

OHS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Thursday, January 20, 2022, 9a-11a

Virtual via Zoom

Attendance

Board Members: Abigail Staudt, Natasha Wynn, Elaine Gimmel, Jeannie Citerman-Kraeger, Ed Gernerchak, Chris Knestrick, Teresa Sanders, Peter Schindler, LOH, Mike Sering, Angela Glassco, Fred Berry, Barb Karam, Dorivette Nolan, Mary McNamara, Karen Anderson, Marcia Zashin, John Litten

Others: Angela D’Orazio, Rochelle Harris, Joye Toombs, LaTonya Murray, Sherri Brandon, Jacki Salter, Candace, Claire Gauntner, Mitch Wasserman, Beau Hill, Christie Sozio, Anne Hutchison, Natasha Pietrocola, Billie Gilliam, Kate Lodge, Jennifer Harrison, Cindy Rios, Emily Hawkins, D’Angela Tanks, Deairius Houston, Jacki Salter, LeVine Ross, Caleb Dixon, Jaliah Neely, Beth Graham, Jenny Eppich, Lester Holmes, Megan Scheck, Sharon Parries, Kate Carden

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

1. DECISION ISSUES

a. Approval of Advisory Board Minutes 11.18.21

- i. Motion – Fred Berry; 2nd – Karen Anderson
- ii. None abstained; none opposed; motion carries

b. OHS Advisory Board Membership (Chris Knestrick)

- i. On behalf of Governance Committee, recommendations for open board seats:
 1. At Large Seat – Kirsti Mouncey
 - a. Motion – Chris Knestrick; 2nd – Marcia Zashin
 - b. Unanimous, no abstentions; no oppositions
 2. Provider Seats – Teresa Sanders, John Litten, Angela Glassco
 - a. Motion – Chris Knestrick; 2nd – Barb Karam
 - b. Motion carries; Teresa Sanders, John Litten, Angela Glassco abstained; no oppositions
 3. Community Representative Seat – Gloria Burt
 - a. Motion – Chris Knestrick; 2nd – Elaine Gimmel
 - b. Unanimous; no abstentions; no oppositions
 4. Co-chair Seat – Elaine Gimmel
 - a. Motion – Chris Knestrick; 2nd – Teresa Sanders
 - b. Motion carries; Elaine Gimmel abstained; no oppositions

c. 2022 PIT Methodology (Allison Gill)

- i. Methodology has not changed from 2020
- ii. 2021 – did not conduct unsheltered count but that will be resumed this year
- iii. HMIS providers have already been contacted by Nick Butina for sheltered portion
- iv. Unsheltered count outlined in guidance document created by OHS
 1. Change – count to be conducted between 8p 1/25/22 to 8am 1/26/22
- v. Motion to approve – Elaine Gimmel; 2nd – Barb Karam
 1. Question from Karen McHenry: times are restrictive for youth subpopulation. Can there be more flexible time period?
 - a. Discussion to happen next week/offline for youth providers

2. Unanimous, no abstentions, no oppositions

2. 2021 & 2022 NOFO Submission (Melissa Sirak)

- a. 2021 NOFO – have not heard any feedback from HUD; expecting to receive feedback in first quarter of 2022
- b. 2022 NOFO – OHS will begin working on 2022 NOFO
 - i. Will pull group together to review performance standards and consumer satisfaction surveys

3. OHS Update (Melissa Sirak)

- a. Planning Grant dollars to be used on following priorities:
 - i. Hiring consultant to create strategic plan
 - ii. Funding analysis
 - iii. Workforce Development
- b. Question from Chris Knestrick: Will there be an RFP for consultant on strategic plan?
 - i. Unsure if RFP will be the process but REI focus will be present when selecting consultant and developing the strategic plan

4. Governance Committee Update (Barb Karam)

- a. Activities earlier this year focused on selecting board members
- b. Focused now on:
 - i. Onboarding processes for new board members; recommendations will be made to OHS Advisory Board
 - ii. Program Policy Committee –
 - 1. All interested parties should put apply – focused on REI and direct service worker involvement
 - 2. Comment from Loh – focus should be on adding people to this committee who are receiving the services instead of service providers
 - a. All parties are invited to apply

5. Initiative Reports (See handouts)

a. Ending Veteran Homelessness (EVH) (LaTonya Murray)

- i. 90 currently homeless veterans
- ii. Moved several people into housing with assistance from VASH vouchers
- iii. 2 long-term veterans who have extended housing plans over the 90-day threshold
- iv. 113 days to house veterans – goal is under 90 days which was pre-pandemic success for our CoC

b. RRH (Anne Hutchison)

