

Ozarks Alliance to End Homelessness



Springfield/Greene, Christian and Webster Counties Continuum of Care

Community Partnership of the Ozarks OAEH Executive Board Meeting

330 N. Jefferson, Springfield, MO

September 11, 2019

11:00 a.m. - noon

Attendees

Voting Members

Liz Hagar-Mace (Chair)
Sabrina Aronson
Bob Atchley
Jody Austin
Elisa Coonrod
Kelly Harris
Holly Hunt

Mandi Loe
Dr. Tracey Poston
Katrena Wolfram

Interested Parties

Bob Jones
Teresa Oglesby
Meleah Spencer

Staff Support

Adam Bodendieck
Michelle Garand
Rebecca Sisk
Amanda Stadler
Michael Tonarely

Welcome & Introductions – Liz Hagar-Mace

Liz called the meeting to order at 11:00 am. Liz welcomed everyone to the table and had each person introduce themselves.

Federal Funding Updates

CDBG – Bob Atchley

They are working on the contracts and are hoping to get most of them out by the end of this week or next week. They still haven't seen contracts back from 6 agencies, so if you are not sure where you stand, see Bob after the meeting and he can let you know if your agency has submitted or not.

HUD Continuum of Care Grant – Amanda Stadler

Later in the agenda, we will be reviewing the priority listing for the CoC grant, which details our Tier 1 and Tier 2 designations. Agencies have submitted all their applications to the CoC. Agencies will receive written comments this afternoon, and agencies will then have a week to submit in eSNAPS. Then there will be a public comment period for one week. The City plans to submit in approximately 2 weeks.

ESG – Amanda Stadler

There is no update. Applications for this year were turned in at the end of August. Funding announcements should be in November. It was asked when the grants that the City has applied for officially end? Bob Atchley said they run through March 2020, so there will be quite a bit of overlap.

Bob's said it was kind of left up in the air and due to staff changes, it's been a little unclear, but his understanding from the last conversation he had with MHDC, that it would be up to our Continuum to decide how we are to handle the overlap. The 2019 grant doesn't close out until March 2020 and the 2020 grant begins in November of 2019. The 2019 was a 15-month cycle, but the 2020 is a 12-month. MHDC indicated that they would enter into contracts with the agencies individually. Amanda Stadler said that their question was that with the overlap, would they be measuring the 2019 as a whole with the city's contracts or at the agency level? If an agency was funded in 2019, would they have to wait until April 1 to start spending the 2020 funds? MDHC didn't have an answer. Bob said they initially indicated it could be approached either way, so our preference was that if an agency completed their spending early, he was hopeful that they would enter into contract to allow the agency to immediately spend their 2020 funds. Amanda wondered if it could be brought up at the next Missouri Continua meeting to see what other CoCs are doing. Liz Hagar-Mace said she would put it on the agenda. Bob and Amanda will also continue to work to get something definitive from MHDC.

Youth Homeless Demonstration Project – Amanda Stadler

This was a grant the City applied for this spring, but we were not awarded the funding.

Old Business

Approval of July Minutes (Action Required) – Liz Hagar-Mace

Liz asked for additions or corrections to the August minutes that were provided to the group prior to the meeting.

ACTION: Kelly Harris made a motion to accept the August minutes as presented. Bob Atchley seconded the motion; all members were in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

Award for Homeless Advocacy Nomination – Amanda Stadler

Nominations for the Award for Homeless Advocacy were voted on last month and Jack and Carolyn Hembree were the winners nominated by the OAEH Board. They will be recognized at the end of November at an event. Mercy was selected as the recipient by the HOPE Connection Planning Committee and they are aware. These nominations should be kept confidential until the formal announcement at the awards ceremony.

