

Ozarks Alliance to End Homelessness



Springfield/Greene, Christian and Webster Counties Continuum of Care
Executive Board Meeting – June 12, 2019 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Community Partnership of the Ozarks - 330 N. Jefferson, Springfield, MO

In Attendance

Voting Members

Liz Hagar-Mace: Chair
Bob Atchley
Jody Austin
Kelly Harris
Holly Hunt
Mandi Loe
Maura Taylor

Voting Members

Jennifer Cannon
Elisa Coonrod
Wyatt Jenkins

Interested Parties

Lynn Schirk
Theresa Oglesby

Staff Support

Adam Bodendieck
Michelle Garand
Michelle Hethcoat
Rebecca Sisk
Amanda Stadler
Michael Tonarely

Welcome & Introductions – Liz Hagar-Mace, Chair

Liz Hagar-Mace called the meeting to order at 11:00 am. Liz welcomed everyone to the table and each person introduced themselves.

Federal Funding Updates – Bob Atchley

CDBG: The City received the numbers for CDBG from HUD. There was about a 1% increase in funding this year. They have completed the Annual Action Plan and it is open for public review and comment from 5/29 through 6/13. They will submit it to HUD on 6/14, and it serves as our formal application to HUD. The 2019 FY will begin on July 1. Everything is coming together, and we should be in good shape time wise.

ESG: The City and MHDC have executed the 2019 agreement, and at this point we are routing all the subgrantee contracts through the City contract process for review and hopefully will have them completed in a month or so.

The ESG NOFA for FY 2020 dropped early and the City made the decision not to apply. It was a difficult decision, but one that they think will be best for the overall Continuum. Over the last 3 years funding for the CoC has gone down, based on MHDC's Allocation Plan. In 2018 the CoC received 7% of the total allocation, 6.5% in 2019 and it will be 6% in 2020. What the City was told is that there is a \$150,000 cap on City applicants and MHDC bases their plan allocations on previous years' requests. The City's hope is that by not applying the funding for the CoC will go up. The City also recommends that interested agencies apply for the full amount that they can apply for. Bob's understanding is that each applicant can apply for up to \$50,000 and if you are applying in the counties, you can apply for \$100,000. The City expects that if MHDC sees more requests from the CoC than the cap from the City, that it will lead to additional funding. Liz Hagar-Mace asked if the City was letting agencies who had applied in the past know about the change. Bob said they had let all the existing applicants know and did think they would reach out to some past agencies as well. They also had some agencies in the past that were interested

by never applied and they are thinking about reaching out to them as well. Amanda Stadler said that once MHDC posts the application, she will do an email to the full CoC and other public postings through the City. Bob said the application should be available this week. He also said one of the biggest changes is the funding period will be from 11/1/19 through 11/30/20. It's earlier than last year, so there will be some overlap and they are normally a 15-month grant but will now be a 12-month grant. An ESG application training webinar has been tentatively scheduled for 6/20/19. Bob said that while the City is not applying, he and Amanda would be happy to review applications.

HUD CoC Grant – Amanda Stadler

We are waiting for the Notice of Funding Availability for the CoC grant. Our NOFA Committee, which was previously called the Rank and Review Committee, met to do some prep work on a game plan for this year's application. We anticipate there will be bonus funding available again this year, which will be a way for agencies to apply for new projects. The committee reviewed various data points to see where there are gaps in our system to get a feel for what we might prioritize for the bonus project. They looked at PIT trends over the last 5 years and some simple stats from the Coordinated Entry System, as well as funding allocations and how those were divided between populations and different housing types. Based on the data, the group initially is thinking of prioritizing RRH for low barrier individuals and families. Once the NOFA is released, we will review and meet again and then do an email vote to this group to determine what we will focus on for the bonus dollars.