- i. 90 less served compared to last year at this time
- ii. Delays in passing inspections and identification of units that will pass inspection
- iii. Currently 189 households receiving rental assistance and 84 DV-HT households receiving rental assistance
- iv. Working with CMHA to move households to permanent vouchers (EHVs specifically)
- v. Added additional housing locator since last Advisory Board meeting
- vi. Question from Chris Knestrick: what have been the challenges to utilizing RRH?
 - 1. Lack of affordable rentals
 - 2. Increased cost of rentals currently under lease
 - 3. Background checks/landlords refusing to work with clients with negative backgrounds

c. Ending Youth Homelessness (EYH) (Christie Sozio)

- i. 158 actively homeless youth in month of December
- ii. Black and transgender youth are disproportionately represented in our youth homeless population
- iii. Trending increase in homeless youth population

6. 2021 LSA Reporting & System Performance (Nick Butina)

- a. System Performance Measures will be finalized tomorrow and submitted; data can be presented on during next Advisory Board
- b. LSA is on 3rd submission and will be due at the end of February; thank you for all HMIS providers who have been responsive to our communication on this

7. Seasonal Shelter (Chris Knestrick & Mike Sering)

- a. Denison UCC – 12/23 opening date w/ highest census of 30 people
- b. Cleveland Motel will be opening soon
- c. Partnership between LMM and NEOCH to increase capacity for season shelter
- d. Metanoia is also available and have 30 spots available

8. Cuyahoga County & City of Cleveland ARPA Update (Melissa Sirak)

- a. County submitted \$65 million request to County Executive for ARPA money to spend on COVID Recovery, prevention, and shelter rehabilitation

9. COVID Response Update

a. Continuum COVID Recovery Space (Melissa Sirak)

- i. Operation was in hotels thru August of 2021; now we are in nursing homes
- ii. Currently have 2 nursing homes (sites opened last week) and another site coming online for both COVID recovery and seasonal shelter
 - 1. Question from Loh: when is additional site opening for COVID space?
 - a. Aiming for beginning of next month
 - 2. Question from Cindy Rios: is new site suitable for families?
 - a. Aiming to use new site for singles and use homes for families
- iii. County funding is supporting this space

b. CoC Vaccine & Housing Incentives (Melissa Sirak)

- i. Continuing this effort thru CARES dollars at this point but will want to advance with use of other strategic funding

c. Shelter Rehab Updates (Mike Sering, Elaine Gimmel & Teresa Sanders)

- i. Women's shelter
 - 1. Building identified and purchase agreement has been entered pending environmental reviews
 - a. Question from Loh: where is building located?
 - i. E.23rd behind current NHWC site
 - 2. Looking to expand capacity to 200 non-congregate spaces
 - 3. Plans for this space will go to residents for review and feedback
 - 4. YWCA is looking to extend lease at W.25th location
- ii. Men's shelter
 - 1. 2020 Lakeside has been purchased by county to extend 2100 with goal of de-concentration and not adding capacity

d. Family Shelter Updates

i. Family Promise (Jacki Salter)

- 1. Working on behavioral health program and being certified as Trauma Informed Organization

- 2. Managing Covid well
- ii. **Salvation Army (Beau Hill)**
 - 1. Covid hit family shelter hard w/ half of shelter staff positive in December and several families testing positive
 - 2. 500 unique people enrolled over 2021 w/ 62% exiting to positive exit destination
 - 3. Avg LOS between 100-135 days from 70 days pre-pandemic
- iii. **WSCC (John Litten)**
 - 1. Resource center had to be closed for 3 days in December because of COVID
 - 2. Shelter staff are desperately needed – hired recruiter to assist
- e. **Eviction Diversion Efforts (Abigail Staudt)**
 - i. RFP out from national organization that supports state courts to assist courts in developing diversion programs
 - 1. Cleveland will not submit proposal/application
 - 2. Garfield Hts is moving forward
- f. **Right to Counsel (Abigail Staudt)**
 - i. Representation has increased

10. Emergency Rental Assistance Update (Kate Carden)

- a. \$52 million in rental assistance provided to Cuyahoga County
- b. 12000 applications processed; 3000 currently in process
- c. Applicants are experiencing new COVID hardships so prior applicants are re-applying
- d. Were given access to housing court docket ahead of court dates to place urgent status on those clients' applications
- e. Dealing with staffing shortages – trying to fill positions and add housing navigators with additional funding
- f. For families w/ school-age kids, funding available for moving assistance (i.e. security deposits)

11. CMHA Mobility & Housing Vouchers (Dori Nolan)

- a. 80% utilized in VASH program
- b. Developing mobility program w/ HUD and Abt Associates with start date scheduled for Spring 2022
 - i. Question from Loh: what can we do about landlords who are refusing to take vouchers in high opportunity areas?
 - 1. This will be included in the plan developed w/ HUD and Abt Associates
- c. Allocated 7 EHV's; 146 EHV's issued; about 100 individuals did not engage with referral process and have been withdrawn

12. HUD Coordinated Entry Equity Grant (Melissa Sirak & Erin Rearden)

- a. Framework being laid out by consultant team
- b. Goal to coordinate efforts with the continuum's ongoing work on REI
- c. Development of a tool to use at CE that is inclusive and less biased