BALTIMORE CITY COC MINUTES

THE JOURNEY HOME

CoC Board Meeting

May 16, 2024| 2p.m.-4:| In-Person: Our Daily Bread, 725 Fallsway |Meeting called to order by Jeff Garrett

In Attendance

Attendees (from current board): Shannon Peterson, Chuck Callahan, Levy Johnson, Edward Blackstone, Da'Mel Ross, Ciera Dunlap, Doug Schmidt, Carolyn Johnson, Jeffrey Griffin, Dan McCarthy, Director Simmons, Jeff Garrett, Lolah James, Nico Sanders, Tara Taylor, Jimmie Robinson, Crystal Pitt, Iya Dammons

Members of the public or support entity representatives: Director Simmons, Ellis Lee, Kate Calhoun, Mary Rode, Janice Miller, Sarah Ramsey, Lauren Mattox

Approval of Minutes

Meeting minutes from 3/21/24 Board, 3/28/24 Executive and 4/25/24 Board-ABC meetings were approved.

Agenda

I. Welcome/Meeting Minutes
II. Report from TAC on Progress on Standard Operating Procedure Updates
III. Review of CoC Code of Conduct and Conflict of Interest Policies
IV. Capacity Building Workgroup Recommendations
V. Active CoC Committee Reports
VI. CoC Committee Discussion
VII. Community Comments

Agenda items/order are subject to Discussion

Meeting called to order by Jeff Garrett at 2:17 p.m.

Agenda Item: Report from TAC on Progress on Standard Operating Procedures

Janice Miller provided a summary of the SOP progress highlighting that they have included an executive summary, links that lead to common topics, and a review schedule with assigned committees/individuals to lead the annual review process. There was discussion regarding the review process and concern for waiting a year to address current issues. Janice clarified that while HUD requires annual review at minimum, they can occur more frequently. TAC agreed to provide recommendations on the review process.

Dan motioned to approve SOPs. Lolah seconds. Passed unanimously.

Agenda Item: Review of CoC Code of Conduct and Conflict of Interest Policies

Jeff requested Board members to review and sign the CoC Code of Conduct and Conflict of Interest policies.

Agenda Item: Capacity Building Workgroup Recommendations
(This portion of the meeting was led by Due East consultants. Refer to slide deck and materials from Due East.)

Lauren Mattox and Sarah Ramsey of Due East shared updates and solicited feedback regarding the work of the Capacity Building Workgroup and the process toward establishing an entity outside of city government to operate the CoC.

There was discussion regarding the challenges associated with the short-term goal of shifting Coordinated Access to be managed by the new entity since Coordinated Access is directly linked to HMIS. Due East also discussed recommendations that the separate entity should not operate programs to avoid competition with service providers. Due East presented a multi-year transition plan. Director Simmons stated that she had not been involved in this process and cautioned that Baltimore City might not be in favor of the long-term role for MOHS. It was stated that past MOHS Director, Irene Agustin, had been in support, and that she determined that she would not have a role in the process. Also, that the next step would be for the CoC to meet with MOHS to discuss the future of the relationship between the CoC and MOHS.

Due East discussed the learning tours from Atlanta, Houston, Richmond, and Columbus, highlighting the different ways these CoCs operate as separate entities. Ellis will share the learning tour recordings.

Due Easy will incorporate the feedback offered in today's meeting and present at the CoC General Body meeting on 6/13 before presenting full recommendations again to the Board on 6/20.

Additional feedback can be sent to Ellis.

Agenda Item: Committee Reports

Governance: (Lolah) The Governance committee has started the process of reviewing the bylaws and charter to ensure consistency with CoC and ESG standards and recommended that today's board meeting address two actions item (1) resolve ambiguity of board status of the YAB co-chairs, recommending that Levy and Da 'Mel be voted in as members of the CoC and listed as members on all CoC communications and (2) align the executive committee members with the bylaws by electing the chair, co-chair, and committee chairs to the executive committee.

(1) Chuck motions to vote Da 'Mel and Levy onto the Board. Eddie seconds. Passed unanimously.

(2) Carolyn proposed an amendment to the second motion: The executive committee is comprised of the chair, co-chair and chair of actions committees as long as they are board members. There was discussion about co-chairs sharing responsibility and how many votes chair and co-chair would have, with many agreeing that co-chairs of one committee represent one vote. It was noted that these actions are status quo but need to be codified as part of the bylaw review.

There was a motion for co-chairs who are both board members to serve on the executive committee. Edward seconds the motion, a vote was taken and passed unanimously.

Lived Experience Advisory Committee (Jeff): LEAC is brainstorming ideas for completing the Funders for Housing and Opportunity (FHO) RFP and hoping to increase membership with this support.

