

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

December 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

Wyatt Jenkins

Dr. Tim Knapp

Mandie Loe

Katrena Wolfram

Interested Parties

Meleah Spencer

Staff Support

Adam Bodendieck

Michelle Hethcoat

Rebecca Sisk

Amanda Stadler

Michael Tonarely

Welcome & Introductions – Liz Hagar-Mace

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

Federal Funding Updates

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) – Bob Atchley

Friday, 12/6 was the deadline for the City's CDBG discretionary Public Service applications and they received a total of 13. Agencies are competing for \$200,000, which is the HUD 15% cap on public service expenditures. They also received several housing requests, but those don't compete for the public service dollars. The next step in the process is that on 1/7 at 6 pm they will have the joint Citizens Advisory Committee for Community Development (CACCD) and City Council meeting. This gives all the applicants an opportunity to present their proposals before the group. One of the City Council's priorities is programs that provide services to the homeless or housing services, and they receive extra points. Liz Hagar-Mace wanted to commend the City of Springfield, since they are one of the few cities where the CDBG grant is committed to homeless services and programs.

Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) – Bob Atchley

Meeting the MHDC spending benchmark of 50% for 12/31 should not be an issue. The City made the decision not to apply for FY2020 funding, so 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.

HUD CoC Grant – Bob Atchley

They hope to see a Tier 1 award soon. Announcements are usually made either right before or right after the Christmas holiday.

Old Business

Approval of November Minutes (Vote Required) – Liz Hagar-Mace

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

ACTION: Kelly Harris made a motion to accept the November minutes as published. Katrena Wolfram seconded the motion; all members were in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

OAEH Executive Board Leadership - Liz Hagar-Mace

Liz will continue to serve out the rest of her term that ends in February 2021, but the group needs to think about the Vice Chair position since that person will step into the Chair position when Liz leaves. Amanda said that Jim O’Neal could not commit to the Vice Chair position at this time. He does want to stay a part of the group and participate as an At-Large member. A Vice Chair needs to be selected as soon as possible, so nominations need to be made in December so a vote can be done in January. Nominations should go to Amanda, and if she has not received any by 1/3/20, then they will start making personal asks. The term is technically for one year, but it has been extended on historical precedent to two years to maintain strong leadership. Liz said that Amanda provides very good support for the Chair position by doing the agendas, answering questions, providing technical support regarding the CoC, etc., so the position is not difficult to manage.

New Business

OAEH Executive Board Term Renewals (Vote Required) – Liz Hagar-Mace

We have two Board term renewals. Elisa Coonrod and Jennifer Cannon’s terms have expired, but they are eligible for another term, so we need a formal vote to approve.

ACTION: Wyatt Jenkins made a motion to renew the OAEH Executive Board terms of Elisa Coonrod and Jennifer Cannon. Kelly Harris seconded the motion; all members were in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

Governor’s Committee to End Homelessness (GCEH) Written Standards – Street Outreach (Vote Required) – Liz Hagar-Mace

The GCEH has been creating several sets of standards this year and the next one to be approved is Street Outreach. The information was sent out to the full CoC, and there was no public comment. Liz asked if any discussion was necessary. The GCEH still has Emergency Shelter left to do.

ACTION: Elisa Coonrod made a motion to approve the GCEH Street Outreach Standards. Bob Atchley seconded the motion; all members were in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

Landlord Engagement Committee (Vote Required) – Liz Hagar-Mace

After the last Board meeting Amanda Stadler and Liz had a conversation with Justin Lockhart, CPO Director of Collaboratives, about having a joint committee on landlord/tenant engagement. Both the Collaborative and Continuum have a landlord engagement committee, so there is some overlap and the same agency members don’t always attend both meetings. The Collaborative’s current focus is on low income housing and people with disabilities, and our interest is the homeless and the challenges they face with housing. The idea is that a joint committee could get more accomplished and keep things moving forward. The joint committee would work with service providers on how to engage landlords to rent to the folks that we work with since that can be a challenge. The other piece would be training tenants so before we send someone to a landlord, they could take 4 or 5 courses where they graduate with a certificate that would prepare them on how to be a good tenant and address some of the issues our clients have with being a good neighbor, understanding the lease, paying rent on time, how to take

care of a unit, etc. The thought is that after the classes, they might get a discount on their security deposit or rent, etc. plus maybe a discount when they renew if they've been a good tenant. They also want to find someone who is involved in the Housing Collaborative and the CoC that can be the connecting person for both and bring clear communication.

