

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

November 13, 2019

11:00 a.m. - noon

Attendees

Voting Members

Liz Hagar-Mace (Chair)  
Sabrina Aronson  
Bob Atchley  
Jody Austin  
Jennifer Cannon  
Elisa Coonrod  
Kelly Harris  
Wyatt Jenkins  
Dr. Tim Knapp

Maura Taylor  
Lee Wiley  
Katrena Wolfram  
Kolby Helms, SPD (Proxy)

Interested Parties

Teresa Oglesby  
Jackie Rehwald  
Meleah Spencer

Cassie Sipas-Haas, MHDC

Staff Support

Adam Bodendieck  
Michelle Hethcoat  
Rebecca Sisk  
Amanda Stadler  
Michael Tonarely

**Welcome & Introductions – Liz Hagar-Mace**

Liz called the meeting to order at 12:01 am and had each person introduce themselves.

**Federal Funding Updates**

**Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) – Bob Atchley**

Bob thanked everyone for the timely reimbursement requests. The City has opened funding for 2020 and had a joint meeting on 11/5 with the Citizens Advisory Committee for Community Development (CACCD) and the City Council. They presented an annual report, that included the Funded Agency year-end reports. They do a review of the previous year and the next year, but this year they did a look at the next 5 years because of the City's Consolidated Plan that is due to HUD in 5/2020. It is also the opening of the City's Public Service Grant, which is discretionary funds for public service agencies, and they have about \$200,000 in funds available. They held a technical assistance meeting on 11/12 and the second one is tomorrow at 2 pm at Second West in the Bush Municipal Building. They go through the application process in a great amount of detail. If you are unable to attend the meeting tomorrow, there will also have a meeting on 11/26 at 6 pm to Second West for the CACCD, but due to limited space, they ask that you RSVP if you want to attend. Attendance is not a requirement. The due date for CDBG applications will be 12/6 at noon. Each of the applicants will be given the opportunity to do a presentation before the CACCD and City Council on 1/7/20 at 6 pm.

**Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) – Bob Atchley**

MHDC spending benchmark of 50% for 12/31 should not be an issue since the City contract as a whole is at 45% currently. Since the City made the decision not to apply for FY2020 funding, each of the ESG funded agencies can

close out their FY2019 grants individually and start expending their FY2020 funds with MHDC. The FY2019 grant runs through 3/2020 and the FY2020 grant is a 12-month grant, that ends in 11/2020. There will not be the ability to reallocate any unspent funds locally, since the City did not apply for FY2020 funding

### **811 Vouchers and Foster Youth Initiative – Liz Hagar-Mace**

HUD section 811 NOFA was published a couple of weeks ago. This is the first time in about 10 years that there has been money for capital development. Section 811 basically serves individuals with disabilities, which means that anyone who meets the social security definition of disabled would be eligible for that housing. Burrell has a couple of 811 developments and with the last round of funding there were probably 8 or 9 agencies that Missouri funded a few years ago, so it is real opportunity since HUD funds almost 100% of the development. Folks don't have to be homeless to enter, but many are. Along with the development funds comes rental assistance monies as well. The application is due 2/5. What they had put in place of the capital development for several years was just a voucher or subsidy program which only state housing finance agencies could apply for, so they have that one out again. MHDC will be applying for the capital development fund, and they must work closely with the state Medicaid agency to track folks that might be low income and are in places that they don't want to live anymore like nursing homes, residential care facilities, long-term care, etc. Once an agency applies for the construction funds, and the funds are awarded, it is up to the agency to establish application criteria, waiting list, etc.

The other thing that came out of the Governor's Committee meeting is that HUD has tenant protection vouchers for foster youth and young adults. The Children's Division is working very closely with public housing agencies, trying to connect with them throughout the state. They are looking to create local partnerships and have developed a standard MOU that has to be in place to provide the service piece for any youth that would get a tenant protection voucher. In Springfield, certainly the Housing Authority or OACAC could apply. There is not a deadline, this is an open application. Youth must enter the foster care program prior to turning 16 and it goes up to age 24. If an agency receives Family Self Sufficiency vouchers, it would preclude them from getting these funds. Amanda has Natalie's contact info to connect with the Children's Division that is working on this and putting the support system in place to be able to do this. Natalie is already working with a couple of different housing authorities. It sounds like it's very flexible depending on the need in your community.

### **Old Business**

#### **Approval of October Minutes (Vote Required) – Liz Hagar-Mace**

Liz asked for additions or corrections to the October minutes that were provided to the group prior to the meeting. **ACTION:** Jennifer Cannon made a motion to accept the October minutes as published. Elisa Coonrod seconded the motion; all members were in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

### **New Business**

#### **GCEH Written Standards – Street Outreach (Vote Required) – Liz Hagar-Mace**

The Governor's Committee to End Homelessness (GCEH) has been looking at some various standards over this past year. They've looked at Rapid Rehousing, Case Management, and some others, but now Street Outreach is ready to be approved. Amanda said she wasn't sure if she sent it out to the Executive Board, but knows it went to Funded Agencies.

