BALTIMORE CITY COC MINUTES

General Body Meeting

September 12, 2024 | 2 p.m.-4:15 p.m. |*Meeting called to order by Tara Taylor*

Agenda + Discussion

I. Welcome
II. MOHS Updates
III. CoC Vision for the Future
IV. Website Rebuilding Ideas
V. CoC Internal Support Plan
VI. CoC Committee Reports
VII. Lived Experience Reports
VIII. Community Comments

Discussion of Agenda Items

Agenda Item: Welcome and Overview of the Meeting and CoC- Tara Taylor, CoC Chair & Eddie Blackstone, CoC Vice Chair

Introductions + Welcome: CoC Chair Tara Taylor and CoC Vice Chair Edward Blackstone introduced themselves as the new leadership for the Baltimore City CoC.

Overview of the Baltimore City CoC: The CoC is the planning body in a community that addresses homelessness. HUD funds programs for homeless housing and services. MOHS is the collaborative applicant. HUD sends funding to MOHS and MOHS distributes that funding to homeless service providers.

Overview of Baltimore City CoC Housing Response System: Coordinated Entry assesses individuals housing needs and directs individuals to prevention/diversion resources, or to emergency shelter and ultimately to community based permanent housing or permanent supporting housing. The role of the CoC is to improve this process.

Overview of Baltimore City Key Strategies:

- Increase the supply of affordable housing
- Create a more homelessness response system
- Transform the shelter system
- Improve access to implement and economic opportunity
- Establish a race equity agenda

Attendees were encouraged to get connected to the work of the CoC's subcommittees to advance the key strategies.

Agenda Item: MOHS Updates- Ernestina Simmons, MOHS Executive Director

Fiscal Year Monitoring: Monitoring has slightly concluded. HUD has agreed to reinstate dollars for FY2020 conference. HUD praised the work of the Baltimore City CoC and providers.

Permanent Supporting Housing (PSH) Conversion Project: Applications closed on August 30 for PSH conversion project. The applications are being reviewed by a committee comprised of a panel of HABC, DHCD, 2 members from CoC and MOHS and the Department of Real Estate are reviewing project applications.

NOFO: Requests for proposals are live.

CoCBuild: Launched on August 30 and the bidder's conference is 9/12 at 3 p.m. Proposals accepted through October 18 at 3 p.m.

Agenda Item: CoC Vision for the Future- Tara Taylor, CoC Chair & Eddie Blackstone, CoC Vice Chair

- **CoC Reinvention**: The CoC is retiring the previous name "Journey Home Baltimore" and will only use Baltimore City Continuum of Care (CoC). The new Member365 website is baltimorecitycoc.member365.com. Attendees were requested to cast their vote for a new logo and to complete the CoC feedback survey before next week Thursday, September 19, 2024.
    - **501c(3) Planning Update**: The CoC had been working with a consulting company to move toward a separate nonprofit. The initial reasons to pursue 501c3 status are not current concerns. Moving toward 501c3 status is on hold. The CoC will consult with the Community Building Workgroup to obtain their recommendations.
- **Internal Structural Support**
- **Consistent Communication:** Improved communication efforts, there will be more emails distributed and information will be more readily available.
- **Advocacy:** CoC will be moving toward engaging in advocacy work.
- **CoC Touchpoints and Investments:** Tara and Eddie are open to meet with community members as requested. If community members have questions for MOHS, they can also pose those to the CoC leadership who will connect with Director Simmons.

Agenda Item: Website Rebuilding Ideas- Spud, Website Developer

- Spud, the CoC Website Developer, will be rebuilding the CoC website.
- **Website Development Blueprint:**
    - Main page
        - CoC Events- Monthly
        - CoC Calendar Events
    - Who We Are Page
        - CoC Description
        - Introduction to CoC Leadership: Chair and Vice Chair
        - Introduction to CoC Subcommittees: Meet the Subcommittee Chair-Chair Picture-Subcommittee Explanation- Calendar
    - CoC Vacancies
        - Entry level- 2 year degree- 4 year degree
        - Amount per hour
        - Job Descriptions
        - Bus Routes
    - Local Jobs Page
        - Certifications
        - Trades/Apprentices
        - Background Friendly
        - Customer Service
    - Training Resources Page:
        - Organizational trainings
        - Individual trainings
        - Online trainings- Organizational and Individual
    - Community comments
        - Communities members request an opportunity to provide feedback
        - Timeline: 6-8 weeks, beginning of November with a Beta launch at the next General Body meeting in December
        - Request for resources to be listed.
        - Spud will link new website to old website to ensure everyone is aware of new site.
        - Request for "need help" button that shares resources- Discussion of possible integration of AI

