

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

May 13, 2020

11:00 a.m. - noon

Attendees

**Voting Members**

Sabrina Aronson  
Bob Atchley  
Jennifer Cannon  
Elisa Coonrod  
Liz Hagar-Mace  
Kelly Harris  
Miskey Hayward  
Wyatt Jenkins

Dr. Tim Knapp  
Theresa Oglesby  
Jim O'Neal  
Jackie Rehwald  
Maura Taylor  
Katrina Wolfram

**Interested Parties**

Meleah Spencer

**Support Staff**

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

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

Liz Hagar-Mace called the meeting to order at 11:05 am and everyone introduced themselves.

**Federal Funding Updates**

**Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) – Amanda Stadler and Bob Atchley**

The City is working through the process for the FY20 application and the CARES ACT (CDBG-CV) funds. For the CDBG-CV funds, they are receiving about \$900,000, of which, approximately \$300,000 will go to public service projects, like homeless services and other programs. The plan is to present to the Citizen's Advisory Committee for Community Development (CDCCD) on 5/19 and it will come before the City Council on 6/1. They are hopeful that the funds will be available by late June or early July. If anyone has questions, please contact him.

**MHDC Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) – Amanda Stadler**

MHDC also received extra funds through the CARES ACT (ESG-CV). They have posted all the information on their website. Our CoC does not specifically have an allocation like we have in the past, so there is just a lump sum for Springfield, Balance of State and all other CoCs except Kansas City and St. Louis. MHDC is accepting letters of intent on a rolling basis. They have not posted the actual application process yet. They will follow the standard categories for ESG like Rapid Rehousing (RRH), Emergency Shelter (ES), Street Outreach (SO) and Homeless Prevention. Our CoC has been in contact with a lot of our agencies to discuss what they can apply for and the best use for the funds.

### **HUD Continuum of Care (CoC) Grant Awards – Amanda Stadler**

The NOFA Committee reviewed Quarterly Monitoring Reports last month and didn't have any serious concerns with spending or performance. We also received our CoC Debrief for the Community Application that we submitted for last year's HUD CoC grant. We scored lower than last year in some of our Performance Measures and our CoC Coordination and Engagement. Amanda is reviewing to see how it can be improved in general for this year's application. Michael Tonarely said one of things we lost points for were our RRH beds because we had a pretty significant decrease between 2018 and 2019. They don't tell us how they score the areas, but it appears that it is an all or nothing for RRH points, so we would only have to lose one RRH bed and we could lose all 10 points. He also noticed that one metric was broken down into two metrics and we had a positive in one and a negative in the other compared to last year. We lost points for increase to homelessness since we increase slightly over 2018. When he sent out the email to approve the System Performance Measures, he highlighted the data quality issues related to RRH and ES. The ES issues were related to the time it takes to learn how to use HMIS. The preliminary numbers for this year Housing Inventory Charts (HIC) show we have increase of 7 for RRH, and an increase PSH beds. For Job and Income Growth, we did see a decrease for earned income for adult stayers and assisted leavers. If you have any questions let him know. There will be Front Door Data Entry Training after Adam Bodendieck hires new staff.

### **Foster Youth to Independence Vouchers – Amanda Stadler**

This is an update on a potential opportunity, to keep on your radar. The FYI program provides housing vouchers for youth, under 25, that have been involved in the Child Welfare system. The program would be joint administered through Springfield Housing Authority and Children's Division. The program has been implemented in a few other CoCs in the state. The Children's Division reached out to our CoC have a conversation about what that would look like for us to start a program locally. The Children's Division representative will be at our Homeless Youth Task Force (HYTF) meeting next week. Amanda will reach out to Katrena Wolfram with Springfield Housing Authority to see if it is even possible for us to do. Katrena asked if we know what the needs is? Amanda said they looked at the High Risk and Homeless Youth Report for this year and they had 55 youth that would qualify for the vouchers. This program is a little more flexible than others, in that the Housing Authority would request a voucher when there is an eligible youth, versus other programs where an agency must administer 50 vouchers and expend them within 12 months. Amanda doesn't know if the youth must go through this program or if they would qualify for a Section 8 Voucher.

## **Old Business**

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

Liz asked for any discussion, additions or corrections to the March minutes that were provided to the group prior to the meeting.