**ACTION:** This will be table until the December meeting so it can be sent out to the Executive Board members for review.

#### **OAEH Executive Board Leadership – Liz Hagar-Mace**

The Chair position that Liz currently holds will end in February 2021 and is a 2-year term. The Board needs a Vice Chair, a successor in training, who can take over the Chair roll when Liz retires. Amanda said that current Vice Chair is not sure if he can make that commitment, but Amanda Stadler will follow up and have a response at the

December meeting. Everyone should be thinking about who they would like to nominate for the position, and that includes self-nomination.

### **Coordinated Entry System Update – Adam Bodendieck**

As of the end of last week, there were about 460 households (HHs) on the active list. Adam thinks the numbers are inflated, and while they try to do a lot of follow up when they haven't heard from people, especially when they are getting ready to go on the inactive list, it is really-hard to get in touch with people sometimes. The 460 could include 30-40 who 3-months ago showed evidence that they could have self-resolved, but we can't say that definitively since we don't know for sure. Of the 460, they are all Category 1 or literally homeless except for 12 HH's which are a Category 4 who are fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence. It breaks down to about 127 families (families with children and adult couples without children), and 333 singles. Out of all of those, we are looking at about 36 veterans, who have been referred to Home at Last, and if eligible to the VA for VASH Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH). Adam thinks that every veteran on that list has been addressed at some level, but there are some that due to their type of service, discharge, or other factors will never be eligible for SSVF programs. Some self-report as veterans but there is no evidence that supports that claim. Adam feels good that there has been good progress made on the Veterans list. There are 44 on the list reported as youth and nearly all of those have been referred to Rapid Rehousing (RRH) programs through Rare Breed or Great Circle. The only exception of youth not eligible are those who are with a partner who is considerably older. Quarterly (Jul-Sep 2019) they made 128 referrals to the various housing programs, which includes The Kitchen, Catholic Charities, Great Circle, Harmony House, Dept. of Mental Health, and Veterans Administration. This Quarter (Oct-Dec) so far, they've made about 40 referrals. The list does give Adam the average time someone is on the list, but he thinks they need to review that data quality to ascertain if that is accurate. It would also be good to know returns to homelessness – how many are coming back on the list after they have left other programs. Adam wondered if that was a part of System Performance Measures from ICA? Michael Tonarely said that they look at returns to homelessness in the system as a whole, but not that specifically. It would still be good to know in general who comes back to the prioritization list that had been housed. Maura Taylor asked if that could be looked at though the vulnerability scores to support the need for more PSH as a way to identify gaps in the CoC system. Adam said that when someone reports being housed, he will go in and remove them from the list in HMIS, but if they return, then he has to go in and do a new entry. Adam said he has only had to do that a few times. Looking at if people are self-resolving, how are they doing that, etc. could be used to determine best practices. Adam said that people don't always want to talk to you when things are going well, so it's sometimes hard to get the data you need, but they keep trying. Having that kind of data could help identify gaps and what kind of funding is needed.

There is case conferencing tomorrow at 1 pm at the Environmental Resource Center. At tomorrow's meeting, Michael Tonarely will be there for the first half and will be doing HMIS training on how to accept, decline or cancel referrals.

## **Committee Updates**

### **Funded Agency Committee – Maura Taylor**

The Funded Agency Committee always meets before this meeting with a group of committed agencies that work hard to address the needs of the homeless in the community. The group sees some gaps related to who needs to be around that table. The title is Funded Agency, but they also discuss a lot of data quality, HMIS issues, and other things that could use other partners who are using HMIS, or are getting funding, but not attending regularly, or getting other funds that are addressing the needs of the homeless. The Plans and Policy Committee is meeting next week, and they will be looking at who should really be a part of this committee and renaming so it doesn't sound like you just have to be funded to be a part of it. One person shared that their agency wasn't receiving any funding, but after attending for a year they learned what is really being done by all the agencies in the community, and what the gaps and needs are. As an example, today Michael Tonarely went through the HUD Annual Reporting Submissions Calendar with due dates and things that are required. We are evaluated on what the Continuum does

with HMIS data, so we want to make sure that everyone who is entering into the system, gets the right training and is a part of the discussions that inform decisions that are made in the Funded Agency Committee. We are going to encouraging some agencies and others to attend these meetings.

#### **Crisis Cold Weather Sheltering Update – Amanda Stadler**

Please let Amanda know if any has any questions. The two overnight sites and warming center are run by volunteers, so if you know of any groups interested in volunteering, it's a great way meet a gap in the community. There is a white sheet for has all the information for the Crisis Cold Weather Shelters on the CPO website at [www.cpozarks.org/endhomelessness](http://www.cpozarks.org/endhomelessness).

