

Alliance for Housing

Bi-monthly General Membership Meeting; Tuesday, July 9, 2013

Meeting Minutes - Respectfully submitted by Daniel Kelly



Attendance:

Marc Craig (CHN), Jim Periaki (Common Ground), Marlene Burgess (Hope Network), Courtney Mave (Hope Network), Jenny Poma (SOS), Katrin Michael (Iraqi American Center), Sara Orris (Oakland Schools), Rob Boyle (Furniture Bank), Ecolé Brooks (Oakland County), Elizabeth Kelly (Hope Warming Center), Linda Riggs (Rochester Neighborhood House), Cheryl Case (Jewish Family Service), Jamie Christofel (CHN), Kevin T. Bogg (TTI), Amy Conniff (CHN), Preston Van Vilet (CHN), Deborah Busch (Busch Housing Services), Jessica Mumma (CHN), Dan Kelly (SOS), Karla Chambers (Springhill Housing/CHN), Jill Shoemaker (HMIS), Leah McCall (Lighthouse), Eric Hufnagel (MCAH), Michelle Atwell (Grace Centers of Hope), Niko Dawson (OCC), Malissa Woodruff (HAVEN), Ann Serra (SOS), Gloria Lutey (OCHD Homeless Advocacy Program), Liz Lucas (OLSHA), Stephanie Osterland (Habitat Oakland)

Introductions

Meeting was called to order at 1:34pm.

A motion to approve the May 13th, 2013 annual Alliance retreat and March 13, 2013 general membership meeting minutes was brought up by Jim Perlaki, it was seconded by Gloria Lutey. The motion carried unanimously.

Announcements

Gloria Lutey mentioned that the Oakland County homeless health care collaboration was on Friday, July 12th at 9:00am at Oakland County Executive Conference Center, East Conference Room, 2100 Pontiac Lake Road, Building 41 West, Waterford, MI 48328.

Presenter

Eric Hufnagel of the Michigan Coalition against Homelessness presented.

Eric discussed the effects of the sequestration with the group. He described his affiliation with various advocacy groups throughout the state of Michigan on homelessness. Eric mentioned that the effects of sequestration are slowly impacting programs throughout the state. Eric stated the Housing Choice Vouchers have had a cut as well as the community action agencies throughout the state. He stated those agencies were hit very hard. Eric mentioned that the HUD field offices in Flint and Grand Rapids have been closed due to sequestration as well. He stated the greatest impact of sequestration may not be immediate; it may be an accumulated effect. Mr. Hufnagel stated the President has been supportive of housing programs and the House of Representatives has been less than supportive of funding housing programs.

Mr. Hufnagel stated that there are some things people can do to help with this situation however. He stated if you let congress people what is going on locally as a result of cuts that would be an excellent advocacy effort. Otherwise, the congress people will work on the information they have at hand which may be limited. Through congress visits, Eric found that housing was not a major focus of our representatives. You can be involved with your legislator by visiting them in Lansing or locally, sending emails, and/or letters. He stated now is the time to be engaged in advocacy as the legislature is currently working on creating the budget.

Eric highlighted that lobby is different from advocacy. He stated that lobbying is more associated with specific bills; he stated that when performing advocacy you should mention how decisions will or have affected your community. Eric answered a question about the difference between federal and state legislature conversations. He stated that at the state level, there are not a lot of dollars associated with homelessness and housing so the issues focus on other areas that may affect the population we serve. Currently, this includes the Medicaid expansion at the state level.

Eric told the group they can connect with the Michigan Coalition Against Homelessness (MCAH) through an electric newsletter at mihomeless.org. He also passed around membership applications for MCAH. Eric mentioned there is an advocacy pool for individuals who are interested in advocacy efforts. He asked that if people are interested in being added to this list to email him at ehufnagel@mihomeless.org.

Eric stated his goal is to be a spark for increased advocacy efforts by homeless services advocates throughout the state. Eric stated he would like for at least one individual in every COC to be identified as a policy and advocacy individual.

Committee and Workgroup Reports

Board Report

Marc Craig reported on the Board. He stated our 501(c)(3) application was put through last week. Marc stated there were concerns raised about the COCs prioritization and project selection process at a previous meeting. He stated that because of this the COC wished to create a conflict of interest policy. He passed around the conflict of interest policy. He stated that in a nutshell the policy states that funded organizations cannot participate in the selection of projects. Please see the attached policy for reference.

Marc reported that the COC also put out an RFP for a COC Coordinator and that the COC Board has reviewed these applications and contracted with a Patrice Martin to become the COC Coordinator for Oakland County. Marc stated the goal is to hire a permanent staff person once we become the unified funding agency.

Operations Committee

Leah McCall reported. She stated the group is working on creating a scoring sheet for scoring projects on COC applications. Marc stated the operations committee is working on monitoring the projects individually as well.

Finance and Audit

Jim Perlaki reported. He stated there was no meeting in June. He stated the pressing items for this group were the 501(c)(3) application and figuring out a package for the contract COC Coordinator. Jim stated that Ryan Hertz is working on putting a contract together.

Public Awareness and Advocacy

Dan Kelly reported. He stated the group is working on revamping the COC website utilizing other COC websites as a template. They are also working on creating boiler plate fact sheets related to community needs and progress.