ACTION: Elisa Coonrod made a motion to approve the establishment of a Landlord Engagement Committee with the CPO Housing Collaborative. Dr. Tim Knapp seconded the motion; all members were in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

Committee Updates

Funded Agency Committee – Amanda Stadler

A lot of the discussions today were updates from the Funded Agency and Plans and Policies Committees. One discussion was about a name change for the Funded Agency Committees. The group had been having discussions that the name Funded Agencies makes the group feel isolated and limits the attendees, especially since the group is really looking at the systems of homelessness that includes folks in the CoC, those who receive funding outside of HUD or ESG grants, as well as non-funded agencies that participate in HMIS. All of them together impact the CoC system performance measure with HUD. They approved changing the name to the Systems and Services Committee to broaden the scope of the group. They also discussed updates to the membership policy, which will be put out for public comment and then brought back to the Board for a vote in January. There was also discussion about different training topics for the full CoC General Membership meetings for 2020. There were some great ideas on one-on-one presentations or themed service presentations within the homeless service system. Public housing was one idea for January, along with the landlord engagement committee and the Point in Time (PIT) count.

ACTION: Elisa Coonrod made a motion to approve the name change from the Funded Agency Committee to the Systems and Services Committee. Dr. Tim Knapp asked that if you want to draw in other agencies, why would the word agency not be in the title? Liz said that there will be an invite process that will go to agencies that should be on the committee, and the committee will have a limited focus because they are funded and there are certain HUD regulations that they need to follow that will be discussed. Kelly Harris seconded the motion; all members were in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

Christian County Homeless Alliance – Mandi Loe

They are gearing up for their annual fundraiser, Hot Soup, Cold Nights on 2/7 from 6-8 pm at Redeemer Lutheran Church, west on Hwy 14. They are working on the silent auction. The Nixa Art Dept. will be providing empty bowls with a suggested minimum donation and they have reached out to them for possibly other donations for the auction. Because they had such an influx of funds last year, they are in discussion about expanding their use of funds.

They also have everything (physicians, supplies) the free clinic in Christian Co. needs, but they are still waiting on finding a building. Mandi is not sure if they need a physical building or a mobile unit would work, and she doesn't yet have the details of services or hours open, etc. There has been talk that Nixa and Ozark are both building big clinics with CoxHealth, so they hope one of the empty buildings from the old clinics would be available.

Plans and Policy Committee (P&PC) – Amanda Stadler

Based on agency feedback, the group is working to update the Membership Policy. The update will change how they track meeting attendance to define membership. Previously CoC attendance was tracked at the quarterly General Membership meetings, but after discussions with the Funded Agency group, there was a desire to see more involvement from key agencies, so they are developing two different tiers of membership. There would be the Funded Agency level where they would track those meetings and the quarterly General Membership meetings with a 75% attendance benchmark. There will then still be the General Membership level for all other committee members like CCHA, HVTF, HYTF, etc. also with a 75% attendance benchmark.

Governor's Committee to End Homelessness (GCEH) – Amanda Stadler

The GCEH is a statewide committee that meets every other month in Jeff City. Amanda and Liz Hagar-Mace attend the meetings. It has about 20 attendees, with representation from all the CoC's in the state, along with other service providers and others involved in the homeless service system at the state level e.g. Dept. of Health & Senior Services, Division of Youth Services, Corrections, ICA, Regional Salvation Army, Headstart Collaboration and MCADSV. The committee is comparable to US Interagency Council on Homelessness. At the December meeting, discussions were about planning for 2020 meeting topics and best practices across the state. They are wrapping up the written standards with MHDC for the Emergency Shelter program. The full report of the 2019 Missouri Statewide Homelessness Study can be found on the CPO website under the Data and Report section at www.cpozarks.org/endhomelessness. MHDC does a statewide study every two years on homelessness. The data is pulled from the Point in Time (PIT) data. They changed the focus to make it more user friendly. Amanda thought it gave a good snapshot of some of the things discussed in this meeting, plus a 5 year look at different trends and gives context for what is happening throughout the state. The printout distributed has a summary of the whole report, and then just the pages that look at our CoC specifically. Dr. Tim Knapp was curious about the 2014-2018 Shelter down and Unsheltered up numbers. Liz said that at the presentation for the GCEH they pointed it out but did not have an explanation. It could be so Continuums can look at that or that as transitional housing facilities closed, you would see more unsheltered. ICA took a lot of time reviewing the data for accuracy and took an active role in troubleshooting with Homebase on those issues.

Liz mentioned that every month there is a meeting of what they call the MC² Committee, which is basically all the Continuums in the state. They meet right before the GCEH meeting or by conference call during the month that the GCEH doesn't meet and discuss across Continuum issues like transferring from one Continuum to another, etc. If there are any issues you would like brought to either committee, please let them know since next year Liz will be the Chair and Amanda will be the Vice Chair of the GCEH and Amanda will be chair of the MC² Committee.