New Business

Priority Listing for CoC Grant (Vote Required) – Amanda Stadler

On the 2nd page of the agenda is a Priority Listing for the CoC grant. Amanda thanked the NOFA Committee (Sabrina Aronson, Bob Atchley, Elisa Coonrod, Wyatt Jenkins, Bob Jones, Dr. Tim Knapp) for their work on the list. They had to prioritize projects into Tier 1 and Tier 2, and the funding amounts for each Tier were determined by HUD. The score category is based off the score sheets that have been reviewed multiple times by the Board and the Funded Agency group. The notes section identifies some of the odd or nuanced issues this year, like two that had "no completed grant year" (Great Circle RRH Youth Program and Harmony House Joint Transitional/RRH) and three projects that voluntarily reallocated funding for the HMIS project (DMH Shelter Plus Care, The Kitchen PSH Chronic, and Housing Authority Shelter Plus Care that the Kitchen is a subgrantee for). The HMIS project was new so there weren't specifics to score on. Typically, HUD will conditionally award the Tier 1 projects; Tier 2 projects awarded based on our CoC Application score. There were two projects with the potential of straddling this year: The Kitchens' RRH Families and RRH Youth. The group reached out to Meleah Spencer to let her know the

situation and to get her feedback based on program need, staffing, capacity, etc. The Kitchen requested that the RRH Family be placed in Tier 1 and the RRH Youth straddle Tier 1 and Tier 2. Meleah said it was based on seeing an increase in families and youth with families experiencing homelessness. The other item in question is the Foster Adopt Connect application which is a DV Bonus Project for this year. The NOFA Committee chose to put it at the bottom, which is what was done last year, because if that project is not selected for funding through the DV Bonus Dollars, it would get funded out of our normal CoC dollars, meaning that we would potentially risk losing an existing project. Liz Hagar- Mace said that scoring and ranking is important, but to strategize and work with agencies is a critical piece and the NOFA Committee did a really good job with that. She is also confident that the CoC will score well and all Tier 2 projects will be funded.

Approval of Priority Listing for CoC Grant (Vote Required) – Liz Hagar-Mace

Liz asked for a motion to approve the priority listing for the CoC application this year.

ACTION: Jody Austin made a motion to approve. Elisa Coonrod seconded the motion; Liz Hagar-Mace recused as a funded agency. All members were in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

MO ICA Implementation Governance – Liz Hagar-Mace

There was a group put together by ICA from all the CoC's that are in the Missouri implementation – St. Louis City, St. Louis County, Springfield (Christian, Greene, & Webster), Joplin (Jasper & Newton) and Balance of State. All sent 2 representatives to come up with an HMIS Governance Joint Implementation document. All the CoC's participated in that for a few years and they came up with a viable document. It was approved by Springfield, Joplin and Balance of State, but St. Louis City and County, did not want to approve. They reached out to HUD and all the Chairs of the CoCs were notified to be on a phone call regarding the HMIS Governance. It appears that we are going to go back and redo it. They are asking for a recommitment to come up with a Joint HMIS Governance Charter and send 2 representatives to meetings which are phone calls (probably be one call a month for a couple of hours). We have a new TA provider and there doesn't seem to be a sense of urgency that it needs to be done right away. It's important that the representatives be HMIS users.

Approval of MO ICA Implementation Governance (Vote Required) - Liz Hagar-Mace

Liz asked for a motion to recommitted to participating in the HMIS Governance Charter and select 2 volunteers to represent the CoC. Adam Bodendieck said he would continue to be a representative since he was involved before. Meleah Spencer volunteered Theresa Oglesby

ACTION: Elisa Coonrod made a motion to approve. Kelly Harris seconded the motion. All members were in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

Committee Updates

Christian County Homeless Alliance – Mandi Loe

They are working on some housekeeping items and starting the planning for their February 2020 Hot Soup Cold Nights fundraising event. They had one of the local schools offer to do kind of an "empty bowl" program to add to the fundraising by making ceramic bowls that will be donated for purchase. They haven't secured a date yet because they maxed out their space last year and are looking for different options to accommodate the growth. They are looking at possibility using the common area of one of the schools. They also would be happy to have volunteers if anyone is interested.

Funded Agency Committee – Dr. Tracey Poston

We had a Cold Weather Shelter update from Amanda. CU has volunteered to use the City bus system, so they are working on the details. There will be a follow meeting next Wednesday. The Hope Connection and Veterans Stand Down is 11/20. They've had a good response for volunteers, but you can still register to volunteer if you are interested.