Liz Hagar-Mace asked if Bob wanted to discuss the Consolidated Plan since that affects the federal funding as well. The Consolidated Plan is the City's 5-year plan to HUD. Everyone here should have received a Community Development Needs Survey email this morning. The City is trying to get an idea of what the community wants to see the City utilize its HUD funding for. They are hoping for as much feedback as possible, to know where the public is telling us where they want us to focus our funding on. The City will be going out to 20-25 organizations and are tentatively scheduled for the quarterly CoC General Membership meeting. At the same time, the City is updating its Comprehensive Plan, which is a 20-year plan. They are working together jointly on both plans so that the two plans agree.

Old Business

Approval of May Minutes (Action Required)-Maura Taylor

Liz Hagar-Mace asked if there were any additions or corrections to the May minutes that were provided to the group prior to the meeting. Liz asked for a motion to approve.

ACTION: Jennifer Cannon made a motion to accept the May minutes as presented. Elisa Coonrod seconded the motion; all members were in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

New Business

NOFA Committee Appointment (Action Required)-Liz Hagar-Mace

Amanda Stadler referenced the NOFA Committee, which used to be called the Rank and Review Committee. Liz said that the group needs to appoint another person to the committee and that requires a vote. Jim O'Neal has agreed to do that, even though he's not here today. Wyatt, Elisa, Dr. Knapp and Bob are currently on the committee. Liz needs a motion to approve.

ACTION: Kelly Harris and Elisa Coonrod made a motion to accept the nomination of Jim O'Neal to the NOFA Committee. Wyatt Jenkins seconded the motion; all members were in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

Coordinated Entry System Update-Adam Bodendieck

Last week, the CES Policy and Development group met to review the current CES policies and procedures. They made some updates, including verbiage and good practices that have been developed over the past year, so they were accurately documented. They also spend some time talking about new policies that focused on prioritization and resources to look at if they are being used appropriately and effectively to make sure that everything aligns with needs and the system. Adam said this is something that should be reviewed annually, so updates to policies and procedures can be made. One of the big changes is that when they first wrote it, it was targeted to the agency level, and now it is more appropriately written to the program level. Another is looking at evaluation and monitoring closely, since early on they didn't know what data they would be capturing or what would be worthwhile to look at. Now that the data exists, they can evaluate it on an ongoing basis to make sure the system supports the programs and ongoing needs of the community. The updates are being reviewed by the Policy and Development Committee and then they will be shared with this group for input and approval. The information should be emailed before our next meeting. Liz Hagar-Mace asked if the agencies would have an opportunity to review and comment before it's presented to the Board? Adam said that they could do that. There is representation from anyone who has a Front Door program on the group-Holly, Theresa, Michael, as well as someone from Harmony House, the VA and Catholic Charities. He is happy to extend further invitations. Liz said there is the Policy group, but it affects more than just those people. She thinks the people that are over the agencies should to be aware of what those changes in terms of impact on their staff, the funded agencies and on how that works. Adam said he thought the representation they have in the group is good for that purpose. Liz reiterated that its important that there is a review or a public comment before it is presented to the Board for approval.

System Performance Measure Submission-Michael Tonarely

Michael met with Adam and Amanda before the submission deadline. They reviewed the data from HMIS for the System Performance Measures and submitted the 2018 data. HUD also has changed specifications for their assessment measure reports, so after reviewing, Adam and Amanda felt it was probably smart to resubmit 2017 data again, so they did that. Everything was successfully submitted by the deadline. Next month Michael will do a presentation that shows what was submitted.

SPS Students Experiencing Homelessness-Lynn Schirk

Lynn said they were seeing an uptick, maybe not exactly in students experiencing homelessness, but in students being identified by the school system. In 2015, there were 1,420 identified, and in the last school year there were 2,283 identified. Lynn said SPS and the community at large is doing a better job figuring out who qualifies for that status and identifying those students but struggling with the capacity to serve those families. Lynn's office is comprised of her and two social workers, but the need is overwhelming. After her first year in this position, they created a sub-committee of the HYTF, called Wednesday Connection. It proved helpful in supplying support services to those families. Lynn distributed copies of the brochure that explains what the program is. Wednesday Connection is basically on stop shop. We have a handful of agencies represented – MSU Care, Burrell, Housing Authority, One Door, Jordan Valley, MO Career Center, and case workers who help accessing birth certificates, ID's and other mainstream benefits. They also provide ongoing case management services to those families. Those numbers have also significantly increased. They started with case managers last year and they had a documented work case load of 32 students (doesn't include their families), and this last school year, they were at 75. Those are numbers for ongoing support services that they are working with setting goals and strategic plans to meet those goals. The folks that they provide support for that are not on an ongoing basis, totaled 61 last year, but this year it was 305. Referrals for Wednesday Connection

