

OHS Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

May 16, 2024

9:00am

Front Steps Housing & Services

Members present: Karen Anderson, Michael Seidman, Barb Karam, Chris Knestrick, Michiel Wackers, Yvonne Conwell, Allison Schaefer, Karen McHenry, Linda Uveges, Fred Berry, Miek Bernot, Angela Glassco, Beau Hill, Elaine Gimmel, Mike Sering, Raymond Mills, Loh.

Members absent: Dorivette Nolan, Kris Harsh, Mary McNamara, Ed Abshire, Christian Anderson, Marcie Zashin, Kirsti Mouncey, Jeanna Davis, Beth Graham, James Dombard.

Others present: Nick Butina, Stephanie Thomas, Megan Scheck, Cynthia Dailey, Brian Lutz, David Grettick, Ebony Clayton, Valerie Novack, Kait McNeeley, Shawna Gurley, Candace Robinson, Natasha Wynn, Christie Sozio, Schanavich Adams Luke, Sherri Brandon, Tiarra May.

- I. Welcome and Open Remarks
 - a. Elaine Gimmel, tri-chair, established quorum and called the meeting to order at 9:08am
- II. Decision issues
 - a. Approval of Advisory Board Minutes 3/21/2024
 - i. Fred Berry presented the minutes and asked for a motion to approve.
 - ii. Mike Bernot motioned to approve, Barbara Karam seconded.
 - iii. No opposition, no abstentions, motion carries.
 - b. OHS Advisory Board membership
 - i. Allison Schaeffer will now be representing the ADAMHS Board
 - ii. Fred Berry asked for a motion to accept the nomination to the Board.
 - iii. Elaine motioned, Chris Knestrick seconded.
 - iv. All were in favor with no opposition and no abstentions. Motion carries.
 - c. Melissa noted that the next meeting is on a different week than usual, the third Thursday of the month in July and there will be some important agenda items, so if members are unable to attend, please send a proxy.
- III. 2024 NOFO Update
 - a. Howard Burchman presented
 - b. Grant inventory worksheet (GIW) has not been released from HUD yet, and usually the competition is about 6 weeks after that, so the competition may be a little later this year than usual.
 - c. Have approved the standards for scoring and ranking renewal grants
 - d. Will bring forward the unfunded new projects from last application to this year's application. This includes several projects, including supportive services, PSH, and RRH. This will be reviewed by the NOFO committee and if accepted, they will then be ranked.
 - e. RFA application will be submitted mid-June. This Board voted on priorities last meeting – PSH, supportive services, and RRH are the programs that were voted to prioritize.
 - f. NOFO will likely have more focus on the aging homeless population

- g. HUD has \$25MIL earmarked for increased wages for supportive services staff working in homeless programs.
- h. HUD will likely issue another RFP for capital funds due to \$75MIL leftover from last year, plus another \$100MIL for this year. So that will be released at some point.

IV. RRH & ERA2

- a. Elaine Gimmel presented
- b. Accepting about 5 new applicants per month for RRH, prioritizing families. Send and email each month stating there are open referrals.
- c. If there are more referrals available, that is communicated.
- d. Meeting monthly
- e. DV referrals for RRH is 28 per month.
- f. Currently 191 HH receiving assistance through regular RRH. 120 HH are receiving assistance through DV RRH.
- g. Can still incentivize landlords, and are still able to provide assistance for up to 12 months.
- h. One member asked about DV referrals – all referrals for DV RRH have to go through Journey Center.
- i. ERA2
 - i. Up and running now, receiving a lot of applications
 - ii. Adding staff to help with processing the applications as the volume is very high
 - iii. If someone is at the point of eviction, please reach out to Elaine if you have not heard back.
 - iv. Receiving referrals from several agencies
 - v. If an agency needs a training for referrals, please reach out to EDEN and staff can train the agency. Make sure the application is filled out completely, that seems to be the biggest holdup.