**ACTION:** Elisa Coonrod made a motion to accept the March minutes as published. Jim O'Neal seconded the motion; all members were in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

## **New Business**

### **COVID-19 Task Force – Michelle Garand**

In March, the OAEH developed a specialize task force to look at how COVID-19 is impacting the homeless population. The task force is designed to provide shelter, containment, quarantine and an isolation plan for those who are homeless. They have been working with all the service providers, advocates, the Office of Emergency Management, Springfield Health Dept., City of Springfield, Mercy, CoxHealth and MSU Care to actively address the immediate challenges. They created a hotel/motel sheltering process. To date they have rented 150 hotels room for about 240 individuals. They have seen some folks leave of their own accord, some remain in the hotel but are paying their own bill and some have self-resolved. The current number that One Door is paying for is about 150 individuals in 100 rooms. Early on they knew they would not be able to shelter everyone, so Adam Bodendieck and

his team put together a prioritization plan for the group so they could address the most hyper-vulnerable looking at chronic health conditions, coupled with age, pregnancy, etc. They worked with the Office of Emergency Management to develop a 2-track system of care. The OAEH developed a process for containment and quarantine for those that were asymptomatic (those without any signs or exposure to Covid-19) and the Office of Emergency Management is developing a special needs medical unit to care for any individuals that are tested or presumptive positive, but not sick enough to be under medical care. To date we have had zero positives within the homeless population.

The secondary piece is the service providers, who deserve high accolades for their response. When the city and health department announced the shelter in place order, impacting our group sheltering, every one of our agencies were able to figure out how to handle the CDC and Greene Co. Health Department recommendations of keeping people in small numbers, and not mingling without reducing services provided and not one person exited from programs due to space requirements. The focus has been on health, hunger, hygiene and hotels. It is been done as a community and agencies are rising to the level of creative care that includes readjusting grants to be able to meet sheltering needs by providing funds to help shelter individuals in the hotels the past month. Funds were also received from Mercy and Community Foundation of the Ozarks (CFO), along with some other donations. As an example, Gathering Friends has donated to make sure that men that are staying at Victory Mission do not lose their spot because they can't pay due to loss of a job or trouble maintaining employment.

They also worked with City Utilities to have the bus routes modified to emphasize our frontline meal sites and shelter programs to make sure people didn't lose access to essential services. They also partnered with Gathering Friends, Veterans Coming Home, Springfield Public Schools, Safe to Sleep and Victory Mission to provide a shower system so individuals had access to basic hygiene. They provided 252 showers in April.

Gathering Friends has been using the front line meal program to deliver meals to those housed in the hotels. Jennifer Cannon said they are averaging 3,500 meals a week, including outreach meals. They have split to two locations to minimize the crowd serving. They serve a hot dinner at Connecting Grounds and Grace at 5 pm 7 days a week and have teams that go out from 3-5 pm to deliver a hot dinner and a shelf stable breakfast and lunch for the following day to the hotels and the day sites. They are also helping with breakfast at Veterans Coming Home. The homeless are a social group and not use to isolation, so when they deliver the meals it is so much more than that, it's the compassionate care and mental health check that many of the homeless need. A big thanks to the huge group of volunteers that make it possible. There are also other frontline meal programs, so the total provided per week is almost 10,000 per week that are being served to the homeless population. They also partnered with the Office of Emergency Management to get hand sanitizer to the feeding program sites.

Over the last 3 weeks, The Connecting Grounds worked with other churches to establish five-day centers so people have a place to go to during the day to have access to resources and meals. They are open 2-3 days a week and some weekends. The plan was to have more, but they opened as people started to go back to work, so finding enough volunteers has been a challenge. Catholic Charities, Gathering Friends, and Connection Grounds have teamed up to try to help individuals to qualify and/or get their stimulus checks. We are seeing some individuals using those funds to get into housing, which shows that there are so many that are just situationally homeless that can be served with a small amount of funding. They are also doing a little bit of Census work.

They worked with the Have Faith group that was established through the United Way of the Ozarks (UWO), CFO and CPO. We presented to them the progress we were making and the things that we needed. They supplied us with 500 masks and other hygiene items for the homeless population. The Kitchen also provided hand soap to distribute to the meal programs and Burrell's Path program. They were also able to provide thermometers.