Crisis Cold Weather Sheltering Update – Amanda Stadler

Previously because of the way the transportation was set up, there was not going to be transportation on Thanksgiving, Christmas or New Year's if the shelters were open. The CPO Board said that was not acceptable, so they are committed to funding transportation. The timing and the location will not change. Amanda will send out information to everyone that has those clarifications. Also, previously East Sunshine did not have a phone number to call to get updates on if they were open or not; you had to check their Facebook page. The Women's Crisis Cold Weather does have a phone number and agreed to change their announcements on their phone line to share information about both shelters.

Announcements/Discussion

HOPE Connection/Every Action Counts Campaign – Michelle Hethcoat

Michelle thanked everyone who was there. They served 708 guests; 656 adults and 52 children. They had 525 volunteer guides and 80+ support volunteers. They did 136 vision exams, 117 flu shots, 70+ Hep A shots, 110 rounds of foot/wound care, 28 TB tests, 33 Hep C/HIV tests and Mercy brought 6,000 meals. The oldest guest was 89 and youngest was just days old. Approximately 150 came in reporting they slept in either a vehicle or outside, another 160 reported being doubled up, so about half reported as lacking their own home. There was a large number that reported house, apartment or bed space, so in order to more adequately determine status of unsheltered vs. housed and help inform the CoC for the gap's analysis and unmet needs, they are going to make changes to the intake form.

2020 Point in Time Count – Michelle Hethcoat

The official PIT count date is 1/29 from dusk to dawn. Every Action Counts event is 1/30 at the Shrine Mosque. The doors will open at 8 am for adults and close at 1:30 pm and then the youth event will start at 3 pm in the same

space and close at 6 pm. Vendors can be there all day if they would like to or they can come for the adult or youth event. If anyone has volunteers in their organization looking for a project, she is looking for outreach volunteers for the event. They are planning to reach out to rural police, fire and sheriff departments through postal mail to see if any of them are willing to come on board to reach out and count. Liz Hagar-Mace said that what they do with balance of state is to compile an email list of the local law enforcement, fire, health dept, school districts, libraries, mental health providers, substance abuse treatment centers, etc. and email a flyer with all the information on the date with a count form, so it becomes more of a service based count and they know you are out there. Michelle can take vendor registrations via email and will have registration form up on the website by end of the week.

Springfield Greene Co. Health Dept. – Jody Austin

They have 77 reported Hep A cases and only 53 flu. They are finished with Harbor House and Veterans Coming home and now they are going to substance abuse providers. She has flyers and information if you have staff that need vaccinations or agencies that they have not been to.

CPO One Door – Adam Bodendieck

Kaleidoscope is doing a fundraiser today where all the proceeds will be split between One Door and FosterAdopt Connect. You can get a \$30 tattoo from a preselected sheet of artwork and all the artists donate their time for the day.

One Door is also hiring for the Housing Navigator position that is in partnership with Jordan Valley as part of the Reimagining Opioid Abuse Treatment and Recovery Program housed at Jordan Valley.

Safe to Sleep – Kelly Harris

They are low on overnight volunteers so if you know anyone that would be a good fit, please let her know.

Homeless Advocacy Awards – Amanda Stadler

Amanda wanted to say a big thank you to Wyatt Jenkins for being the MC at the Homeless Advocacy Awards. They had Victory Mission's Lifted Choir sing. They honored Mercy for their support of Hope Connection, Grace United Methodist for hosting the Women's Cold Weather Shelter, and Jack and Carolyn Hembree.

MSU Care – Elisa Coonrod

The Missouri Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics for the Southwest region is holding a Food Insecurity Panel and Resource Fair on 1/30 from 6-8 pm at Foster Auditorium, CoxHealth South. The flyer says it is for health care professionals, but Elisa received it from the dietician from MSU and she indicated that it is for any community member working with food insecure populations. Elisa will send the flyer to Rebecca to send out to the group.

Housing Authority – Katrena Wolfram

Thanks to CPO for putting on It's a Wonderful Night. It was a great fundraiser and she enjoyed the lip sync contest and the dancing. The event raised over \$8,250 just in votes.

Motion to Adjourn

Wyatt Jenkins made a motion to adjourn. Kelly Harris seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 11:56 am.

Upcoming Meetings

Next Meeting is January 8 from 11:00 am – noon (CPO Office)
Quarterly General Membership Meeting is January 16, 2020 10:00 am – 12:00 p.m.
Point in Time Count is January 30, 2020