BALTIMORE CITY COC MINUTES

CoC Board Meeting

Oct 17, 2024 | 2p.m.-4:30p.m.| In-Person: Our Daily Bread, 725 Fallsway |Meeting called to order by Tara Taylor

In Attendance

Attendees (from current board): Tara Taylor, Eddie Blackstone, Levy Johnson, Da'Mel Ross, Chuck Callahan, Amy Collier, Crystal Pitt, Jeffrey Griffin, Lolah James, Shannon Peterson

Members of the public or support entity representatives: Director Simmons, Eileen Cotton, Mary Rode, Kate Calhoun

Approval of Minutes

9-19-2024 Meeting Minutes- No quorum to approve minutes

Agenda

I. Welcome
II. Meeting Minutes
III. Vote on Logo and Review Survey Results
IV. Election Update and Nomination Process Overview
V. PIT Count Update
VI. Uplift Alliance Introduction & Budget Overview
VII. Funders of Housing Opportunities- Lived Experience Grant Update and Discussion
VIII. CoC Build Application Overview
IX. Community Comments
X. MOHS Updates

Agenda items/order are subject to Discussion

Agenda Item: Welcome
Meeting called to order by Tara Taylor at 2:10 p.m.

Agenda Item: Meeting Minutes
The minutes were not approved due to no quorum, vote postponed until the next meeting

Agenda Item: Vote on Logo and Review Survey Results- Tara Taylor & Eddie Blackstone
At a previous General Body Meeting, members were invited to vote on a new logo. The winning logo was shared with the Board for final approval. There was discussion concerning trademarking, due to the logo resembling others in a google lens search. No quorum present, the vote to approve will be postponed until the next meeting.

Agenda Item: Election Update and Nomination Process Overview- Eddie Blackstone
Reminder that the CoC Board Call Nominations Form has been released. Timeline:

- 11/8- Deadline for nominations and accompanying bios
- 11/12- Deadline for Member365 registration
- 11/19- Notice for election: Nominee bios released to CoC
- 11/26- Reshare bios and information on how to vote
- 12/6-12/12: Voting on Member365 in-person at General Body Meeting on electronically.
- 12/12: Voting at General Body Meeting. Voting Closes.
- 12/19: Board Meeting
- January 2025: New Board Member Training
- January 2025: Leadership elections at first Board member meeting

There was a request for current Board member term information.

Agenda Item: PIT Count Update- Ellis Lee
PIT count will occur the evenings of 1/26 and 1/27. The CoC is looking for more participation from the CoC. The LEAC has been heavily involved. Chapps Pit Beef and Land of Kush (vegan/gluten free) will provide hot meals. There is a request for the Chairs of each committee to participate in the planning process. Ellis is managing volunteer registration.

MOHS will survey all providers regarding the different roles that volunteers can sign up for. Participating in the PIT count is a “point” for monitoring and evaluation.

Agenda Item: Uplift Alliance Introduction & Budget Overview
Heidi Arndt was unable to attend the meeting, but the Chairs will continue to invite her to in-person meetings. A printed copy of the budget was shared with all Board members.

There was a question about the website contractor costs of $8000 since the website has been nonfunctional for the previous months. The website contractor, Spud, previously attended an in-person General Body Meeting and the Chairs agreed to invite him to a future Board meeting. Website hosting costs are separate from website contractor. There was discussion of whether the CoC could include individuals in the CoC who have the skills to manage a website.

The Chairs are working toward including photos and bios of the Board members on the website.

Only LEAC leadership, not all LEAC members, receives stipends for their participation in the CoC.

There is a request for the budget information to remain confidential to the CoC Board.

The funds come from fundraising and grants.

Agenda Item: Funders of Housing Opportunities- Lived Experience Grant Update and Discussion
Current committee members: Tara Taylor, Eddie Blackstone, Levy Johnson, Saleen Lewis, Da’Mel Ross, Iya Dammons, Mark Council, Ken O’Bryant, Janae Jeter, Ernestina Simmons

Potential Focus areas:

- Mending relationships and re-establishing direction with Collaborative Applicant (MOHS); establishing clearer vision.
- Marketing and Communication
- Build relationship between LEAC and YAB.
- Build relationship between MOHS and CoC
- Provide career opportunities to folks with lived experience
- Diversify committees and workgroups.
- Use data to inform project

Initial meeting was held 10/2. Next meeting is 11/6.

The FHO Grant application was submitted using the names of individuals with lived experience without their consent. The Youth Advisory Board (YAB) had specifically requested not to be included in this application, but this request was disregarded, and incorrect race/ethnicity disclosures were made. The Baltimore City CoC was awarded the funds, sparking concerns about the exploitation of people with lived experience. There was discussion regarding the need to take action to prevent this from happening again, including developing a process for obtaining consent before including individuals identifying information in grant applications. Tara stated that the CoC would issue an apology to the individuals who were affected.

The chairs presented a draft consent form that would need to be signed for any grant application moving forward. There was a suggestion to develop a letter of support to agree to move forward with grant applications.

There are also concerns about payments that were not dispersed and other discrepancies in the budget which will be reviewed in a future Board meeting.

Some grants ask about the operations of the CoC including the work and roles of the subcommittees. When MOHS submits an application on behalf of the CoC, the committees are referenced but do not include specific names. There is a request that the chairs are made aware anytime the subcommittees are referenced and discussion around feasibility of this request.

There was a request for the apology letter that was promised at the Executive Committee Meeting.

Feedback on consent form:
- Modify the consent form to include blank spaces for specific grant details, rather than a generic overall consent form.
- Apply same considerations for consent to use names of individuals with lived experience to all subcommittee members.

Agenda Item: CoC Build Application Overview- Eddie Blackstone & Chuck Callahan
CoC Builds centers around creation of PSH. Current recommendation is for a panel to review the applications. Recommendations for the panel include: Housing Authority of Baltimore (1 member), Baltimore City Health Department (1 member), Department of Planning (1 member), Department of Real Estate (1 member) and CoC (3 members with recommendation of Nico Sanders, Ellis Lee and Chuck Callhan).

The hotel project- the agency that gets the hotels will have access to these funds to support their work.

Detailed information about this funding opportunity was shared in the MOHS newsletter, Member365 and is on the website.

Agenda Item: Community Comments

- Regarding PIT count scheduling, there was request to cross-check the Ravens schedule to ensure schedules games will not impact the count. There was a request to hold the count, regardless of weather.
- In Loving Arms: Halted previous operations but was recently awarded 250k for a shelter for minors. They are in the process of finding a location with hopes to secure by Christmas. Joy Baltimore is supporting this work.

Agenda Item: MOHS Updates

Member365 overview was shared with the Board.

Action Items:

- Distribute Board member term end dates
- Invite Spud to future Board meeting

Meeting adjourns at 4:05 p.m.