- Request for grievances to go through this site
- Request for Coordinated Access
- Request for subcommittee to support this work
- Request to include governmental policies

Agenda Item: Internal Support Plan- Ellis Lee, CoC Project Coordinator

Monthly Meetings with Subcommittee Chairs

Bi-Monthly Checks in Board Members

Bi-Monthly Check-Ins with CoC Organizations

OtterBot Support for CoC Communities: AI note-taking platform.

CoC Support for Collaborative Newsletter w/ MOHS

Agenda Item: CoC Committee Reports

- **Governance (Eddie Blackstone on behalf of Kevin Lindamood)**: Prepping for the Baltimore City CoC Board Elections. They have developed an election calendar that will be shared with the Board for review at their 9/19 meeting. Once approved, it will be distributed to the general public.
- **Data & Systems Performance Committee (Jimmie Robinson):** Next meeting is 9/17 at 11 a.m. The committee is recruiting a co-chair.
- **Resource Allocation Committee (Chuck Callahan)**: RAC serves as a consultant to MOHS to distribute funding. RAC reviews and ranks programs for funding allocation. Engaged in the process of preparing for NOFO and CoCBuilds.
- **Homeless Response System Committee:** No update provided, updates be shared via Member365.
- **Affordable Housing (Eddie Blackstone on behalf of Nico Sanders):** Did not meet last month, next meeting is 9/24 at 11 a.m., virtually.
- **Shelter Transformation Committee (Tara Taylor):** The committee has been reviewing the shelter standards of care and is creating an implementation plan. Meets every other Tuesday at 1 p.m., virtually.
- **Race Equity Action Committee (Dee Rucker)**: In revitalization process, next meeting is 9/13. The next meeting will focus on solidifying the partnership with MOHS including Member365 onboarding and overview. The goals of the committee are to ensure the CoC is an equitable and inclusive space.
- **Youth Homelessness Action Committee (Saleen Lewis):** Currently working on the community action plan. Looking for more youth participation. Goals are to create a digestible version of coordinated community plan, currently working on goals and action plan. Next meeting 9/19.

Agenda Item: Lived Experience Reports

- **Lived Experience Advisory Committee (Ellis Lee):** Ensured that LEAC received their stipends and backpay. They updated and maintained their Bylaws. Meetings are held every Friday at Our Daily Bread.
- **Youth Action Board (Levy Johnson):** Trying to get into schools to work directly with youth, requesting for any connections at schools from community members. The committee is recruiting youth with lived experience. Meetings are on Fridays at HPRP from 6p-8p.

Agenda Item: Community Comments

- **Lonnie Walker:** Started initiative to house 100 youth in 100 days, housed 122 youth in 100 days.
- **Renee Lau & Iya Dammons Maryland Safe Haven:** Announcing new building for office space, apartments and a community center. Ribbon cutting event on 10/15.
- **Matthew Dreiden, Mannor House:** Will be inviting CoC members to view their site.
- **Mary Slicher, Project Plase:** Purchased a school building for office space, starting the process of renovating, 56 one-bedroom, single rooms with bathrooms temporary housing. Johns Hopkins will be conducting free vision screenings on Saturday, 9/14.
- **Jeff Griffin, Franciscan Center:** Hosting MVA day, it will cost $1 for a new ID. 9/25 10a-1p.

- **Achike Abioye, People Encouraging People:** PIT count is approaching, calling for everyone to be involved in planning to ensure we can see the impact we're having.
- **Kennesha, Our Daily Bread:** Our Daily Bread offers training programs, workforce development, I-9 documentation free of charge, provide food 7 days a week 10:30-12:30p, breakfast at 7:45 a.m. Supports with any services that are a barrier to employment. Christopher's Place offers live-in workforce development: One year program that offers a place to live.
- **Vicky Wynn, New Vision House of Hope:** Proposing a resource fair. They have four programs that serve homeless veterans and veterans at risk of homelessness including intensive case management.

Action Items

- Distribute presentation to CoC Members via Member365
- Homeless Response System update
- Cross-Checking Sign-In Sheet with Member365 registration status
- Community Members: Complete survey, vote for logo and get registered for Member365