



December 2015 Board Meeting Minutes

December 16, 2015

3:00-5:00pm

Mayor's Executive Conference Room

2nd Floor, City Hall

100 Holliday Street, Baltimore, MD 21202

Board Members Present: Bill McLennan, John Schiavone, Irvin Moore, Jacquelyn Duval-Harvey, Kevin Lindamood, Antonia Fasanelli, Paul Graziano, Jason Perkins-Cohen, Sister Helen Amos, Allison Buchalter, Damien Haussling, David Clements

Staff to the Board Present: Vidia Dhanraj, Danielle Meister

I. Welcome & Review Agenda

The Chair called the meeting to order at 3:20pm.

II. Approve Minutes from October Board Meeting

The board approved the meeting minutes.

III. Board Workgroup Chair Reports

Executive Committee

The executive committee interviewed several candidates for the open Executive Director position over the course of October and November. MOHS-HSP concurrently received feedback on the CoC governance charter and workgroups from Cloudburst, which provides ongoing technical assistance to MOHS-HSP throughout the year. With a new recommendation to revisit the CoC governance charter, the executive committee chose not to move forward with any Executive Director candidates.

The committee was asked for examples of the types of changes that may be necessary. The executive committee shared an example that the board's membership election procedures needed to be more aligned with the Hearth Act, which requires that board members be elected by members of the CoC, not other board members. Judy Perlman from Cloudburst shared that they would initiate a survey with the board to assess the current roles and responsibilities of board members and identify potential areas of work. The plan is for Cloudburst, the Journey Home Board, and MOHS-HSP to spend the early part of 2016 identifying potential areas of improvement to create additional capacity to meet the Hearth Act requirements and a structure to progress work on the Opening Doors goals.

The committee did identify a candidate for the Journey to Jobs (J2J) position from the pool of applicants for the Executive Director position. The J2J position is currently being

processed by the HR department in the City of Baltimore, and it is anticipated that the coordinator will start the position January 11, 2016.

The executive committee postponed the date of installing new Chair Tina Hike-Hubbard until the next meeting. Current Chair Paul Graziano will continue on an interim basis until the vote takes place. The executive committee will also be working to identify a vice chair.

Many current board members are reaching the end of their first 2-year term on the board and are eligible for renewal. Applicable board members will receive an invitation to renew their position via both email and mail.

The board voted and approved to hold bimonthly meetings in 2016. The next board meeting will be at the end of January. A 2016 board meeting schedule will be sent out via email to the board and posted to the Journey Home website.

Data and Evaluation Workgroup

The system-level and project-level performance metrics adopted by the Journey Home are currently being programmed into ClientTrack, the city's HMIS vendor. The anticipated completion date is January 2016. The project-level performance metrics will be used to score and evaluate applications for the Consolidated Funding Application. The workgroup will need to start work in early 2016 on the annual needs assessment/gaps analysis required by the Hearth Act.

Housing Development Workgroup

The group presented a plan to the Mayor in August 2015 for the creation of 564 scattered-site and site-based permanent supportive housing units. The report included the pros and cons of each opportunity to create additional PSH units. Concerns were raised prior to the report by several parties regarding the quality of the data and needs analysis completed by the Corporation for Supportive Housing, as well as potential violations of the Fair Housing Act by creating high-density project-based housing for people who were chronically homeless (people with disabilities).

The board discussed the concerns with the proposal and proposed reconvening the workgroup to reassess and revise the report. It was suggested that there be a "meeting of the whole" that includes more board members to revisit the plan. The board discussed the need to better identify the role of the housing development workgroup, and whether it needs to address more than just permanent supportive housing units (ex: rapid rehousing, vouchers).

Chair Graziano shared that there will be a ballot referendum in 2016 to set aside \$6 million dollars to leverage other funding sources for the creation of affordable housing. The funds would be leveraged to help obtain tax credits and/or vouchers from the state and other sources.

