

The Journey Home Board Meeting

Tuesday, December 9, 2014

3:00-5:00pm

The Shelter Group

Attendees: Mark Furst, Adrienne Breidenstine, Kevin Lindamood, Damien Haussling, Amy Kleine, Yngvlid Olsen, Bill McLennan, Jeff Hettleman, Joseph Wood, Luciene Parsley, Olivia Farrow, Dominique Moore, Bernard McBride, David Clements, Michael Seipp, Antonia Fasanelli, Sister Helen Amos, Lara Ohanian, Allison Buchalter, Judge David Aldouby

Absent: Cindy Williams, Bill McCarthy, Tina-Hike Hubbard, F.T. Burden, Cindy Williams, Sister Helen Amos, Sandi Timmins, Traci Kodeck, Andy Bertamini

I. Welcome

Adrienne Breidenstine announced that Commissioner Graziano is in DC at a HUD Budget meeting and is, therefore, unable to attend today's meeting. She introduced Danielle Meister MOHS's new CoC Coordinator.

II. Approve Minutes from October Journey Home Board Meeting

The Board approved the minutes from the October Journey Home Board Meeting with no changes or amendments.

III. Executive Director's Report

Adrienne provided an overview of Board accomplishments from the past year, including

1. Adopting the first-ever Journey Home Strategic Priorities
2. Implement Strategies in decisions such as budget, policy, and another successful Project Homeless Connect
3. Re-committing to Housing First
4. Establishing Performance measures for the Journey Home that will help us to produce our outcomes report in 2015
5. Successful Benefit raising more private funds that we have in past years
6. Re-negotiated MOU with United Way with key changes such as admin fee from 10% of all funds raised for the Journey Home to 7.25% from funds raised from the benefit.

In 2015, we are looking forward to beginning our strategic planning around Youth and Young Adult homelessness, which is supported with a grant from the Abell Foundation. We are also working on dashboards for performance measures and are developing towards generating a strong outcomes report.

In 2015, we will also focus more on our goal to create more affordable housing opportunities for people experiencing homelessness. Midway through the year, the Board will be asked to adopt an operational budget for the Journey Home in 2015, which will be the first time this will

happen. To increase transparency and post more reports online, the Journey Home website is being redesigned starting as early as this week with Zest Social Media Solutions. The Journey Home will fundraise more next year and set more focused fundraising priorities.

IV. 2015 Journey Home Board Chair and Vice Chair

In 2015, Commissioner Graziano will serve as Chair and Tina Hike-Hubbard as Vice Chair. This decision was supported by the Executive Committee and the Mayor provided approval.

V. Baltimore's Coordinated Access and Assessment System

Adrienne and Danielle gave a presentation on Baltimore's Coordinated Access and Assessment System.

HUD is now requiring the use of a Coordinated Access System but they have not yet issued guidance or expectations. Prior to Coordinated Access, people experiencing homelessness would have to go to several providers in order to access services. With a universal tool, all providers funded by MOHS would use the BDAT assessment tool; which helps triage, decide the best intervention, and refer people to service providers. This should increase efficiency and access to appropriate services, and data driven work. This system currently integrates on permanent supported housing.

Baltimore is currently participating in a 25 Cities Initiative, which allows our community to receive technical assistance from Community Solutions, a national training and TA organization. Community Solutions has provided Baltimore with a google-based platform web tool to manage Coordinated Access, however, the tool is flawed and limit's Baltimore's ability to expand Coordinated Access beyond PSH right now.

MOHS will be working to move Coordinated Access out of of the google-based tool and into CleintTrack. This transition will likely begin in spring of 2015. MOHS will also work to develop universal Housing First Standards for PSH programs in the second part of the year for 2015. Luciene Parsely asked to be included in the development of these standards.

The Board discussed the Coordinated Access process and the average time it takes to move an individual into housing. It was agreed that some changes could be made to streamline the housing placement process.

VI. Faces of Homelessness Speaker's Bureau Panel

Damien Haussling moderated the Faces of Homelessness Speaker's Bureau panel. The Speakers' Bureau is a group of homeless and formerly homeless advocates who share what their experience was like being homeless. Two gentlemen shared their stories:

Bob J.-He had health experiences which led to loss of job and housing. He was placed at Ravenwood nursing home after a serious health breakdown, the home has since been shut down due to improper care. He ended up on street due to improper paperwork by his case manager. After some time, he found Health Care for the Homeless. By then he had developed

cancer and their healthcare assistance saved his life. After three years being homeless, he was connected to public housing. He has become an advocate for residence of his housing building. After 7.5 years his voucher was approved and he has moved into permanent housing which caters to seniors. More recently, he has had a need for more medical support and has been able to move into a two bedroom house so that a caregiver can assist him in home.

Day-Day-He was homeless from age 17 to 23. When he first became homeless he could not go to a shelter due to his age. When he got to the shelters, he realized that bedbugs and other problems made it so he could not continue to stay in shelters. It was bad enough that he stayed outside in a huge snow storm rather than go to a shelter, though he ultimately went to Johns Hopkins for emergency room. He later went to Grove Street and realized it was not a very good neighborhood but stayed there for a while anyway. After some time, he was couch surfing and reached a point where he almost gave up. He feels he has recently begun to find a way.

The Board and panel discussed that being housed has great negative health and psychological implications and that more resources are needed to help unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness.

VII. Updates and Announcements

Antonia Fasanelli announced that Rose Street has lost its federal Runaway and Homeless Youth funding for Basic Center and will not be able to provide services as of January 1, 2015. She wanted the Board to be aware so that our community can determine how to fill this need. She requested for the Youth and Young Adults workgroup to discuss plan around Rose Street closure. Adrienne agreed to bring this to the workgroup and reach out to Clayton Guyton, Director of Rose Street.

Update on the Financial Report for Journey Home, there is no major change from the October Board meeting.

The 2015 Point-in-Time Count taking place the week of January 25, 2015 and Adrienne asks that everyone spread the call for volunteer to their networks.

Damien announced that Homeless Person's Memorial Day will be Sunday, December 21 at the Inner Harbor Amphitheatre. A flyer will be circulated by email.

Amy Klein reported that she and Adrienne went to Philadelphia and visited a Project HOME's JBJ Soul Homes, which is an integrated income housing project in north Philadelphia. They were inspired by partners that contributed to this project, including the Middleton Partnership and are searching for a large funder for this local area. They learned that Project HOME is focused on street homelessness and creating housing. Amy expressed that it would be good for the Board to identify a multi-million dollar funder to support our work.

Olivia Farrow reported on Baltimore's Winter and Cold Weather Planning. MOHS We worked with providers to expand capacity for emergency shelter in the event of a code blue, there would be 250 overflow beds. The State is willing to work to provide emergency space and staffing in the event of a Polar Vortex. She is meeting with the State again later this week.

VIII. Closing Remarks

Next Board meeting is in February 18, 2015 at Behavioral Health Systems Baltimore. A 2015 Board schedule for is included in Board documents.