Another aspect is case management, so Kelly Haggard-Komodi and her team have adopted several individuals, visiting a couple of times a week. Intensive case management is a gap for people not connected to existing programs.

They are trying to determine the long-term impact of COVID-19, not just on the health-related issues, but also the long-term economic impact on the Springfield community. Adam Bodendieck has worked with ICA to create a data collection tool in HMIS, which will help us understand how many individuals enter homelessness because of Covid-19 and what are the related issues (sickness, unemployment, etc.). Thank you to ICA for working so quickly to get us a process to capture data, which might help agencies with future funding.

### **Merciful Nights Campaign – Michelle Garand**

The group has been actively working hard to keep people sheltered and connected to our system of care, so they have launched a campaign called “Merciful Nights” to contribute funds to maintain hotel stays. The cost to house just those that we currently have in hotels is \$50,000 a month. That is only if we get the negotiated hotel rate of \$150 per week. The hotels that are offering that rate are at capacity, so we are looking to expand that up to \$100,000 a month to further protect the homeless, and hopefully have established at the end of all this, a more permanent emergency shelter site. The campaign is ongoing, and we are working with the city and the county, CFO and others to continue to receive funds so there is no disruption in sheltering care. There is an emergency shelter group that is looking into long term sheltering and what that looks like under the new normal and what that might look like going forward. We don’t know how many people will be able to be in one room or if we have to continue the 6ft social distancing, and if so, what is the impact on the number of people we serve in mainstream ES, and what do we need to do to fill that gap in our community. The county received \$34 million for Covid-19 funding and they will apply for those funds once they receive information on the application process.

### **O’Reilly Center for Hope (ORCH) – Michelle Garand**

Covid-19 has delayed the timeline. They are now looking at July for project completion. Some of the vendors have experienced distribution issues when it comes to supplies. They are working on getting the elevator in and other last-minute details. They have all the data and IT contracts. They are continuing to work with Burrell on any specialized needs. They are pleased to announce that Michelle Hethcoat will be overseeing the administrative components of the ORCH.

## **Committee Updates**

### **System & Services Committee (S&SC) – (Maura Taylor)**

The S&SC is a mandatory meeting for those that are getting funding. Discussions at the meeting today covered a lot of the information that has already been presented. They reviewed the different grants that are available and looked at the community case management that is needed for the individuals in hotels who are waiting to get into other established programs like RRH or PSH. The group has really been working together as a community to look strategically at the needs of the homeless and what the gaps are and asking all the agencies to be creative about what their agency could do to fill in those gaps so the needs can be met. Michelle, Adam and Amanda have done a great job leading the OAEH.

## **Announcements/Discussion**

### **OAEH – Amanda Stadler**

They will present the Point in Time and Housing Inventory data at the June meeting for approval before it is submitted to HUD. They should also have the report from the Community Impact Survey that will have at least one month of data to see how Covid-19 is impacting our homeless service system.

### **ICA – Michael Tonarely**

ICA is strongly suggesting that no one attend any meetings in person. The June and July OAEH Executive Board meeting will be on Zoom. CPO is opening their offices on June 1. Michelle is working on what that will look like for

One Door and the SAHC. They will work closely with the health department to make sure they meet protocols. Liz said that the Missouri Department of Health also has a no travel policy.

**COVID-19 Update**

Meleah Spencer was at UWO meeting with Clay Goddard and Cora Scott. The takeaway she got was that it doesn't look like anyone will be getting together anytime soon unless people can distance 6 ft. Meetings are a problem because the issue is density and intensity – folks' shoulder to shoulder for a long length of time. They didn't have any info on trends now the city has been opened for a while. The numbers are the same, but it's too early to tell based on the 4-5 up to 14-day incubation period. Out of the 200 tests recently done on people who are asymptomatic and working, 149 are back and all were negative.

**Motion to Adjourn**

Liz Hagar-Mace asked for a motion to adjourn. Jennifer Cannon made a motion to adjourn. Jim O'Neal seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 12.03 pm.

**Upcoming Meetings**

*Next Meeting is June 10, 11:00 am – 12:00 pm (Zoom Meeting)*

*3rd Quarter General Meeting is July 16, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm (Zoom Meeting)*