

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

March 11, 2020

11:00 a.m. - noon

Attendees

Voting Members

Sabrina Aronson
Bob Atchley
Jennifer Cannon
Kolby Helms – *Proxy for Sgt.
Charleston*
Elisa Coonrod
Kelly Harris (Vice-Chair)

Missey Hayward
Holly Hunt
Wyatt Jenkins
Dr. Tim Knapp
Mandi Loe
Jim O’Neal

Interested Parties

Meleah Spencer
Bob Jones
Support Staff
Adam Bodendieck
Michelle Hethcoat
Rebecca Sisk
Amanda Stadler
Michael Tonarely

Welcome & Introductions – Kelly Harris

Kelly Harris as proxy for Liz Hagar-Mace called the meeting to order at 11:01 am and everyone introduced themselves.

Federal Funding Updates

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) – Bob Atchley

The City has completed their draft for the 5-year Consolidated Plan. The plan is out for public review and comment. You can review a copy in the City’s office, online or there are copies available at each one of the libraries. The City Staff Review Committee is wrapping up their review and rank of all the proposals, and next week each applicant should receive a letter indicating the City’s recommendations for the CDBG applications. The next step is on 3/23 the City Council will have its first reading and public hearing. On 4/6 the City Council will hold its second vote. The 5-year Consolidated Plan and the City’s funded recommendations are due to HUD on 5/15. The City has not yet received their actual dollar allocation numbers from HUD, so the information received will be estimated amounts.

MHDC Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) – Bob Atchley

Everyone is getting ready to close out their FY2019 grants. Agencies can close out individually and then start their FY2020 spending. Everyone’s CAPERS will be due to MHDC beginning 4/1.

HUD Continuum of Care (CoC) Grant Awards – Bob Atchley

The City is still waiting to find out about the Tier 2 funding.

HUD Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project– Amanda Stadler

HUD has said they will do another two rounds of the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project funding. Last year it was released in March and we anticipate that will happen again this year. The OAEH Homeless Youth Task Force (HYTF) would like to apply again this year.

Old Business

Approval of February Minutes (Vote Required) – Kelly Harris

Kelly Harris asked for any discussion, additions or corrections to the February minutes that were provided to the group prior to the meeting.

ACTION: Elisa Coonrod made a motion to accept the February minutes as published. Sabrina Aronson seconded the motion; all members were in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

System Performance Submission – Michael Tonarely

In the next few months, there will be a presentation on the System Performance submission. An email was sent out to the Executive Board on 2/20 that had the report book with the data that was entered and a couple of notes about the data. The System Performance Measures were submitted on 2/26. One thing to point out is that the Emergency Shelter (ES) data quality went down. There were staff changes and a couple of new agencies entering data into HMIS, so it is a training issue that will be addressed. Michael will work with them on appropriate exit destinations and how to complete the data as well. If you looked at the data, everything looked good and there was nothing alarming one way or the other. They are currently working on the Point in Time (PIT) and Housing Inventory data validation that is due at the end of April. Plan is to have the PIT and Housing Inventory Chart presentation in April so the Board can approve.

Addition to Missouri Implementation of Service Point – Adam Bodendieck

The St. Joseph Continuum of Care existed separately from the current five CoCs in the Missouri Implementation under ICA and Service Point. As of 6/20, the provider of the system that St. Joe was using is ending that service. St. Joe reached out to ICA about options and officially requested to join our statewide implementation. There is no process or defined policy for something like this. Sandy Wilson, with ICA, has asked all the CoCs to decide if they are on board with St. Joe joining the Missouri Implementation of Service Point. There was a statewide call where CoCs could ask questions and understand how it might affect data quality, etc. According to HUD Technical Assistance (TA) there are no red flags or risk. There are some benefits like opening the pool of data sharing and tracking and costs could maybe go down for some, but probably not us since we don't share users across Continuums. St. Joe will be trained at the same standard as the current CoCs and they will not migrate the data but will manually enter into the system to prevent duplicates.

Approval of Adding St. Joseph CoC to Missouri Implementation of Service Point (Vote Required) – Kelly Harris

Kelly Harris asked for a vote (a motion is not necessary) to approve adding the St. Joseph CoC to the current ICA Missouri Implementation of Service Point.