Homeless Liaison Training is 9/19 from 10-3. This is a training that the HYTF does every year that traditionally has been for homeless liaisons within the public-school system. The state coordinator comes from Jeff City and does a training to about 80 liaisons from surrounding counties. This year they are going to expand it to anyone who works with youth or families in the school system like agencies or advocate volunteers who work with those families. It's to help understand how the school system addresses homelessness. Amanda thinks we are the only ones in the state that are doing it. It is next Thursday from 10 am to 3 pm. It's free but you do need to register. Amanda will email the link.

HMIS user agreements were mailed out and everything is due by 9/30.

Hope Connection and Veterans Stand Down – Amanda Stadler

The event is 11/20. Vendor registration is open but closes at end of the month. You should have gotten an email if you were a vendor last year. We are still looking for volunteers and currently have 184 student volunteers signed up. That number has increase over the years and is a great opportunity for social work and nursing students. We anticipate changes with the site plan this year since we are running out of space. Michelle Hethcoat will be reaching out you.

O'Reilly Center for Hope – Michelle Garand

Things are progressing well. There is a partner meeting next week where we will present the policies we have created so far and the general portion of the MOU's. Every agency that comes on board will have a component that will be the same for everyone as far as rules and responsibilities, and then we can fine tune for each specific agency. They met with the art council yesterday to discuss their involvement and the programing they will provide. They will do classes and activity spaces for kids and adult's for creativity expressions and incorporate their trauma informed teaching into the activities and waiting spaces. They also have a fun instrument petting zoo and some in-service art. An artist has donated photography for the space and secured a donation for the printing costs.

We will have about 20 partner agency services there throughout the week. The operational costs are not that much, and the building and renovations will be paid for. The hope is that all the agencies pay little to no cost. After time, the agencies may be able to write the operational support into a grant. CPO is on a dual track, raising funds for renovations, which is 98% completed and doing operations fundraising for support.

Spring Net will be the internet provider. The phone system, data and technology work are all finished and hopefully high-tech enough to handle everything that they'll be doing. The electrical, plumbing, roof, etc. for Phase I are done and Phase II will begin in October which will be all the infill and things like that. There are design, logistics and safety and security committees working hard to make sure everything is ready to go. There was a whole environmental component that they wanted to do that included solar, composting, rain gardens, and recycling but it wasn't funded so they are now looking at integrating those at some point.

It is in the Robberson neighborhood and they are a partner. There are plans for a neighborhood community garden in the backyard. There will be a commercial kitchen that can be used for canning foods from the garden, teaching classes for WIC and the Health Department, or it can be rented for other classes. They are also interested in ways to prepare meals when you are homeless and have chronic health issues, like heart or diabetic management. There will also be a library space, which is really the community focused space. They will have Community & Neighborhood Development initiatives there like the Tool Lending Library, VITA, Making Sense of Money, Missouri Work Assistance, etc. The community space would be reservable for community events like the Neighborhood Associations or this OAEH Board meeting. There could be job fairs, job readiness and training classes, that speaks to the need to focus on increasing income for the homeless population. They will also have 6 showers. The sky is unlimited on the cool synergies that could happen with the agencies on-site.

417 Rentals Update – Michelle Garand

They do still have funds, so send folks their way if the need assistance. They have helped a lot of folks get rehoused. The requests have not been as high as they expected, since there's been a lot of self-resolutions and they just needed help with navigation and finding housing. They've been able to help with rent and deposits, trying to stay around \$1,000. We've had some multi-family units that have gone into foreclosure, so Pepi has been great to go out and do on-site assessments. Some we can't help because they've had so many barriers. They did help someone who hadn't been in a 417 home for several months but had been homeless since that time since their last known address was a 417 home. They've been able to help with people who relocated outside of Springfield with flexible storage units, pet deposit, etc. Pets is one of the biggest barriers. There are lots of other 417 like situations out there. They got a donation of funds and they are using it in the same way as 417 funds for folks who are in other unsafe housing. There was a situation where a manager refused to come and look at sewage backup in the basement, so they used those funds to relocate the mom and her child. Companies that are purchasing the 417 homes are creating safe housing, but folks can't afford it since the rents have gone from \$450 to \$700-\$800 a month.