have also significantly increased. They also continue to see challenges in getting families to the program. When they do an in-take for families, they eliminate all barriers by offering onsite free childcare thanks to Great Circle, transportation issues with cab service, bus passes, gas reimbursement, etc. Typically, about half of the people scheduled to attend show up. They know that many of the families that are a part of the program experience chaos all the time and impacts participation. Going forward, and maybe this is something for our community to figure out, but at the end of the school year they will no longer be able to provide cab service because the Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Education have a new requirement that all drivers funded by SPS must have an S endorsement, which essentially means that they are or have been trained to be a school bus driver. SPS also utilize cab service for many other things like, medical or mental health appointments, to and from school when their bus service isn't ready yet, so no cab service is going to create a significant gap for what they can provide. Maura Taylor mentioned that there is a new on-demand ride company called Car Go that is working with Catholic Charities on serving their clients with background checks for their people, so she will share the contact info with Lynn. Lynn said she knew that other schools were using former teachers or school staff that were willing to meet the requirement. Elisa Coonrod asked how you get school bus training? Lynn said SPS transportation dept. provides it and it includes a yearly physical, background checks and continued education for behavior and safety management. Elisa wondered if there could be some partnering with the Career Center or the Excel program. Lynn did have a conversation with Yellow Cab about options, but it didn't work out. The social workers have been hired through a 3-yr grant and this upcoming year is the last year. Last year, the grant funding was cut, and will be cut again this year. Lynn said areas she'd love to improve would be more staff to service families through her office. Lynn said she is not sure how she can continue the Wednesday Connection with the increase in numbers and referrals. Wednesday Connection is modeled off a program in KC, KS that is run by a non-profit community agency and they give referrals and have case management services. It is funded by grants and private donations. The Agency in KC,KS is called Avenue of Life. Liz said that maybe there is an opportunity with the new O'Reilly Center for Hope, to partner on a similar program. Michelle said the Center would certainly be a good place for Wednesday Connection to live. No one else in the state is doing a program like this.

Committee Updates

Christian County Homeless Alliance-Mandi Loe

The CCHA meeting was yesterday, and they had Amanda Callaway, the City Attorney for Ozark as a speaker. She is trying to set up a Homeless Court in Ozark, something like what the City of Nixa has, and she helped start the Springfield Homeless Court with Jody Austin. The purpose is to help individuals with municipal issues that they just can't get on top of. She was looking to find out more info about resources and may start attending the CCHA meetings.

They also discussed the aftermath of the Waterford tornado. A lot of families have been taken care of, and the school district was able to pay for some hotels. There is one family that lost their cars, so if anyone has any resources let Mandi know.

Christian County Homeless Alliance-Maura Taylor

Many of the topics have been discussed already in this meeting.

Homeless Youth Task Force-Amanda Stadler

There is a National Symposium on Solutions to End Youth Homelessness Conference in NY next week that several community members, including Lynn, are going to. Thanks to the HYTF and some anonymous donors, one of the youth from our Youth Action Board will be attending as well. Within the

next month, the HYTF will be updating their gap analysis, which was last done in 2017. If they are awarded YHDP, that process will inform the development of their community plan.

Michelle Hethcoat said they were releasing the High Risk and Homeless Youth Report on Friday, June 14 at 6:30 pm at Pagination Bookshop. Michelle will make some brief comments at the beginning and the youth from the Youth Action Board will have a community conversation and discuss their experiences of being homeless youth and what they think the community could be doing better and what they are doing well to support them. The youth are very excited to be able to share this with the community and Holly Hunt has offered to moderate.