ACTION: All members were in favor.

New Business

Coronavirus Discussion – All Available

Health Department meeting is set up for 3/20 at CPO from 12-1:30 to discuss social distancing and isolation in shelters, or congregant settings plus a brainstorming and Q&A session. A meeting request will be sent out to service providers and interested parties.

Christy Love with Connecting Grounds asked Elisa Coonrod with MSU Care and Jennifer Canon with Gathering Friends to stop by last night to help discuss infection prevention. Jennifer was there with the meal and they always have a large group on Tuesday night because it is Springfield Choir practice night. Elisa went over basic hand washing and they distributed a bar of soap in a plastic bag with a bottle of water. She reached out to Cora Scott and recommended public hand washing stations, maybe by the fire stations outside. She also reached out to Mercy about hand sanitizer for the homeless, but she hasn't heard back yet. Jim O'Neil had met with a council member and they discussed the Health Departments' plan to implement drive thru testing and possibly mobile onsite testing. The test kits are on their way and within a week or so we should have the appropriate environment for people with symptoms. One of the biggest concerns is the vulnerability of volunteers and all homeless. Also, there is the concern about how kids who depend on meals at school will get fed if the schools close. Crosslines is working on a drive through meal option as well.

OAEH Strategic Plan Brainstorming – Amanda Stadler

The OAEH is working on updating the Strategic Plan that was last done in 2009. As part of that process they are doing some community feedback opportunities through OAEH meetings in March, instead of looking for a public input session. They are looking for feedback from the experts in their field about our system of care and the strengths and weaknesses, to define where we should focus for the next 3-5 years.

A System Overview sheet for March 2020 was distributed. This includes an overview of who our system has served over a one year period as well as a snapshot of the Prioritization List, which lines up with the PIT data. Additionally, it notes that One Door began tracking shelter diversion efforts in HMIS in 2018. Since then, One Door has served 142 households (HHs) with diversion services, and to date, only 5 of those HHs later reported literal homelessness. This is a positive because its more effective if we can keep people with low barriers to housing out of the system quickly and effectively. There are two components to the shelter diversion program. One is intense case management and being honest about resources – what do you have that we can work with, do you have family, stable housing somewhere else, where can you double up safely, do you need deposits for one time assistance (utilities, rental, utility arrears payment)? The other is the availability of flex funds. Shelter diversion means you are at imminent risk, on the brink of literal homelessness. And they work some with newly homeless or episodically homeless with low barriers.

The other information on the System Overview is basic demographics. These numbers represent individuals and HHs that were served by a program entering HMIS over a 1-year period. There were about 960 HHs served and that was about 1,370 people. The majority were female, and 13% are over the age of 55, which doesn't seem very big considering that agencies are seeing more seniors needing end of life care. Other graphs show housing inventory by bed type and population focus. There is also a simple funding snapshot which is just the HUD CoC grants by Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH), Rapid Re-housing (RRH), etc. and it also shows the how the 2020 Awards were allocated by population served.

Brainstorming Update to Strategic Plan March 2020 questionnaire was distributed. The purpose is to identify the strengths and weakness in our current system of care. Discussions included the following:

Strengths

- Shelter diversion (One Door)
- Collaboration
- Coordinate Entry System
- ICA local data

What are 3 projects/actions you think the OAEH should focus on for the next 3-5 years?

1. Affordable Housing (tax incentive)
2. Emergency Shelter (ES) beds for families

3. Prevention and diversion
4. Landlord engagement for high barrier tenants
5. Childcare support to help with employment
6. Transitional Housing and support
7. Access to resources, like transportation
8. Programs and prevention for youth (foster care)
9. Tenant education and eviction forgiveness
10. Housing study (what housing is available, college housing impact, older homes)
11. Risk mitigation dollars
12. Access to mental health care (NT)
13. Case management standards
14. Lack of services for individuals with disabilities (physical and developmental)
15. Housing for single adults
16. Housing for families with kids

If everyone could review the 16 listed on your sheet and pick their top 3-5 on where the CoC should focus on.

Announcements/Discussion

Motion to Adjourn

Kelly Harris asked for a motion to adjourn. Jim O'Neal made a motion to adjourn. Wyatt Jenkins seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 12.03 pm.

Upcoming Meetings