Project Monitoring and Performance Outcomes (HMIS)

Jill Shoemaker reported. She stated the group is working to ensure the data our community has is utilized at the state and federal level. She stated that data quality has been a community focus. The HMIS annual report will be forwarded to the listserv. Please see the attached HMIS annual report as well. Jill stated a service point upgrade will be completed by the end of July 2013. She stated this upgrade to 5.8 should correct some issues with utilizing Google. She also stated there is a new grant management module that is included in the new version as well. Jill stated she updated the HMIS policies and procedures as well. The data quality group will be working on cleaning up client data behind the scenes. Jill stated the outcomes committee is breaking down the initial outcomes that were set-forth a few years ago to improve on them.

Region 8 Report

Jim Perlaki reported. Jim stated the minutes from the Region 8 meetings are posted on the Michigan Campaign to End Homelessness website. Jim stated the MSHDA NOFA has been opened. It is due August 16, 2013. Jim stated that in the MSHDA NOFA, they mention a specific RFP for capacity building grants from MSHDA this summer to assist COCs in merging their efforts together. Jim stated the COC Board has discussed this issue and stated that their intention is to not merge with other COCs. Jim stated that a toolkit is now available for the Community Resource Day on the Michigan Coalition Against Homelessness website (Mihomeless.org). Jim stated that the state-wide convening group is looking to get more involvement on workgroups including efforts to work on training, advocacy, community-building, and working with mainstream resources. Jim mentioned that it is important for the community to create a common eligibility requirements for ESG funding. Jim asked the group if they have any input on how to do this. Amy Coniff stated communication is key between the group, Dan Kelly stated that utilizing HMIS more effectively would help.

Mr. Perlaki mentioned to the group that the regional efforts have been discussing whether a legal agreement between providers across the state is needed to ensure providers are in align with funder requirements including the shelter FEMA contracts that only allow shelters to assist individuals with 90 days of shelter stay throughout all shelters in the state. Marc asked whether this sharing across regions may dilute our COCs data quality – Jill stated she does not believe it will. Jill stated that the coordinated system of care across the region will also need to be utilized. Dan Kelly stated there would be a concern with potential increased litigation due to a security breach of some kind. Michelle Atwell asked if there could be implications for funding – Jim replied that there may be a greater chance of catching someone who is committing fraud as a result of this. The group discussed additional concerns about legal ramifications for those that are chronically homeless, etc.

HARA Single Point of Entry Report

Amy Coniff reported. She stated there were over 13,000 calls to the housing resource center in the last year. She stated these individuals were also screened for additional services as well through this center. Amy stated that individuals who are homeless and under 30% AMI were given a housing plan to specifically work on linking them with housing resources. Amy stated they created over 478 housing plans. She stated that 27 households were assisted with rental assistance through MSHDA ESG funds; she stated that 7 of those individuals were bridged over to the Leasing Assistance Programs at CHN.

Old Business

Gloria Lutey reported that the homeless healthcare collaboration is meeting Friday, July 12th at 9:00am at Oakland County Executive Conference Center, East Conference Room, 2100 Pontiac Lake Road, Building 41 West, Waterford, MI 48328.

She stated the group is focusing on educating politicians. She stated there has been good group participation and the group is working on creating a health-care portal. She stated she was hoping to get more of the warming centers and shelters in the community involved in the taskforce.

New Business

Community Resource Day

Sara Orris reported on Community Resource Day. She stated the event will be November 20th in Pontiac at Trinity Baptist Church. She stated that on August 5th, at 10:00am the Community Resource Day group is meeting at the Oakland Schools Summit Place Office. She stated the event will focus on linking people to employment opportunities and other community resources. She stated that an agency sign-up will be circulated on the listserv.

By-Laws

Marc Craig reported on the need for a modification of by-laws. He stated that there was some concern that a for-profit entity could “hijack” the COC by having more voting members than anyone else. He

stated that this was addressed by the Board though as the COC requires that funding go to non-profit organizations.

MSHDA ESG

Marc Craig reported that the MSHDA ESG application is out. Marc stated that the COC Board would like the MSHDA ESG applicants/previous recipients to submit a collaborative application rather than individual applications. This should assist with minimizing paperwork for the MSHDA ESG process. Jim Perlaki stated that Lighthouse will be the fiduciary of the MSHDA ESG funds. Jim stated the goal is to have the COC to take over next year as the MSHDA ESG fiduciary. Marc stated that a group of COC related, however non-funded agencies will be asked to assist with the process of MSHDA ESG grant selections.

HUD Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance Programs

Marc Craig reported. He stated we are still waiting on whether certain funding is approved for the COC including the COC planning grant.

Community Priorities and Planning

Marc Craig reported. He mentioned that the goal is to find out what priorities the COC should move forward with based on community need. He stated the Dan Kelly had previously sent out a survey via the list serve; he passed out hard copies to the group as well. Dan stated he would re-send the survey on the list serve for anyone who was unable to fill it out previously.

Homeless Preference Vouchers (HPV)

Jamie Christofel reported. She stated that a meeting was recently convened to give out vouchers. She stated that 35 people were present at the meeting. Jamie stated that people who were pulled from about one year ago. She asked that if anyone would like to be added to her email notice of voucher information, to please contact her.

Eric Hufnagel stated the Michigan Summit to End Homelessness is September 18th and 19th in Frankenmuth and that registration will go in the subsequent months.

Meeting adjourned at 3:25pm.