#### **Plans and Policy Committee – Amanda Stadler**

The group is meeting next week, and they will be looking at revamping the membership policy. That will come back to this group in the next couple of months. Currently membership is tracked at the General Membership quarterly meeting. With the development of the Funded Agency Committee, a lot of the important discussions and decisions are being made at that meeting instead. We are looking at changing the attendance requirement to be through the Funded Agency meetings which are monthly vs. quarterly. That was an agency level suggestion.

Once decisions are made and vetted through the various groups, the final policy will be presented to the Executive Board for approval.

### **Announcements/Discussion**

#### **HOPE Connection/Every Action Counts Campaign – Michelle Hethcoat**

The event is 11/20. If anyone needs posters, she has them available and if you have questions or didn't receive vendor information, please let her know. She has Homeless Event Calendars if anyone needs one. The Awards for Homeless Advocacy are coming up and the Bridge Housing Veterans fundraiser at Bambino's. Every Action Counts/PIT date is January 30 at the Shrine Mosque. They will open at 8 am – close for a couple of hours - then reopen at 3 in the afternoon to better serve youth and draw more of them there. They are doing some referrals through Rare Breed and putting out "Bring a Friend" cards that will get the referee and referral extra draws for door prizes and goodie collection. They are also going to attempt to set up a coffee bar there with an art area and music to make it a little more fun. There will also be outreach through the school system through the office of Students in Transition and regional homeless liaisons. They will be looking for volunteers.

#### **CPO Inclement Weather Policy – Amanda Stadler**

A reminder that Community Partnership of the Ozarks (CPO) has an inclement weather policy, so anytime that Springfield Public Schools are closed, the CPO office will be closed, and all CPO sponsored events and meetings will be canceled. We don't have the capacity to always send out an email, but it will be noted on our answering machine and be put out on social media.

#### **A Dream Project - Elisa Coonrod**

Elisa was contacted by someone who is a Board member of A Dream regarding a program called Generations Village. The program hopes to incorporate foster families in housing with senior citizens as neighbors. Kelly Harris said that one of her employees is on the Board and went to a meeting in Kansas City last week. They indicated they are planning for about 46 affordable housing units and that the Springfield program is in the preliminary stages. Focus is on senior housing 55+ and youth aging out of the foster care system with the hope that the seniors could act as mentors to the youth through adulthood. CASA is a part of the funding, and there wasn't a request for a state tax credit for the latest round of development. Some of the 811 funds could be used to develop some of the units for youth if they had a wide range of disabilities. One of the last 811 projects funded in Kansas City was the Restart for Transitional Aged Youth, and it was a very successful project. Liz Hagar-Smith will email Amanda the 811 HUD NOFA so she can pass on the info to the Executive Board.

### **RAD Housing Authority of Springfield – Katrena Wolfram**

Katrena was at a meeting last week with MHDC in Kansas City and they've hired a consultant to go over a 5-year affordable housing strategy. She and other developers from Springfield that were in attendance, made sure our voices were heard. She invited the consultants down to Springfield to look at their units. There was concern about MHDC, but she thinks that they have really helped the Housing Authority understand the tax credit application. It really has not been MHDC's fault, but the Governor and the legislatures inability to get things passed to get the state tax credits. They are moving forward with the federal tax credit and other financing to get it going until it can get the state tax credits back. MHDC not only helped them learn the application process, but the underwriters also toured all their sites to get a better feeling about where they are going with RAD and what they need to do for the units. They applied for the 4%, not 9%, low income housing federal tax credit since their projects are so big.

### **Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri – Maura Taylor**

The agency is now fully accredited through the Council of Accreditation. It's a big deal because there are only around 2,400 agencies across the country that are fully accredited. It means that you meet all the national standards for non-profits e.g. fiscal, management, and programs. Programs are accredited individually to make sure that they meet the national standards. Catholic Charities covers all southern Missouri, so they visited 6 out of their 9 offices. They do an extensive review, and you must submit your self-study materials. They talk to office staff, stakeholders, Board and leadership to make sure you are executing exactly your policies and procedures. It also opens some doors for supportive services for our homeless veterans throughout the 36 counties since they can now apply for a 3-year grant.

### **Rare Breed – Meleah Spencer**

Next open house is on 11/18 from 7:30 to 10:00 am. They will be serving food from Panera Bread and have Chick-fil-a biscuits.

### **Springfield Street Choir -Jennifer Cannon**

They have over 50 regularly attending Street Choir participants. First performance is tomorrow night at The Venues downtown grand opening. They will also perform at the Connecting Grounds for the Community Conversation on Saturday night.

### **Motion to Adjourn**

Jennifer Cannon made a motion to adjourn. Sabrina Aronson seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 11:50 am.

### **Upcoming Meetings**

*Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 13<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am – noon (CPO Office)*