Youth Action Board (Levy and Da'Mel): A motion was presented that HABC pursue responding to the RFP for Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) housing voucher. HABC does not currently administer these vouchers and

YAB proposes that the CoC Board request that HABC submit an application prior to the 6/17/24 deadline. Ciera seconds. Passed unanimously. HABC will review this motion and will report back to the CoC their decision.

YAB met with MTA representatives to provide solutions for supporting homeless individuals in using their services. Their recommendations include advertising resources, comfortable seating, cleanliness, calming music, and conflict resolution and Trauma-Informed Care training for all drivers.

YAB updated their resource guide, met with Mary from MOHS regarding communications, reviewed internal bylaws and engaged in encampment research alongside MOHS.

Affordable Action Committee (Nico): The CoC has approved standards for Rapid Rehousing and an annual review was completed as a part of the written ESG and CoC Standards development process. Currently, the CoC has not developed standards specific to Baltimore City Permanent Supportive Housing programs. Currently, the committee is assembling work around to develop a framework for the development of PSH standards. There is not a subcommittee focused on SROs. There is a lack of participation for people who operate SROs and a decision needs to be made as to what's in the future for SROs.

Homeless Response System Committee (Ciera): HRS reported out systems challenges involving transfers from RRH to PSH. Previously, people could transfer from RRH to PSH because eligibility was determined at the time of transfer. Now, they must be eligible for PSH at the time that they are eligible for PSH. This poses problems because people were were previously approved for PSH no longer quality, majority from ARPA. MOHS has approved the RRH grants until September so there is sufficient time to find different housing placements for RRH families. This is concern because people who need PSH may not be eligible.

Regarding SOPS, there is a need to change RRH and create a match process for transitional housing. They are working on the process of ARPA and accelerated funds and will need to make sure that before units are available, there are policies and procedures in place for Coordinated Access because they will be matched through that process. HRS is collaborating with MOHS and DHCD to address these concerns.

Shelter Transformation Committee (Tara): Reviewed SOPs, specifically the portion about shelter standards. No upcoming meetings until June when the committee will start to meet weekly on Tuesdays at 1 p.m.

Data and System (Jimmie): Revitalizing the PIT count process for the upcoming HUD-required PIT count in 2025.

Resource Allocation Committee (Chuck): Met with MOHS and is working on communications for applicants. The RAC acts as a consultant in scoring, looking at the benchmarks to score and evaluate each of the programs, then ranking and prioritizing. They received a request from the Women's Housing Coalition on 4/15 to become a direct recipient from HUD, rather than going through MOHS. This is a decision that HUD requires community input on. Chuck agreed to gather more information to give everyone more understanding. Finally, RAC is always recruiting.

Youth Homeless Action Committee (Ingrid and Ciera): In the process of confirming membership, designing a voting process to select chairs, and reviewing committee plan.

Agenda Item: CoC Committee Discussion

Racial Equity: Eddie Blackstone, Melissa Deveraux, and Dana Carr along with other interested CoC members have taken the lead to revitalize the Racial Equity Committee. They have created a template for the mission and vision and will reach out to MOHS to distribute. There are currently 14 members and 4 who are willing to be chairs. They are still developing a voting process. Mary will collaborate with Director Simmons to identify a designated MOHS staff member. Tara suggested having Racial Equity committee member representation on all committees to ensure this work is integrated into all committees.

YHAC: Ciera anticipates they will have a chair in the next 30 days.

Employment and Income: Inactive committee but cannot be cut from the CoC due to the bylaw's recognition of the committee.

Resource Development Committee (Doug Schmidt): Doug reported he is is part of the committee, but it is currently dormant.

There was discussion regarding the need to recruit for each committee, with a suggestion of having a sign up for each committee at public meetings.

Regarding Board orientation, Jeff and Dan are meeting with HUD on Monday. Eddie suggested a recorded orientation that new members could watch independently.

Agenda Item: Community Comments

None.

Agenda Item: MOHS Updates

MOHS is preparing for HUD monitoring. Director Simmons highlighted the importance of holding provider accountable, noting that COVID flexibilities have ended and compliance with federal funding requirements in crucial. She noted that there is a long list of people who need HQS inspections.

Carolyn highlighted challenges with HQS abatement and tenant protection, noting that current contracts are insufficient, leading to tenants facing legal issues. For many agencies, they are offering the services necessary, but the tenant remains unprotected prompting a discussion around the systemic issues in coordinated access, provider accountability, and tenant protection, with calls for better process and increased provider participation in planning activities.

Agenda Item: Fiscal Sponsorship- Uplift

The Civic Fund raised the rates from 6% to 8%, prompting a recommendation to transfer to Uplift. Nico motions to approve the transfer. Jimmy seconds. Passed unanimously.

Agenda Item: RFP for Lived Experience

HFO’s RFP is due in one week. Those who are interested in working on it should email Dan.

Jeff motions to adjourn. Chuck seconds.

Meeting adjourns at 4:30 p.m.