnerable to victimization. In draft form right now. We can now share the draft plan through community engagement with lived experience to make further refinements and informed by who it is going to benefit. In early fall this will move towards implementation. Update.
 2. Lou- #3 needs to be implemented properly with helping folks who are unsheltered and their interactions with police.
 3. Communities overall action plan adopted in January and then in March. That plan identifies a specific number so the unsheltered plan is just a piece of this expansion. The numbers is cited in the communities overall umbrella plan. Culturally specific organizations to be elevated in being providers of services- how this gets operationalized needs to be addressed. In next phase.
- d. YHDP Update- A Place for Me-Ebony. May submitted "Reaching to New Heights" This summer preparing and working towards implementation. Questions or comments can be forwarded. The posting will be released various ways, aside from HUDs interest in elevation young people, the county is committed as well approved Sisters of Charity- RFP. It will come from different avenues but will be easily accessible.
- e. PIT /System Performance and LSA Overview- Presentation.
- i. Demographics on trend more men in shelter.
 - ii. Very small decrease in youth but anticipated to increase. Will update and send out year to year data on demographics.
 - iii. Unsheltered days are not YET in HMIS but will be. Number of days significantly lower than previous cycle. Disability longer stay.
 - iv. Lou- wanted to define and say that people are not refusing but cannot make the choices that people want them to make. This data is mandated HUD data that is formatted via the HUD guidelines and this allows us to compare ourselves to other cities.
 - v. First time homeless- 56 days average length up 7% from last year. Coordinated entry seeing people from out of county and out of state because "Cleveland has the resources." Tracking people's changes of income is not tracked well.
 - vi. Non-employment cash income should increase yearly so this number is not reflecting the increases we see in clients. Total returns to homelessness is down 3%-possible due to the board's decision for Rapid Rehousing to the full 12 months. ES/TH/SH/RRH successful exits down significantly- less exits though because of the rapid rehousing 12 months extension.
 - vii. Largest increase in unsheltered count from 84 to 180 this year. This may be because of the great coordination with the PIT count this year.
 - viii. 200 unit increase in RRH and PSH increased as well. If you are a non-participating HMIS shelter please contact HMIS
- f. Income & Stability Workforce Update-

- i. The income and stability work is to increase income for persons experiencing homelessness and leaving homelessness.
 - ii. Dedicated case management with job and family services. Working with the office of homeless services on goal 4. In 2022 established a robust cross system steering committee. Full committee list attached.
 - iii. Strengthen partnership between providers and ODJFS. Committee has 3 main goals and successes listed in the Income and Stability for People Experiencing Homelessness. Steering committee wanting to expand to be as representative as possible of homeless and homeless providers.

- g. CoC PSH/Supportive Services Update-
 - i. Frontline has been the primary provider at the PSH buildings and they are no longer going to be providing services following this. They had a candidate but they contacted recently and withdrew.
 - ii. September 1st is the first deadline of Frontline leaving properties and December 1st. Frontline is leaving some of the buildings because they do not have the staffing.
 - iii. There has been an increase in drug use and violence lately. Frontline will remain at all but 5 of these meetings. May be looking for a temporary fix on this. Case management and medication services may need to be by the same providers.
 - iv. Dr Simon may have access to people who are able to help out in this. Is there any possibility of leveraging through subcontracts? Match needs to happen through these grants through the Medicaid billing. Short term this is possible.
 - v. Public sector could be of assistance with matching because this is a community solution that needs to happen because these are community concerns- address the matching issue because no one will have Medicaid billing until they can bill.

- h. Initiative Reports (See handouts)
 - i. Ending Veteran Homelessness (EVH)- no updates.
 - ii. RRH- Elaine- report that was handed out to give comparisons to last year referrals around 80 per month. People referred but have not been approved yet. Waiting list currently. The amount of funding during the covid era for RRH was increased and will likely come to an a drop. 2024 will see low applications. More familys going beyond the 12 months. Current participants needing to move because of DV and landlords not doing repairs.
 - iii. Ending Youth Homelessness (EYH)- Data sheet attached. Steady peaks and valleys. 2019 was a significant uptick.
 - iv. Unsheltered Report

PLEASE NOTE THE OHS ADVISORY BOARD 2023 MEETING DATES:

11:01am

Calendar for 2023

OHS Advisory Board Meetings: January 19th, March 15th, May 18th, July 20th, September 21st, November 16th

Executive Committee Meetings: January 10th, March 7th, May 2nd, June 27th, September 5th, November 7th