

OHS Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

November 21, 2024

9:00am

Front Steps Housing & Services

Members Present: Beverly Torres, Michiel Wackers, Kris Harsh, Yvonne Conwell, Ed Abshire, Allison Schaefer, Shajuana Gaston, Linda Uveges, Fred Berry, Mike Bernot, Beth Graham, Angela Glassco, Beau Hill, Elaine Gimmel, Mike Sering, Raymond Mills, Loh, Stephanie Thomas, Cynthia Dailey.

Members Absent: Dr. Michael Seidman, Barb Karam, Dorivette Nolan, Mary McNamara, Marcia Zashin, Kirsti Mouncey, Karen McHenry, Jeanna Davis.

Others Present: Megan Scheck, Samantha McCullough, Rebekah Wiland, Jennifer Harrison, Christina Palangio, Jenny Eppich, Danielle Cosgrove, Brian Lutz, Kate Lodge, Angela D'Orazio, Eric Milkie, Shawna Gurley.

- I. Welcome and Open Remarks
 - a. Elaine Gimmel welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 9:04am.
 - b. Elaine shared that Melissa is leaving the Office on Homeless Services, so this is her last Advisory Board meeting.
 - c. Elaine shared an overview of Melissa's accomplishments in her role as Director over the last 5 years.
- II. Decision issues
 - a. Approval of Advisory Board Minutes 9/19/2024
 - i. Kris Harsh motioned to approve. Beau Hill seconded.
 1. All were in favor with no abstentions. Motion carries.
 - b. OHS Advisory Board membership
 - i. Eric Milkie is the new Board member under faith based
 - ii. Sherri Clancy is the new Board member under philanthropy
 - iii. Cynthia Daly is filling the Board HSPA seat.
 - iv. Stephanie Thomas is taking one community rep seat on the Board
 - v. Christian Anderson from the YAB is joining under the other community rep seat on the Board.
 - vi. Chris Knestrick motioned to approve the above slate, Beverly Torres seconded.
 1. All were in favor with no opposition or abstentions. Motion carries.
 - c. 2025 PIT methodology
 - i. Nick Butina presented.
 - ii. Nick shared the proposed plan for the 2025 PIT count.
 - iii. 1/28/2025 was the date selected for the PIT Count.
 - iv. HIC covers all projects. Every project will have to report to Nick by 1/24/2024 with their bed inventory. HIC data will be due to Nick by 2/18/2024
 - v. Fred motioned to approve the PIT Count methodology. Beth Graham seconded.
 1. All were in favor with no opposition or abstentions. Motion carries.

- d. 2024 LIHTC Application Recommendation – Northridge Commons
 - i. Tax credits are the primary financing for capital dollars for PSH.
 - ii. There was a set aside for tax credits for PSH, which has helped because that's less competitive.
 - iii. Part of the competitive process is getting support from the CoC.
 - iv. One proposal was received by the CoC for this tax credit for PSH.
 - v. Northridge Commons is an existing PSH project which would be rehabbed and expanded.
 - 1. Elaine shared background and basic information about the existing project and the future goals.
 - 2. There are currently 30 units, and operates as PSH for homeless individuals age 50 and up.
 - 3. One site behavioral health services
 - 4. Expand from 30 to 48 1 bedroom units, and includes a number of capital improvements.
 - 5. Estimated cost is \$15.3 MIL and the timeline was presented which included the goal for lease up Summer 2027.
 - 6. May modify the age to 55 and older.
 - 7. Fred asked for a motion to support the project.
 - a. Beau Hill motioned to support this project, Chris Knestrick seconded. All were in favor, with no opposition. Elaine Gimmel abstained. Motion carries.
- e. Approval of Outreach Standards and PSH Standards
 - i. Matt White presented a brief overview of both sets of standards.
 - ii. The outreach standards identify two types of outreach – one type is a “general outreach”, focusing on caring for people and their well being, and another focused on housing-focused unsheltered resolution.
 - iii. Innovation team spent a long time developing the PSH Standards, trying to create them with a focus on stretching our goals to reach for progress.
 - iv. Also looked at capacity within the standards. The importance of this was reiterated by one member.
 - v. Fred asked for a motion to approve the Outreach Standards
 - 1. Chris Knestrick motioned, Elaine Gimmel seconded. All were in favor with no opposition or abstentions. Motion carries
 - vi. Fred asked for a motion to approve the PSH Standards.
 - 1. Stephanie Thomas motioned, Elaine Gimmel seconded. All were in favor with no opposition or abstentions. Motion carries.

