BALTIMORE CITY COC MINUTES

CoC Board Meeting

Sept 19, 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, Carolyn Johnson, Nico Sanders, Iya Dammons, Dan McCarthy, Commissioner Kennedy, Amy Collier, Jimmie Robinson, Chuck Callahan, Jeffrey Griffin, Da'Mel Ross, Crystal Pitt

Members of the public or support entity representatives: Kate Calhoun, Ingrid Lofgren, Ernestina Simmons, Jamal Turner

Approval of Minutes

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes from 5/2/24, 5/23/24, 6/27/24, and 7/25/24 were reviewed by the Board.

Board Meeting Minutes from 5/16/24 and 7/18/24 were approved.

Agenda

I. Welcome
II. Meeting Minutes
III. Heidi Arndt from Uplift Alliance Introduction and Update on Budget
IV. Funders for Housing Opportunities Lived Experience Grant Update
V. Update on CoC Board Nominations/Voting Process and Bylaws
VI. RAC Report Out on Updates Made to Scoring Tool + NOFO Process
VII. Community Comments
VIII. MOHS Updates

Agenda items/order are subject to Discussion

Agenda Item: Welcome
Meeting called to order by Tara Taylor at 2:17 p.m.

Agenda Item: Uplift Alliance- Tara Taylor, in place of Heidi Arndt

Uplift Alliance is the current fiscal sponsor. There is currently $150k available. Uplift Executive Director, Heidi Arndt, will be invited to a future meeting to discuss the ways the funds can be used. There was a request to reinstate Flex Fund to keep people housed. The CoC is not currently accepting donations, but there are efforts to build this into the website. Uplift receives 6% of the budget, amounting to approximately $10k annually. There were issues with delayed payments to the Lived Experience Advisory Committee (LEAC) members, and efforts to address these back payments are being made.

Agenda Item: Funders of Housing Opportunities Lived Experience Grant Update- Tara Taylor

The CoC received an $80k grant from the Funders of Housing Opportunities. A proposal suggests forming a Baltimore Community of Practice group consisting of 6-8 members:

- 3 Lived Experience (1 YAB, 1 LEAC, 1 currently or recently homeless)
- 2 Systems Leaders
- 2 Community Members from CoC

The group will meet monthly with other CoP groups from Portland, Chicago, and Detroit to develop, plan, and implement the project. Members will be compensated, and meetings are set to begin in October.

Community feedback included suggestions to involve people from shelters or programs as community members and to communicate this information via Member365. There was also a question about renewing the grant if successful, though this is currently unknown. Maryland Safe Haven and Da'Mel Ross expressed interest in participating.

Agenda Item: Update on CoC Board Nominations/Voting Process and Bylaws- Eddie Blackstone on behalf of Kevin Lindamood

The 2024 Board Member Nomination Timeline was reviewed, requiring nominations to include a nominee bio. Key dates include:

- 10/8: Call for nominations
- 10/10: Added CoC General Body Meeting- Call for Nominations
- 11/8: Deadline for nominations
- 11/12: Final day to register for Member365, which will grant access to participate in election.
- 11/19: Notice for Election- Nominees and bios released to CoC.
- 12/6-12/12: Electronic voting via Member365 (MOHS Staff will assist with elections at LEAC and YAB meetings).
- 12/19: Board meeting to announce election results.

A more detailed timeline was distributed to the Board and is available on Member365. The Board voted unanimously to approve the timeline, no denials, no abstentions.

Board Vacancies + Removal Processes

There is a motion to remove Board Member Raymond Terry for absenteeism. The motion is seconded. 9 vote in-favor, 0 opposed, 4 abstentions.

There is a motion to remove Board Member Christine Harris for absenteeism. The motion is seconded. 9 vote in favor, 0 opposed, 4 abstentions.

These decisions will be reviewed with the interpretation of the Bylaws about Board member removal processes.

Agenda Item: RAC- Updates made to scoring tool and updates on NOFO- Chuck Callahan

RAC is currently working on NOFO process, which involves (1) ensuring funded programs are meeting their obligations as required by HUD (2) ranking the programs and (3) determine how funding is allocated. Feedback on this process indicated that the scoring process was unclear, so scoring sheets have now been made available. To create these sheets, RAC consulted with providers, reviewed feedback from other CoCs and engaged with MOHS. Challenges in scoring include evaluating narrative process, achieving racial equity, and ensuring LGBTQ+ inclusivity, prompting RAC to seek improved scoring methods focused on data outputs.

Community comments raised questions about renewal applications potentially increasing funding, the need to re-apply and the possibility of adding new projects. The timeline for reallocation is available online. The

discussion also noted that CoCBuilds is specifically for construction projects and has its own timeline, separate from NOFO's timeline.

Agenda Item: Community Comments

None.

Agenda Item: MOHS Updates- Director Simmons

- In process of CoCBuilds and NOFO.
- **Preparing for Winter Shelter**: Ensuring sufficient bedspace, looking to move locations including having women's shelter at a hotel.
- **Emergency Shelter:** In process of implementing a participation agreement, integrating feedback into policy and practice. They will continue to meet with clients across shelters to get feedback, with goal of having agreement in place by 10/15.
- **DSS will be in shelters**: Starting at 9/30 DSS will provide on-site assistance for TCA and medical insurance.
- **Transitional Youth**: DHCD and Baltimore City DSS have turned restoration gardens into housing for youth aging out of foster care.
- **PointSource Youth:** There was going to be a direct cash transfer program, but that project fell through. The same dollars will be invested in conducting renovations.
- **Discussion/Community Comments**:
    - Will the Board get the report FY2023 close out?
        - Not specific information, but overall information about who receives funding can be made available.
    - There was discussion for need of hypothermia shelters, especially for LGBTQ individuals.
    - Winter shelter does not go through CIFA process, until there is a permanent location.
    - Difference between winter and emergency shelter:
        - "Code blue shelter" activates when health department determines it is too cold to be outside, ensures everyone who wants a shelter bed has one. When the temperature returns to normal, the shelter shuts down.
        - Emergency shelter is available year around. There is hope the participation agreement will improve access, because currently people are not moving out of shelters.
        - There was a request for funding opportunities to support organizations in opening shelter space, because some organizations work with specialized populations.
    - **Restoration Gardens**:
        - SpringBoard will not be the provider. DHCD and Baltimore City DSS will pick up costs for case management/supportive services. There will be an RFP, with input from YAB. It will be a competitive process.
        - Renovations include security systems and HVAC, using ARPA funds.
        - There was suggestion to apply for FYI vouchers for those whose needs aren't met, like foster youth with families.
        - HABC needed to apply for a funding opportunity, no update was provided regarding this.
    - Landlord raised concerns of gap between mortgage and rental payments. Director Simmons agreed to discuss with landlord offline, noting that HUD publishes the fair market rate.
- **Beyond the Bridge (Film)**: Developers of film plan to come to Baltimore, with funding support from Baltimore Funding Alliance. They are aiming for October, but it will likely be closer to April or May. The United Way is leading the planning efforts, and they are seeking a Board member to join the planning committee. Interested individuals can contact Amy Collier for a connection to Amy Klein ASAP as planning as already begun.

Meeting adjourns at 4:25 p.m.