Homeless Veterans Task Force-Amanda Stadler

The HVTF has their Bridge Housing Fund that was launched in February of this year. It was a long-identified gap that they have worked to address. Bridge housing provides temporary transitional shelter for Veterans that have assistance coming through partner programs from SSVF through the Kitchen or VASH through the VA but don't have a place to stay during the couple of weeks until they are able to locate an apartment. They have been assisting about one Veteran a month. The referrals come through One Door. One of the ways they are fundraising is by placing donation boxes around town, so if you have a business or organization that would want to host a box or support in another way, Amanda would be happy to reach out to them.

O'Reilly Center for Hope-Michelle Garand

Renovations continue at the old Pepperdine School and they are on track to meet the timeline for the end of 2019 or early 2020 to start phasing agencies in. The grand opening won't be until April 2020 during Fair Housing month and will give them time to work through any kinks and become fully operational as they phase in services like showers, laundry and shuttle service. They have been working on internal communication between clients and internal referrals between agency to agency and are looking at the most restrictive confidentiality that will be a part of the MOUs. They also know of a software project that is both HIPPA and HMIS compliant called Service Point. A group is working to find out if that tool could be used as a triage tool to be able to collect data for partner agencies, but then to also do internal referrals from agency to agency. They are excited about the possibility since they have agencies using Service Point for the homeless service system HMIS, but also for Connect Springfield, so there is familiarity with the program. Michelle plans to have another partner update meeting in August.

417 Rentals-Michelle Garand

They are working with any individual currently living in 417 rental properties, with the majority going through foreclosure. Some homes are deplorable, but some are habitable with some minor repairs. For families that need to relocate, they have CFO funds that they are using mainly for utility or rent arrears and deposits for utilities or rent. They've handled a lot of calls because people are in panic mode, and given a lot of advice, education and some direct services. They've been working with Wishing Well, Oak Rest and some housing units on Cherry to get those folks relocated as quickly as possible. Michelle said its going well, and they only struggling with a few high barrier households.

Announcements

Disaster Case Manager-Maura Taylor

Catholic Charities is known for its disaster case management and they are taking quite a few calls. The Greene Co. COAD is sending referrals to them. The Governor and his team are looking at declarations

for over 30 counties in MO and there may be more added for IA (Individual Assistance). Many in Christian Co. and Rogersville were insured but many were under insured or their insurance companies are contesting their claims. Make sure you refer people to the State Dept. of Insurance. If you do have people impacted that need assistance you can refer them to Catholic Charities. Catholic Charities have partnered with the Red Cross, who is handling the initial case work and then Catholic Charities is taking over the longer-term recovery cases. Disasters like tornadoes and flooding are long term recoveries. If IA assistance is awarded to the state of MO, we want to avoid duplication of benefits which means charities or others provide services, and then clients apply for assistance, which is duplication. That's why charities hold off sometimes before going in and making repairs until they know if they are going to get IA.

VASH Development-Amanda Stadler

Katrena Wolfram is at the Governor's office advocating for state tax credits. She wanted to let the group know that she is still working on their VASH development which would create an extra 28 units for Veterans. She is also still processing through their RAD designation. The PHA is taking over 61 vouchers from Forest Park apartments and they are just waiting on final approval from HUD to finish that process.

Upcoming-Amanda Stadler

There is a typo on the bottom of the agenda. The next OAEH General Membership meeting will be on July 18 not July 10. This is the meeting we are tentatively planning on having the City present on the Consolidated Plan.

Liz Hagar-Mace said the MO Dept. of Mental Health is having a series of regional housing conferences focused on Housing First. The Southwest/Springfield conference is September 24 & 25 at Empower Abilities. Liz passed out flyers to the group and said they are free to distribute. The conference is free and is open to agencies, case managers, community support workers, tenants and individuals. The Housing First piece in the morning of the first day may not interest a lot of tenants, but there are workshops and there is a legal workshop on the second day with topics like how to access units, negotiate with landlords, and learn your legal rights as a tenant. There is a question/answer session. The registration form will be up in the next couple of weeks.

Motion to adjourn

Kelly Harris motioned to adjourn. Wyatt Jenkins seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 12:08 p.m.