



**Journey Home Board  
February 18, 2015  
3:00-5:00pm**

**Attendees:** Adrienne Breidenstine, Commissioner Graziano, Bill McLennan, Bill McCarthy, Antonia Fasanelli, Traci Kodeck, Bern McBride, John Schiavone, Jacquelyn Duval-Harvey, Sandi Timmins, Kevin Lindamood, Tina Hike-Hubbard, Cindy Williams, Yngvid Olsen, David Clements, Damien Haussling, Jason Perkins-Cohen, Carol Payne, Lt. Col. Melvin Russell

**Absent:** Sister Helen Amos, Jeff Hettleman, Amy Kleine, Dominique Moore, FT Burden, Allison Buchalter, Judge David Aldouby, Andrea Jackson, Michael Seipp, Karen Webber-Ndour, Joe Wood, Luciene Parsley

**I. Welcome and Review of Agenda**

Introductions and welcome presented by Commissioner Graziano.

**II. Vote on Journey Home At-Large Member**

The Board vote unanimously to add John Schiavone, President and CEO of St. Vincent De Paul of Baltimore.

**III. Approve Minutes from December Board Meeting**

The Board voted unanimously to approve the December meeting minutes.

**IV. Journey Home Board Charter Revisions**

Adrienne spoke about revisions to the Journey Home Charter. These changes reflect the new vice chair and Maryland's open meetings act. Copy of charter with red lines is distributed to Board. The MOHS HMIS unit is renamed Data and Evaluation Unit.

This revised Charter was reviewed by executive committee.

The Board voted unanimously to approve the revised Journey Home Board Charter

**V. Executive Director's Report**

Adrienne presented highlights on actions and events between December and now.

- Journey Home has revised is Memorandum of Understanding between The City and United Way of Central Maryland (UWCM). UWCM has reduced the administration fee it collects from 10% of all revenue for the Journey Home to 7.5% of revenue generated from only from the annual

benefit, *An Evening of Unexpected Delights*. Adrienne will send the MOU out in email for review.

- The Journey Home submitted a grant application to CareFist for \$300,000 over three years for Convalescent Care Program that operates out of the Weinberg Housing Resource Center. This grant application was a collaboration between, The Journey Home, UWCM, and Health Care for the Homeless.
- Currently working on grant application for the National Center for Employment and Homelessness on systems level collaborations to address access to employment and homelessness. We could receive up to 125k over 3 years for planning convening and staff time. Use of current work groups and partnerships. Grant application was submitted on February 20.
- Started youth and young adult strategic planning in January. Two meetings so far, last meeting focused on vision. This will become an addendum for Journey Home to be presented later this year. Rose Street did not receive federal funding for 8 shelter beds for unaccompanied youth. Rose Street is able to retain these beds without the federal funding.
- 2015 PIT count in January. Nearly 400 volunteers recruited between night counts and site based day counts. Data is currently being supplied and is due by end of April to HUD. Baltimore hosted Deputy Secretary Sloan Gibson from the VA and two Assistant Secretaries from HUD and made good impression on VA and HUD teams.
- HUD released Continuum of Care (CoC) award Baltimore \$21.8 million dollars in funding for FY 2014 for program. This funding covers renewal grants. Baltimore did not receive Bonus funding but did receive an increase and COC planning grant.

## **VI. Update on Children's Program Coordinators**

Adrienne Breidenstine presented the Resource Allocation Workgroup recommendation for the Children's Program Coordinators on behalf of Amy Kleine.

The Children's Program Coordinators (CPC) is a small program that provides funding for shelter-based liaisons to work with families and children living in homeless shelters to ensure they are closely connected to schools and receive the necessary resources to thrive. The Journey Home currently provides \$208,000 in grants to five providers, Baltimore Outreach Services, House of Ruth Maryland, The Salvation Army Booth House, Saint Vincent de Paul Sarah's Hope, and the Public Justice Center. This program began in 2012 and is moving into its fourth year without any turnover in staff at any grantee.

The Resource Allocation Workgroup recommends all grantees to provide a 15% cash-match to decrease The Journey Home's overall spending on this program to \$176,800 (4 shelter grantees @ \$39,950 + PJC @ \$17,000) and that in 2016, there will be a competitive application process for funding for this program. This funding allocation will be built into the Journey Home operational budget, which the Board will consider at the May meeting.

Sandi Timmins expressed that the CPC at the House of Ruth shows huge improvement with helping families navigate the Baltimore City School System and staff staying is remarkable. John Schiavone agrees and says it has improved the programs.

