

Milwaukee Continuum of Care Executive Board Meeting Minutes: April 16th, 2015

Attending: Dena Hunt, Kristin Haglund, Mike Hafemann, Kent Lovern, David Pifer, Eric Collins-Dyke, Andi Elliot, Gwat-Yong Lie, John Stibal, Greg Williams, Jennifer Frey, Steven Mahan, Ahong Xiong

John began with introductions and called for a review and motion to approve the January meeting minutes. David Pifer moved approval with a second from Kent Lovern.

Milwaukee CoC Annual Planning Day – Jen discussed the Planning Day and the different workgroups that were created from that day. She stated that they have not been fully developed but will be soon. She stated that the Annual Planning Day was to evaluate the 10 Year Plan, look at their progress and the areas lacking. It was noted during the Planning Day that there is a need in creating more partnerships for employment opportunities for the homeless. It was stated in order to improve the employment piece of the 10 Year Plan that collaboration and communication is two key infrastructures that are necessary to move the piece forward.

Currently, there are some regulation barriers and a challenge to place individuals; youth, mental health, and etc. into sustainable employment positions. David stated that the Planning Day was the best Planning Day and he saw good progress. In regards to the employment piece and the barriers present, he stated that the policies that are interactional. He asked about the work of MAWEP and UMOS in engaging the homeless. David added that if there are regulation barriers to employment that those be the issues placed in front of the Executive Board to move and resolve. Steve informed the Executive Board that there are talks of partnership with America Works in the future. Greg brought up the Wisconsin program “Windows to Work” which is designed to pay rent for high-end inmates that are discharged so that they are able to be employed and have housing. There was some discussion around the Executive Board’s ability to investigate the Department of Justice and Department of Child Welfare to see where they can support in terms of housing.

Steve stated that the Data Dashboard will be key to aid the EB in making hard decisions about the populations and the resources needed. He stated that currently there is an issue around Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) homeless youth. How do we aid these students? Jen also stated that currently another problem that the CoC is facing is the lack of housing stock. Jen stated that she was specifically finding this through the SAMSHA grant, not being able to find a flexible housing stock. She stated that there is a need for housing for people coming out of discharge correctional, who have mental illness or AODA.

CoC New Workgroup Formation – The new workgroups that came out of the Planning Day are Housing First, Employment, Data Dashboard. The two remaining workgroups will be HMIS and Coordinated Entry. Over the last months there has been an ask to create a better connection between the PAG and EB. The Provider Advisory Group has asked to have an Executive Board member sit in on some of the new workgroups. The ask is so that there would be an informed set of minds within the group on what needs to happen and what can happen, what’s possible in order to get things moving.

PAG Restructure – Andi Elliot came to represent the Provider Advisory Board and to speak on behalf of the committee. She began with background information about how the Provider Advisory Group was designed and for what purpose it was created for. She stated that the PAG acts or takes on the role of

being the COO of the CoC, working specifically on outreach services and supportive services to help address the needs of the homeless population. The PAG is in place to inform the EB about problematic and policy issues. One of the issues faced at the moment is the definition of homelessness. For the Department of Education, their definition for homelessness is differs from HUD's definition and impacts the way the CoC is able to serve the subpopulation of families and youth. Andi stated that for the PAG to have a seat on the Executive Board is important. She stated that each individual will be elected and voted into the PAG. David asked about the voting from the Full Body and how this election will look like. The recommendations will go from the Full Body to the PAG to the EB. There was a motion to amend recommendation #3 that so that the PAG designated is not allowed to vote on EB policies and procedures.

Motion passed to have the recommendations adapted with the amendment to #3 that the PAG a seat on the EB will not be able to vote on EB policies and procedures. 1st David Pifer, 2nd Mike Hafemann voting passed.

Transitional Housing mapping – In the past HUD has asked that communities be strategic about Transitional Housing because it was found to be costly and ineffective as other housing strategies. However, the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness has released information about how Transitional Housing can be effective for subpopulations such as domestic abuse victims, youth, and those struggling with substance abuse. In May, the NOFA will be released and the Milwaukee CoC will need to look at where our TH fits and how it fits into our Housing First model.

Veteran Homelessness – This is the year (2015) where Veteran Homelessness is to reach the functional zero. Currently within the Milwaukee County there is no registry for those who are Veterans and experiencing homelessness. This is a piece currently being established. The registry will be tied to HMIS and later into the Data Dashboard. HUD moved to end Chronic Veterans Homelessness to 2017.

Announcements:

John wanted to make sure that all Executive Board meeting minutes are being published publically.

Jen stated that the CoC is waiting to hear from the County in regards to where our place is in ending homelessness depending on what the County's plans are. She wanted to also let the EB know that in the future, there will be voting on the NOFA and the election for the Milwaukee CoC Provider Advisory Group. At the next EB meeting there will be presentation with information on sex offenders, how do we place them into housing? She informed the EB that the NOFA will arrive no earlier than late spring, early fall and submitted after 90 days of being released.

Meeting Adjourned.