V. TAY Presentation

- a. Elaine presented
- b. Changing the name to Young Adult Supportive Housing Development
- c. CHN Housing Partners is the developer, The Centers is the supportive services provider. Many other agencies are partners in this effort.
- d. Targeted to receive certificate of occupancy in September, fully occupied by December 2024.
- e. Rental assistance is provided 50/50 by CMHA and CoC
- f. Workgroup is reconvening
- g. Will be meeting with CE soon to discuss identifying applicants
- h. The Centers and EDEN are working on Policies and Procedures manual and will get approval from YAB
- i. Working with YAB for a building name
- j. Visits to other supportive housing buildings for young adults – locally and in Columbus to see how other providers operate.
- k. Homeless, young HOH with children and single youth are eligible.

VI. System Performance Measures/Longitudinal System Analysis (LSA) Presentation

- a. Nick Butina presented

- b. Overall numbers of HH and persons served are increasing from last year across Emergency Shelter/Transitional Housing, RRH, and PSH. This is a return to pre-pandemic numbers.
- c. Getting back to pre-pandemic numbers for the length of stay in shelter prior to housing (decreasing as compared to 2020/2021)
- d. Average length of time homeless is around 134 days.
- e. Exits to permanent destinations are fairly consistent as compared to pre-pandemic
- f. Returns to homelessness are also fairly consistent
- g. Gender, age, and race/ethnicity breakdowns have been consistent over the years as well.
- h. Majority of people coming into the homeless system are first time homeless (or have not engaged in at least 2 years)
- i. One member asked how our data compares to national data. Nick did not have that information.
- j. One member asked about LGBTQ+ and persons living with HIV data. Nick shared HIC data is required and is in the LSA. LGBTQ+ is not required by HUD for data collection and is not in the LSA, but the Cuyahoga County CoC does require that data collection for all projects.
- k. Returns to homelessness within 6 months is 9%, within 6-12 months is 4%, within 13-24 months is 6% and all returns within 2 years is 20%
- l. Percentage of earned and unearned income for stayers both decreased
 - i. Nick encouraged those responsible for HMIS data entry to ensure it is accurate
- m. Percentage of earned income for leavers decreased a little, and the percentage of leavers with unearned income increased.
- n. 1,000 more people compared to last year presented in the system as first time homeless
- o. Nick will be presenting on HIC and PIT in July.

VII. Initiative Reports

- a. Ending Veteran Homelessness (EVH)
 - i. No handout was received.
 - ii. Over the last quarter, the leadership group of EVH met
 - iii. System has decreased by 12 veterans
 - iv. 102 veterans currently experiencing homelessness
 - v. Have increased PH placements in the last 3 months
 - vi. Average length of stay increased to about 106 days, not reaching the goal of 90 days
- b. Ending Youth Homelessness (EYH)
 - i. 168 active youth, 29 new to shelter
 - ii. 144 youth in shelter, 15 unsheltered, 8 unknown, 1 referred to shelter
 - iii. Demographics are consistent – overwhelmingly black youth. Seeing more females lately, and do see a fair amount of female youth parents
 - iv. Separating out gender identity and sexual orientation for data
 - v. Looking at how many youth have an active housing plan
 - vi. Data sheet provides where the youth are coming from and where they are exiting to, with a significant number exiting to unknown destinations.

- c. Unsheltered report
 - i. Chris Knestrick reported.
 - ii. This is the season where unsheltered homelessness typically increases.
 - iii. Push from outside entities to close encampments continues
- VIII. Home for every neighbor initiative
 - a. Two workshops at City Hall – first is Tuesday May 21 1:30-4:30. The next will be in June.
- IX. Adjournment
 - a. Having no further business, meeting adjourned at 10:14am

The next OHS Advisory Board meeting is on 7/18/2024 at Front Steps Housing & Services

Submitted by Megan Scheck 5/16/2024