

Continuum of Care Executive Board Meeting Minutes 6.18.15:

Attending: MaryNell Regan, Kent Lovern, John Stibal, Jim Eigenberger, Jim Mathy, Luke Radomski, Gwat-Yong Lie, Steven Mahan, Ahong Xiong, Jenny von Helms, Amy Lorenz, Jennifer Frey, Claire Johnson

Steve began with introductions and called for a review and motion to approve the May meeting minutes.

1st: Jim Mathy 2nd: Jennifer Frey

WI Coalition Against Homelessness –
not present

Lead Agency –

Open Board Seats—There are currently three empty seats: Milwaukee County Sheriff, Milwaukee County Supervisor, and the City of Milwaukee—Common Council, these seats exclude the now vacant Wauwatosa seat. In addition to these empty seats, the Common Council position has been offered to Aldermen Jose Perez and we are currently awaiting a confirmation response. In regards to the other vacant spots, “how do we fill these positions?” It was suggested to change the title of the seats to “law enforcement,” so that the Department of Corrections could fill the seat. There was also a suggestion to open and offer the seat to West Milwaukee, since they have the second largest public school system school, which would open doors to assist families and youth. The suggestion of having “Public Safety” as a title was suggested. Although it is a broad term, the Executive Board can define it in ways that the seat can be utilized to better serve the needs of the CoC. In relations to that title, there was a suggestion of having someone from Amour Correctional Health Services. Kent Lovern stated that he could reach out to those individuals at Amour. Amy Lorenz stated that perhaps those from the Department of Corrections should be offered a seat since they presented their concerns on the subpopulations of sex offenders. Another potential seat could be offered to the Department of Children and Families; it would be a connection to children aging out of foster care. Both Steve and John agreed that the positions, whoever it is offered to, must give time commitment to the committee and the work at hand. There was agreement that each person who made suggests call the different proposed agencies and see if they are able to commit to the committee.

Point In Time—The Point In Time (PIT) this July will be starting at 7pm Wednesday, on July 29th and ending at 7am on Thursday, July 30th. However, because HUD is allowing the post-7 days count after the night of Point In Time. The county will be able to continue to count individuals who were homeless on the night of July 29th. This will end on August 5th. This PIT is a mandate of the State whereas January’s PIT is a mandate from HUD. Sleeping bags are the hardest to find and more expensive to purchase during the winter. The PIT committee is asking the EB to have a blanket or sleeping bag drive; these can be lightly used. MaryNell and John of West Allies will both co-lead this effort. Jim Mathy would like to see no CH unsheltered by next year; a dramatically reduced number. Steve stated that the anomaly is that it directly correlates with FoodShare. Jim wants to coordinate with the PIT committee on how to offer housing first to those found street homeless the night of Point In Time. There was discussion on if there were efforts on changing or adjusting the definition of “homelessness”. This was brought up due to doubled-up housing situations. Technically, those who “double-up” in homes are homeless. Claire

Johnson stated that she could possibly find a way to map out the general areas where there is concentration of the doubled-up occupancies. In the long run, the goal is to be able to figure out how to track the families who are in the HEP-MPS. Jen stated that Jan is currently working on a document on trends and gaps and how to funnel that into the wider system. She stated that at the last HMIS board meeting in Madison it was very data driven. However the CoC is having a hard time with data being accessed. Steve stated that the data that matters is the data that is going into the ServicePoint. There was a discussion in the room around ICA and the need to have ICA present to the EB. The idea is that anyone from the EB office should be able to connect to HMIS. The EB should have the clearance on what is needed. Luke will talk to the HMIS board and ask when the Data Dashboard will be ready and when it should be ready to be rolled out. ICA has limited availability to assist in compiling and do a lot of trainings, etc. However, the EB feels strongly that there should be someone to consult and analyze. This is very vital to both the PIT and HMIS data being put into the system; the data needs to be able to be read. The CoC had asked for a dashboard early-on for ESG funds. However, there has been a gap. The request has been sitting in some cue. There are current efforts in working with ICA to figure out how to get agency's reimbursement request through HMIS. What slows down the process is checking if the information is correct. What is most alarming is that due to the level of data required and the information needed, case workers are clearing schedules and not being able to take care of the clients so they can do the data work. Staffs are spending over 20 hours on HMIS. The data needs to be there as audits will begin. The key to this is the dashboard; it would have information that would feed into other funding resources. HMIS will be coming before the EB before the PIT. Luke stated that the HMIS Board is trying to treat all the state counties the same, so Ashland vs Milwaukee. Perhaps that is something that Luke will need to look at when looking at the way the HMIS board addresses the information system.

NOFA—YWCA has a Transitional Housing project that is funded through the CoC. The YWCA is transitioning out and refocusing their services on financial literacy. Three individuals from their TH program came to own their own homes. The YWCA asked how the clients were able to do so; they stated that it was financial literacy. YWCA wants the \$110,000 to be reallocated in the CoC. HUD is allowing the reallocation of the funds for HMIS, CE, RRH or PSH both for only CH single, families, and unaccompanied youth. Sometime in July there will be a special meeting for this. There is also a CoC analysis that will be put together for the CoC. The data for this analysis is coming from all HMIS data. Candice Hacker who works for Bowman puts HMIS data together for the CoC. Jan and Candice are both looking at the performance of the Milwaukee CoC and trying to figure how and where to transition the money; a needs gap analysis. Where is the best place to move the funding for? How to move funds? The CoC will look at this in the next few weeks. Jennifer was on a CoC Roundtable conference call yesterday and New Orleans, Salt Lake City and another city has claimed to end homelessness in sub-populations. Many of the change happened by a big systems change and through very client-centered programming. Steve stated that there will be a lot of push back on the system change. Why do we have so many shelters if they are not working and not feeding into PSH? How do we address that? Moving forward will need emergency housing and special populations housing but there should be more PSH. Jim stated that he has 5 shelter providers signed on to housing first model to start July 1st. The CoC will need to make hard calls. Their business will need to be remodeled or be closed based upon the need and the desire of changes. There was a statement saying that there is a need to mobilize the programs and the legislation to allow people to move quicker. Currently, single sourcing is a problem. TBRA is using HOME funds for two years. Jim would like to know where the permanent housing providers are

getting their referrals from because there are many CH sitting in shelters. Luke can do the data dump of the waiting list, fully automated, of where the providers are. Housing providers in the CoC are getting it from their own agencies.

Announcements—

Luke—senior housing for West Allis will be opening their application online only on July 14th. The housing is for elderly disabled. Luke will send it out via email. This one does have a Veterans preference. West Allis has 125 total, HACM has 250 total. Jim and Luke should have some coordination.

Jim—Milwaukee will be opening up their waiting list as well. Paul Williams, PR at HACM wanted to have a list of providers. There will be lottery information. Claire commented on how this will affect HEP-MPS population. All applications are only online.

Jennifer—would like to debrief on the BID symposium. This item will be on the next meeting's agenda.

John—Asked that the Sign-In Sheet be adjusted to having names on there already, just being able to check it off.