Health Care Workgroup

The workgroup will be rebooting in the new year, so if any board members are interested in joining, please let Kevin Lindamood know. Kevin reminded the board that Medicaid enrollment is open year-round, regardless of open enrollment deadlines that are being advertised by the federal government and state. Maryland went from 30% insured to 90% insured due in large part to Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act.

Kevin shared that there is a lot of discussion in Maryland around incorporating adult dental care into Medicaid offerings. Additionally, the federal government has been circulating extensive information to states on how they can utilize Medicaid to pay for supportive services and housing-related services, which could be leveraged for permanent supportive housing programs to increase the funding available for rental dollars. Montgomery County convened a regional partnership to hire a consultant to advocate for Maryland to sign on for available waivers. The workgroup invited Baltimore City to join, and is asking that counties contribute approximately \$4000 towards the cost of the consultant.

The board motioned and approved to join the regional initiative and contribute \$4000 towards the cost of the consultant.

Resource Allocation Workgroup

RAW completed and approved the ranking and rating for the CoC Program NOFA in November. The CoC achieved significant gains in housing first, completed the application early, and should be very competitive at the national level. Award notifications are expected to go out from HUD in late January. The RAW met on December 14 to plan for the Consolidated Funding Application, which is anticipated to be released in January and discuss additional expenditures (see Financial Report below). The RAW will meet in January to discuss other uses of available Journey Home funds and will begin to work on a budget for FY17.

Ad-Hoc Workgroups

The board will reconvene the Incomes and Employment workgroup and Youth and Young Adult Workgroup in 2016.

IV. Mayor's Address

Deputy Mayor Dawn Kirstaetter read a letter from the Mayor thanking board members for their service and noted the achievements in homeless services made in 2015.

V. Code Blue

Board members asked for an update on the City's Code Blue sheltering plan for the winter season. City staff gave an overview of what was currently in the Code Blue plan, which included 211 additional seasonal beds as well as emergency management sheltering plans. Several board members expressed that 211 beds were not enough to meet the needs of all those who are homeless and seeking shelter from severe weather and cold temperatures, and that the current temperature threshold for a Code Blue to be called is too low to prevent hypothermic deaths, particularly for medically complex clients.

A motion was introduced to recommend to the Mayor that the temperature threshold for Code Blue be raised to at least 32 degrees, the point of freezing. The motion was approved, then later amended pending more information from the health department.

The Health Department shared that staff reviewed Code Blue best practices in other cities across the country and found the temperature threshold of 13 degrees to be in line. They offered to set up a conference call with Journey Home board members in the next few days so they could share more detail about what cities were reviewed, how the temperature designation was reached, and the sheltering plans. Board members shared that the

temperature designation has not always been so low—in the past it has been as high as 25 degrees.

The Deputy Mayor noted that she would follow up on board members concerns to see what possible solutions may exist within City resources.

VI. Special Initiatives

USICH released new benchmarks and criteria for the Veteran’s Challenge, and the data dashboard is currently being upgraded to reflect the new goals. Recent achievements have included identifying permanent housing plans for each veteran that is homeless, the VA will be nearly 95% leased up for their new VASH vouchers by the end of January, and the CoC created 65 new units of permanent supportive housing for veterans in the NOFA competition.

VII. Financial Report

The board reviewed the financial report and budget, and approved three proposed expenditures from the Resource Allocation Workgroup.

- Extend contracts for the Children's Program Coordinators Program from April 30 to June 30 in order to align with the fiscal year, at a cost of \$29,231.
- Allocate \$56,000 to the Flex Fund. The Fund has expended \$86K during the first 5 months of the fiscal year to pay mostly for furniture and security deposits.
- Provide \$5,000 to the Scholarship Fund so that two providers can attend the Conference on Youth and Family Homelessness in Oakland, CA on February 18-19, 2016.

VIII. Updates and Announcements

Homeless Persons Memorial Day is a service honoring people who formerly or were currently experiencing homelessness and passed away in 2015. It will be held this year on December 21st at 5pm, at St. Vincent de Paul Church.

VIII. Public Comments

No comments from the public.

IX. Adjournment