

ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 17, 2020

Meeting Start Time: 9:30m

Meeting End Time: 11:30am

Meeting held in Zoom

Items distributed for the meeting or follow up included the following:

2020 OHS Advisory Board Agenda

2020 Robert's Rules

2020 OHS Advisory Board Agenda Item Form

2020 OHS Advisory Board Minutes 7.30.20

CDC Order One Pager

CDC Eviction Moratorium Declaration Form

Cleveland CI Manual

9.1.20 EVH Benchmark Report

Attendance: Board Members – Michiel Wackers, Mary McNamara, Karen Anderson, Yvonne Conwell, Marcia Zashin, Barb Karam, Natasha Wynn, Chris Knestrick, Allison Schaeffer for Maggie Tolbert, Loh, Patricia Pearse, Teresa Sanders, John Litten, Angela Glassco, Elaine Gimmel, Mike Sering, Ed Gemerchak, Jeannie Citerman Kraeger, Linda Uveges, Andrew Katusin, Abby Staudt, Fred Berry (22/28 Members in attendance to meet the Quorum requirement)

Community Members: Angela D’Orazio, Candace Robinson, Beau Hill, Dale Miller, Kate Monter-Durban, LaTonya Murray, Dana Santo, Kate Lodge, Christie Sozio, Matt White, Chad Biggers, Sherri Brandon, Beth Graham, Kate Lodge, Cynthia Rios, Heidi Bixby-Goblirsch, Martin Uhle, Jen Griffin, Maria Sosa, Cynthia Dailey, Joyce Toombs, Sarah Froimson,

OHS Staff: Melissa Sirak, Allison Gill, Ruth Gillett

1. Welcome & Opening Remarks

- Zoom Protocol
- Melissa Sirak and Chris Knestrick offered comments acknowledging the challenges that everyone is experiencing managing life during COVID. The need to support understanding, patience, kindness, and openness in our work and communication was encouraged.

2. Advisory Board Follow up: Executive Committee met to discuss all aspects of Advisory Board meeting. It was noted that the Bylaws identify Robert's Rules as the guide for meetings but that allow all Advisory Board attendees are included as participants.

a) **Agenda Process:** Interested in adding an Agenda Item: See Agenda Form (attached to Minutes/posted on web site) to submit requests via email to msirak@cuyahogacounty.us.

Please submit prior to each Exec Committee Meeting.

- Dates of Exec Committee meetings will be posted
- Advisory board on third Thurs (Jan., March, May, July, Sept., Nov.)
- Exec Committee 2nd Tuesday of the week before to create agenda for the next meeting.

- b) Minutes Process: Minutes should reflect what happened at meeting; personal judgements/comments should not be included.
- c) Meeting Format: Robert's Rules as a general guide but everyone is welcome to speak. Meetings will revert to 2 hour time frame.

3. Decision Issues:

- a) Approval of Advisory Board Minutes 5.21.20
Michael Wackers Motion to Approve ; Marcia Zashin Second; No discussion
Unanimous approval – No opposed, No abstentions
- b) Approval of Advisory Board Minutes 7.30.20
Motion was made. Angela Glassco Second; no discussion;
Unanimous approval – No opposed, no abstentions.

4. COVID Response Update

- a) CoC Covid Overview
 - *Working to secure COVID Positive Hotels for upcoming needs
 - *Maintaining hotels for deconcentration through December
 - * Testing on a weekly basis (OHS following up on suggestion to check on possibility to have testing in the late afternoon/early evening to increase access for persons not in shelter during the day)
 - * Less than 4% positivity rate
 - *Haven Home, overflow for families re-opened as of 9/14/20; families may stay at during the day.
- b) Port-o-lets: Chad Biggers with Ohio City Inc. reported overview of sanitation station project. Identified locations of port o lets and servicing arrangement.
- c) CHN and EDEN (hotel to housing initiative)

Kate Monter Durban, CHN (PowerPoint Presentation – Included in Materials)

- CHN and EDEN have partnered to administer Rental Assistance Program for the City of Cleveland and Cuyahoga County. Eligible persons: County residents with income below 120% AMI and COVID 19 hardship
- CHN is tracking client level data via the “Crisis Service File – Reason for Crisis” (chart).
 - Loss of income identified with highest percentage/main reason for crisis.
 - High number of Cleveland residents, rent delinquency and owe more than 3 months of rent, concerns around sustainability, some resistance from landlords.
- CHN will screen and make referrals to EDEN. Applications submitted through web at neorenthelp.org. The goal for processing time would be three weeks from application to issuance of rent check.

