

OHS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Thursday, March 17, 2022, 9a-11a

Virtual via Zoom

Attendance

Board Members: Chris Knestrick, Elaine Gimmel, Barb Karam, Fred Berry, Abigail Staudt, Michael Sering, Angela Glassco, Natasha Wynn, Michiel Wackers, Teresa Sanders, Peter Schindler, Ed Gernerchak, Dorivette Nolan, Jeannie Citerman-Krager, Kirsti Mouncey, Michael Seidman, Levine Ross (for Councilwoman Conwell), Clare Rosser, Peter Schindler, John Litten, Linda Uveges, Loh,

Others: Cindy Rios, Jacqueline Salter, Angela D’Orazio, Jennifer Harrison, Billie Gilliam, Kate Lodge, LaTonya Murray, Mitch Wasserman, Anne Hutchison, Eric Milkie, Martin Bielat, Brian Scott, D’Angela Tanks, Emily Hawkins, Christie Sozio, Jaliah Neely, Claire Gauntner, Jenny Eppich, Candace Robinson, Alaina Pereces, Cynthia Dailey, Beau Hill, Megan Scheck, Sarah Fromison, Jennifer Croessmann, Natasha Pietrocola, Joye Toombs,

OHS: Erin Rearden, Melissa Sirak, Nicholas Butina

1. DECISION ISSUES

a. Approval of Advisory Board Minutes 1.20.22

- i. Motion – Angela Glassco; 2nd – Barb Karam
- ii. None abstained; none opposed; motion carries

b. Program Policy Committee Membership (Chris Knestrick)

- i. List of strong applicants have been sent out
- ii. Motion to approve list of PPC Members – Chris Knestrick; 2nd – Fred Berry
- iii. Abstained – Elaine Gimmel, Angela Glassco, Teresa Sanders, Michael Sering
- iv. None opposed; motion carries

c. OHS Advisory Board Co-Chair (Chris Knestrick)

- i. Governance Committee has been reviewing chair position and has decided that there would be benefit of a tri-chair
- ii. Carried motion would change bylaws and start process of applying and selecting the 3rd chair
- iii. Motion – Chris Knestrick; 2nd – Barb Karam
- iv. None abstained; none opposed; motion carries

2. Peer Support for New Board Members (Chris Knestrick)

- a. Need 1 more peer for this new onboarding process; please reach out to Melissa Sirak if there is availability and willingness to participate.

3. 2021 & 2022 NOFO Submission (Melissa Sirak)

- a. 2021
 - i. Received award listing from HUD this week
 - ii. All renewal projects have been awarded
 - iii. No bonus projects awarded but Planning Grant was awarded in larger amount than in years past
 1. Our CoC receives more money than any other continuum in Ohio
- b. 2022

- i. Preparation for 2022 NOFO is under way
- ii. Need people to fill out Doodle poll for meeting availability; meeting would be for feedback and updates on the process/changes from last year

4. OHS Update (Melissa Sirak)

- a. Pulse Checks are being scheduled with continuum providers to discuss staffing, data, and support needed as recovery from COVID continues
- b. Site visits, which have already been started, and monitoring will begin soon
- c. Planning Grant dollars will used to contract with Housing Innovations to create a Strategic Plan

The strategic plan will be completed in 2022. The strategic plan will include four phases: Assess Leadership & Political Will, Predictive Analytics & System Modeling, System Design & Infrastructure Needs, and Governance & Implementation.

- i. The strategic plan will also include a analysis for federal, local, state and philanthropic funding that supports the Cuyahoga Homeless Continuum.
- ii. The planning process will include key stakeholder interviews, system modeling tool with PIT/HIC, and community engagement workshops.
- d. Angela D’Orazio on Homeless Services Taskforce assessment
 - i. Assessment will review 3 areas:
 - 1. Subpopulation services
 - 2. How local philanthropy supports homeless services
 - 3. Hidden helpers – who are the entities in the community that are assisting homeless individuals that we may not know about as a continuum

5. Race Equity

a. HUD Coordinated Entry Equity Grant (Erin Rearden)

- i. Met with CE staff to map out the system and process
- ii. OHS is considering compensation for persons with lived experience; leaning toward gift cards to ensure that compensation does not interfere with public benefits
- iii. Looking at data and evaluation for Q1
- iv. REACH Committee – Josh Johnson sent out links to webinar for continuum self-assessment

b. Race Equity Design Lab (Christie Sozio & D’Angela Tanks)

- i. Started in 2017 and has been working to understand and redress racial disparities in youth and young adults. Formed in recognition of disproportionality of young adults in color in the homeless system, the partner organizations originally focus on three areas: Apply a racial justice lens to ourselves and our organizations, analyze data and outcomes for young adults in the youth homeless system, and engage and partner with system that contribute to youth of color entering the homeless system. Recently added 3 subcommittees:
 - 1. Subcommittee focused on policy around Black/African American youth entering the homeless system.
 - 2. Subcommittee focused on policy around Black/African American young people exiting the system.
 - 3. Subcommittee focused on ensuring representation of Black/African American leaders through the Continuum of Care and partner systems, including in positions of power.

6. Overview of System Performance and LSA Data (Nick Butina)

- a. Presentation available on request

7. Workforce, Income, & Stability Work (Claire Gauntner)

- a. Presentation available on request

8. Seasonal Shelter (Chris Knestrick & Mike Sering)

- a. Cleveland Motel is still not up and running; UCC Denison, Trinity Lutheran, and hotels/motels have provided solutions for those individuals needing seasonal shelter
- b. NEOCH has been in conversations with police surrounding crimes against the homeless in other states; providing some extra protection to those individuals who are still unsheltered.

9. Cuyahoga County & City of Cleveland ARPA Update (Melissa Sirak & Michiel Wackers)

- a. ARPA Count RFP closed on 3/11/22; process to move forward with review of proposals
- b. City of Cleveland has legislation going to council soon with minimal details available currently; hopefully clearer in a month or two.

10. COVID Response Update

a. Front Steps (Theresa Sanders)

- i. Vacate premises date extended to 4/15 – census down to around 50 from 80
- ii. Incentives to be offered to stay with others for temporary relief from shelter
- iii. Working with OHS to deconcentrate at NHWC

b. Family Shelter Update (LaTonya Murray)

- i. Working with LMM to provide more space for families waiting for permanent shelter placement
- ii. COVID Recovery House may be converted to family overflow space
- iii. CE continues diversion effort – 44% of families are being diverted at the front door
- iv. Developing de-concentration incentives with family shelters

c. Continuum COVID Recovery Space (Melissa Sirak)

- i. Maintaining 2 recovery spaces with same partners

d. Eviction Diversion Efforts & Right to Council (Abigail Staudt)

- i. Presentation available on request or at this link: <https://freeevictionhelpresults.org/>

11. Emergency Rental Assistance Update (Kate Carden)

- a. Up to \$55,500,000 in ERA
- b. Receiving court dockets 28 days ahead of scheduled court date
- c. Have moved into ERA2

12. CMHA Mobility & Housing Vouchers (Dori Nolan)

- a. Mobility program is developing pilot for program – tentative start 5/15/22.
 - i. Pilot phase will be focused on current participants
- b. EHV has received over 500 referrals
 - i. Successfully housed 20 participants thus far
 - ii. Largest barrier is locating affordable housing
 - iii. Request for data available on how long housing search/issuance is taking