## **VII. Mayors Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness**

Opening Doors, the federal strategic plan to prevent and end homelessness calls for an end of Veteran homelessness by 2015. Mayor Rawlings-Blake signed on to the First Lady's call to action, the Mayors Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness.

Journey Home is collaborating with the VA to lead this challenge. New chief of Social Work at the VA Medical Center, Christopher Buser, will be joining the Journey Home Board. Through planning we are considering how can we implement something like this in Baltimore and what would this look like? Community Solutions is providing TA support, looking at HMIS and VA medical center data.

## **VIII. Proposed Funding Cuts to HABC**

The Housing Authority of Baltimore City has been participating in Moving to Work program, which is a national initiative with 39 cities involved. HUD allows these agencies to move funds between public housing, subsidies, vouchers, section 8 voucher, and administrative fees. This allows for flexibility and the ability to design local programs. Because of this, Baltimore has developed over 600 units of housing, vouchers, community sustainability, and other programs.

All Moving to Work funding is expiring in 2018 (June 30) so PHAs are negotiating to renew and tenure extend for locations like Baltimore. Unfortunately, as they have entered the discussion HUD has sought to change the flexibility spending of funding use and 11 cities who have alternative funding formula (including Baltimore) are being asked to revert back to the more standardized formula.

This could result in \$42.6million a year lost in public housing programs. There is some collaboration with other cities involved to prevent this. Commissioner Graziano hopes to put a letter together explaining Baltimore's concerns related to this funding and the programs and the 26k households served every day. This letter would be for the White House, Congress, and HUD. He requested that the Board also submit a letter or explaining how the restrictions on flexibility would negatively impact Baltimore.

Motion for the Board submitting a letter urging that HUD of Baltimore City not receive any cut in funding: Antonia Fasanelli made the first motion; Lt. Col Melvin Russell second; Carol Payne abstained from voting; All others in favor.

## **IX. Increasing Affordable Housing Opportunities**

The Journey Home has been evaluating different housing models utilized in other places such as Los Angeles, Washington, DC, and Philadelphia. In DC, there is a local rent supplement model, developed in a time when DC was flush with money but has continued to be fiscally practical during economic decline. Antonia was part of the team that wrote the legislation and program. A portion of the money is allocated to local rent supplement vouchers- similar to housing choice vouchers. The other two thirds of program provide money to private nonprofits or affordable housing developers to allocate funds to keep rents low in their buildings. This can be used for developers to ensure the houses built will be available for low income tenants. DC has a local

affordable housing trust fund which is funded through a tax for the first few years and is now funded out of general funds.

Adrienne spoke about Middleton Partnership, Philadelphia's private and public relationship between Project Home with John and Leigh Middleton, who give 30 million to address youth and chronic homelessness in Philadelphia. They use money as leverage for housing development, health care services, and other needs from this flexible funding. ProjectHOME has had the funding for 3 of 10 years and have spent a third or so. Shows value of backbone organization and also having a significant portion of private money.

In Los Angeles, public and philanthropic stakeholders developed the LA- Funders Collaborative, which brings together approximately 10 funding resources and dedicates these funds toward addressing chronic homelessness. This pot of money funds a continuum of services. The Collaboration issues an RFP every two years for region. The target of the program is solely focused for Veterans and those who are chronically homeless, shows value of collaborative resources as leverage and importance of large chunks of money.

Several Board members expressed that it is our job to be a collaborative/collective advocacy force. We have to provide recommendations to the Mayor to show what we as a city can do. Baltimore needs to decrease reliance on federal funds and, instead, leverage public dollars with private dollars. The Housing Workgroup will start evaluating these models and develop ideas for what will be a good fit in Baltimore City.

#### **X. Updates and Announcements**

There are no major changes to the Journey Home Financial Report. Sponsors and donations from Benefit in October 2014 continue to come in.

The Journey Home annual benefit is October 24, 2015. Tom Noonan and Marla Oros will co-chair benefit planning.

Tomorrow the War Memorial Building will have an additional shelter capacity to serve people experiencing homelessness during Cod Blue.

The next Board Meeting is May 20th from 3:00-5:00pm

#### **XI. Questions from the Public**

Darrell Cribb asked how much CoC Program funding goes to serve homeless youth.

Of the \$21.8 million that Baltimore City receives for the CoC Program, none is goes to programs serving homelessness under the age of 18. Most of this funding is for renewal grants.