III. OHS Update

- a. Melissa shared that she is transitioning to a position with the YWCA in central Ohio.
- b. She does not know what is planned for her position.
- c. Melissa shared some reflections over the time she served as Director of OHS.
- d. Melissa shared that she has respect for the county and everything she says is from the lens of being the director of OHS, the lead agency for the CoC.

- e. Melissa expressed gratitude to her team and the honor it has been to work with them and serve in this role.
 - f. Melissa shared that she loves her job, team, the community and CoC, but OHS is under resourced and understaffed to the point that it is unhealthy – and this is not new information or a new discussion item.
 - g. Melissa reiterated that deadlines are very important and asked that everyone abides by those beyond her tenure.
 - h. Melissa asked that the CoC pauses to reflect on what is really needed from the CoC lead agency. How do we staff it properly and with the right director and the right lead?
 - i. Melissa again expressed gratitude and heartfelt feelings about her time in this role and community.
 - j. Allison Gill expressed gratitude and well wishes to Melissa.
 - k. There is a meeting scheduled on Monday with leadership and the Executive Committee which will hopefully help in the transition.
 - l. All were welcomed to stay after the meeting to share in refreshments and offer well wishes to Melissa.
- IV. 2024 NOFO Update
- a. Submitted to HUD. Melissa thanked her team for that work.
 - b. Confident the application will be successful.
- V. HMIS By-Name List Update
- a. Nick presented.
 - b. Goal to make sure that the BNL is completely from HMIS.
 - c. Nick shared that it seems there is still confusion at the agency staff level about using HMIS, so the procedure was developed (along with various trainings). Many people have attended the training but there are still lots of questions coming in that appear to support that people are still confused.
 - d. Nick shared the path from access point through housing.
 - e. For people who don't want their information on HMIS, they can now be added as an anonymous number.
 - f. Current BNL meetings are not productive, so we are changing the process, working within a 2-week timeframe.
 - i. Every Monday every provider has to send their available unit to CI and OHS. CI and OHS will use HMIS information to slot a primary participant and a backup participant for that vacancy.
 - ii. Within that 2 weeks, the Case Manager will have to take a housing offer form to the participant and they will have to sign it to either accept or decline the offer, and then that has to be uploaded into HMIS.
 - iii. Participant will have to complete the housing application within that two week period. Backup person will also complete the application during this timeframe in case the primary person declines.
 - iv. After you deny 3 viable housing opportunities, they will start being skipped over. Will still be active in HMIS but skipped over for at least 6 months.
 - v. Prioritization is staying the same, and will be the same for PSH and RRH.
 - vi. Still honoring client preferences.

VI. Initiative Reports

a. Ending Veteran Homelessness (EVH)

- i. SSVF – November had 99 veterans who identified as homeless.
- ii. Had an increase of homelessness in October.
- iii. PH placements did not rise as fast as prior month
- iv. Only 5 currently CH veterans
- v. Average housing placement timeframe is 96 days, so very close to the 90 day goal.

b. RRH

- i. 5-7 applications for families each month.
- ii. 20 applications each month for those fleeing DV
- iii. Expressed concern about people exiting unsuccessfully and coming back into the system after a few months without support and subsidy.
- iv. 126 DV HHs and 70 family RRH HHs for November

c. Ending Youth Homelessness (EYH)

- i. Numbers are increasing for homeless youth. 20 more adults from September to October.
- ii. There was a sizeable peak in numbers of homeless.
- iii. 40% of YA on the waiting list have a housing plan
- iv. New YHDP project enrolled 5 youth.

d. Unsheltered report

- i. Chris had to leave the meeting early and was not able to present.

VII. Adjournment

- a. Having no further business, meeting adjourned at 10:43am.

The next OHS Advisory Board meeting is on 1/16/2025 at St. Joseph Commons

Submitted by Megan Scheck 11/21/2024