Announcements

Homeless Awareness Month – Amanda Stadler

November is Homeless Awareness Month. We will be doing the "Every Action Counts" Calendar again. If you have anything for the public to be engaged with in November like a fundraiser, open house, volunteer opportunity, etc., please send the information to Amanda Stadler or Michelle Hethcoat and they will include it. The calendar hopefully will be ready by the October meeting to start promotion.

There are some exciting things happening in November: there will be a re-entry simulation, a fundraiser with Bambino's, and other opportunities. Randy Bacon's "The Road I Call Home" opening is 9/14 and runs through 2/23/20 at the Springfield Art Museum. They are hosting donation boxes for the HVTF for the Bridge Housing fund and a donation drive for Gathering Friends for winter items (hand warmers, socks, etc.)

City of Springfield Homeowner Programs – Bob Jones

There is a program called HELP, that is in partnership with Catholic Charities, Connections Handyman Service, Habitat for Humanity and OACAC. The program gives folks a \$10,000 forgivable loan plus the other agencies grant dollars that can be used for homeowner repairs if they qualify for low income. They meet every 2 weeks with the 4 agencies, and it's amazing the exchange of information. For example,

Habitat might get a referral, and they don't have enough in their grant to take care of it, but they can combine it with the City's grant plus OACAC's weatherization and the folks could end out the \$18,000 worth of repairs that is either all forgiven or forgiven over time. The contact is Cheri Hagler 417-864-1053.

The other program is a Down Payment Assistance \$5,000 forgivable loan if they are trying to buy a home on the northside of town. The loan will be forgiven in 10 years, but they must live in the home for 10 years. The contact is Melissa Barton 417-864-1098.

Rare Breed Youth Services – Meleah Spencer

The Rare Breed open house is tomorrow. It is focused on back to school resources and they will be open from 7:30 -10 am with donuts and coffee.

Housing Authority of Springfield – Katrena Wolfram

Housing Authority will be increasing their program for mainstream vouchers which is for non-elderly disabled individuals. They are going to start out small, like they did with VASH, to see what the requirements and staffing needs are, and then increase the program. There is \$150 million in funding set aside. Michelle Garand said she is proud of how the Housing Authority prioritizes homeless as a percentage. Katrena said she wished the 417 rental residents would apply for vouchers because they have great landlords who must take care of the properties because they are HQS inspected. It would be easier for the homeless to get into section 8 programs vs. public housing that has harder criteria. Michelle said they have been sending them to the Housing Authority workshops, but that sometimes there is an immediacy, especially with the apartment complexes. If they knew, they could use funds for bridge housing. Katrena said mainstreaming will have a separate waiting list and the voucher pays the landlord for rent. Housing Authority is not the landlord like they are with public housing, so they send a HAS assistance payment to the landlord. Annually, if not more often, the units are inspected, and they have pass HQS. Kelly Harris said that in the CES meetings they have discussed they have a hard time finding PSH landlords that will accept clients in a voucher-based program. Katrena said that when they got VASH, she sent a letter out to all their landlords and she was amazed at the number of landlords that said yes. Sometimes it's the stigma attached to the program if the landlord knows it serves high barrier individuals. Michelle said that master leasing would help, but it puts our agencies at high risk. It is one solution that works nationally, with agencies taking the burden but the Continuum coming in with risk mitigation or extra layers of insurance so there is a collective insurance policy.

Motion to Adjourn

Kelly Harris made a motion to adjourn. Elisa Coonrod seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 12:03 pm.

Upcoming Meetings

Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 9th at 11:00 am – noon (CPO Office)

4th Quarter OAEH General Membership Meeting: October 17, 10:00 am to 12:00 pm

HOPE Connection and Veterans Stand Down: November 20