

## **OHS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING**

Thursday, October 21, 2021, 9 a.m. -11:00 a.m.

In-person at Greenbridge Commons, 7515 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, OH and Online via Zoom

### **Attendance:**

**Board Members:** Karen Anderson, Barb Karam, Chris Knestrick, Paul Mosher, Clare Rosser, Natasha Wynn, Jeannie Citerman-Krager, Fred Berry, Ed Gernerchak, Emma Petrie-Barcelona (for Elaine Gimmel), Mike Sering, Teresa Sanders, John Litten, LaTonya Murray (for Angela Glassco), Abigail Staudt, Loh

**Others:** Angela D’Orazio, Sharon Parries, Howard Burchman, Christie Sozio, Emily Hawkins, Jacqueline Salter, Jessie Beck, Anne Hutchison, Jaliah Neely, Sarah Froimson, Cynthia Rios, Natasha Pietrocola, Liam Haggerty, Rochelle Harris, Mitch Wasserman

**OHS:** Erin Rearden, Allison Gill, Melissa Sirak, Nicholas Butina

### **1. Decision Issues**

#### **a. Approval of Advisory Board Minutes 7.20.21**

- i. Motion – Chris Knestrick; 2<sup>nd</sup> – LaTonya Murray
- ii. Unanimous, no abstentions, no oppositions

#### **b. Approval of 2021 NOFO Ranking/New Projects (Angela D’Orazio and Howard Burchman)**

- i. 5 new applications; renewals all scored the same as previous competition
- ii. Have applied for total bonus amount available; have not applied for all of possible DV Bonus dollars
- iii. Motion – Fred Berry; 2<sup>nd</sup> – Barb Karam
- iv. No oppositions
- v. Emma Petrie-Barcelona, LaTonya Murray, Teresa Sanders, & John Litten abstain from voting

#### **c. HMIS Policies & Procedures Manual (Matt White)**

- i. Language changes to transition to Bitfocus Clarity from Wellsky ServicePoint; addition of HUD standard practices; addition of definitions of terms; clarified roles of the Advisory Board; refreshed client consent protocols; additional clarification of client grievance process
- ii. Motion – Karen Anderson; 2<sup>nd</sup> – Fred Berry
- iii. Unanimous, no abstentions, no oppositions

#### **d. RRH Policy Update (Matt White)**

- i. Review of this policy due to findings/concerns from HUD ESG audit
- ii. CoC policy updates include addition of reference to fire safety inspections; addition of reference to recertification at 12 months meeting income requirements; addition of reference to FMR and rent reasonableness; addition of HMIS requirements if client is served by RRH provider
- iii. Motion – Barb Karam; 2<sup>nd</sup> – Karen Anderson
- iv. Unanimous, no abstentions, no oppositions

#### **e. Program Policy Committee (PPC) By-Law Update (Suzanne Wagner)**

- i. Description of the PPC was added to the by-laws including structure, how members join, who can join, and roles to be carried out
- ii. Mike Sering – concern that committee will be making policy/procedures decisions and informing Advisory Board without process for opposing or providing feedback
  1. Structure is that PPC advises OHS of the policy changes and OHS advises the Advisory Board

2. Concern is that Advisory Board does not meet frequently enough to get policies implemented quickly
  3. Need to have an avenue to provide feedback to the PPC before recommending policy to OHS
- iii. Decision on this issue is tabled until Governance Committee meets to discuss further

## **2. Race Equity**

### **a. Governance Committee Update (Chris Knestrick)**

- i. Reviewed equity processes within selecting new Advisory Board members
- ii. New design of single application process for both community representatives and agency representatives; includes specific questions about which committees applicants intend to work on and their role in advancing equity and diversity
- iii. Scoring is based on background/experience, reason for applying, expertise needs for the Advisory Board, experience advancing equity and diversity, & representative of the community that we serve.

## **3. Initiative Reports**

### **a. Ending Youth Homelessness (Christie Sozio)**

- i. Data provided by FLS – staffing changes at FLS have led to delay in getting data collected
- ii. Lack of units leading to small number of permanent exits
- iii. Youth Drop-In Center aims to be open in Spring 2022
- iv. 50-unit building dedicated to YA planning to open Summer 2023

### **b. Ending Veteran Homelessness (LaTonya Murray)**

- i. Leadership group meets monthly to review EVH
- ii. Number of veterans experiencing homelessness is increasing but number of chronically homeless has significantly decreased
- iii. Number of days to permanent housing is increasing slightly; contributed some of the increase to CMHA system downtime
- iv. Community does not have sufficient permanent housing capacity – lack of affordable housing in community as a whole

### **c. RRH (Anne Hutchison/Emma Petrie Barcelona)**

- i. Numbers of clients served by RRH is lower when compared to previous year; due to staffing issues and lack of affordable housing
- ii. 12 months of assistance has led to changes in structure/roles of how referral/housing process looks within RRH; has also led to increase in numbers of households served at once
- iii. End goal: get referrals quickly, get location completed quickly, and work more efficiently to get inspections completed

### **d. Unsheltered Report**

- i. Numbers of unsheltered have increased since May of 2021; most are new to being unsheltered or have lost housing recently
  1. Contributing factors:
    - a. Hotels closing
    - b. Diversion incentives were successful but there are individuals who opt out of shelter
    - c. Connections to get linked to MH case management; increase in individuals with severe & persistent mental health
- ii. Work by NEOCH/FLS's PATH team to provide targeted outreach services to meet the needs of unsheltered individuals

## **4. COVID Recovery Update (Melissa Sirak)**

### **a. COVID Recovery Space**

- i. As of 8/31/21, hotels are no longer used and CoC transitioned to a group home model for recovery space; Currently one home and working to secure securing funds for additional space
  - b. **Non-Congregate Shelter (Mike Sering/Theresa Sanders)**
    - i. Built pods at 2100; LMM is at 65% capacity due to housing incentives
    - ii. County has acquired building next to 2100 to provide 50% more space for the men's shelter
    - iii. YWCA is operating within 2 sites; working with OHS and EDEN to obtain permanent site
  - c. **Housing Incentives/Vaccine Incentives (Melissa Sirak)**
    - i. LMM successfully piloted incentive programs; hoping to secure ARPA funds to continue
    - ii. Families are increasing and pilot coming to address this subpopulation
  - d. **Eviction Diversion Efforts (Melissa Sirak)**
    - i. Abby Staudt to email update on
  - e. **Right to Counsel**
    - i. Abigail Staudt to email update
- 5. **ARPA & Home Update (Melissa Sirak)**
  - a. County Development making recommendation to Executive Budish for \$65 million in ARPA dollars
    - i. Affordable housing projects to serve special subpopulations (workforce, veterans, YA, etc.)
    - ii. Acquisition of or rehabilitation of shelter spaces
    - iii. CMHA – rental assistance and security deposit
    - iv. Support of Non-profits (prevention, diversion, MH, substance abuse, etc. services)
  - b. HOME
    - i. Acquisition of or rehabilitation of non-congregate shelter spaces
- 6. **Emergency Rental Assistance Update (Kate Carden)**
  - a. Kate was not present to update; update to come next meeting
- 7. **CMHA Mobility & Housing Vouchers (Dori Nolan)**
  - a. Dori Nolan not present to update; update to come next meeting
- 8. **Seasonal Shelter Planning (Chris Knestrick/Mike Sering)**
  - a. LMM's Hostel was successful; decreased unsheltered homelessness
    - i. Hope to open another seasonal shelter similar to Hostel before 12/1/2021
  - b. Warming Center (WSCC) to open for the season and expanded