*Councilman Miller introduced “alternative housing policy recommendations” via www.rethinkinghomelessness.org . Program and slides available on the website.

Jen Griffin, and Elaine Gimmel EDEN

- EDEN receives ESG and HOME funds for persons living in City of Cleveland and below 30% AMI. Intent is to provide additional assistance beyond three months provided by CHN.
- 139 Referrals from CHN, 78 Missing information, 44 Referrals have been denied due to being incomplete, not meeting income eligibility, moves, etc.
- 17 Households have been approved as eligible. Unit inspections are required per the funding and EDEN is in the process of completing inspections on these units in order to provide rental assistance.
- Back rent/arrearages are also being provided through other funding sources.
- Rapid Rehousing Data (chart)
 - Includes a review of By-Name-List to assess housing plan and appropriate referrals
 - Referrals to RRH tracked and coordination occurs with shelter providers
 - Goal is to reduce shelter and hotel utilization
 - Recent increase of referrals processed for sinlges; Additional staff person hired as Housing Locator

d) CoC Eviction Moratorium – Abby Staudt

- Halts evictions based on non-payment of rent.
- Eligible persons must meet 5 criteria
- Persons must keep paying as much rent as close to due date as possible w/ records of payment
- Eviction protection scheduled to end December 31, 2020
- Information found via Legal Aid, 211, CHN

e) Project ACT

- Marsha Zashin, CMSD Project ACT
 - Increased need for families and children. Many in unsafe living arrangements. Also many families from last year that still have not found housing.
 - Over 1,030 enrolled in Project Act currently
 - Project Act working with families to meet technology needs.
 - Principals at each school can be contacted for Chromebooks.
 - Project Act can also be reached for Chromebooks and hotspots 216-838-0210. Project Act YouTube is available with 6 informational videos to assist with online learning (YouTube - cmsd project act)

f) Census

- 9/22 & 9/23 Census will take place in the evening at shelters
- NEOCH staff will accompany census workers to encampments, etc.

5. Recommendation from CI WorkGroup

- Please review handouts in Board packet. Any questions please reach out to Matt White, Housing Innovations directly at mwhite@housinginnovations.us. **The CI Work Group recommendations will be presented for a vote at the November meeting.**

6. Seasonal Shelter

- Mike Sering, LMM and Chris Knestrick, NEOCH
- Community West, OHS, LMM, NEOCH, Metanoia working to develop seasonal shelter strategy for sheltered and unsheltered persons and meet emergent needs due to COVID.
- Inclusive of the cold weather plan

7. Transitional Aged Youth Project Proposal

Elaine Gimmel, EDEN, Lisa McGovern, CHN, Dana Santo, FrontLine Service, Kate Lodge, A Place 4 Me provided the following overview of the project. Advisory Board support will be needed to secure the Low Income Housing Tax Credits through the Ohio Housing Finance Agency Allocation process:

- 52 (50?) unit Housing project for Cuyahoga County for Transitional Aged Youth
- Youth will be involved in all aspects of the Planning for the units and site
 - Singles & Families (25% of units for Youth headed HH)
 - Partnerships identified
 - Training on youth engagement
 - Site will be selected by end of 2020, application submitted in February 2021; awards announced in May 2021; Construction started in 2022.

8. PSH Update

Elaine Gimmel, EDEN reported on behalf of Front Steps because Sherri Brandon had had to leave for another meeting:

ST Joseph Commons – W. 25 - FrontSteps, EDEN is property manager – 68 units

- Move in start October 1, 2020
- Working with CMHA and CoC to process applications.

Harper's Point – W. 25th - 70 units

- Certificate of Occupancy October 15, 2020
- Volunteers needed to assemble lodging kits – 25 volunteers needed for October 6th. Contact egimmel@edeninc.org if you are able to help.

9. Initiative Reports

- Youth – Kate Lodge, A Place 4 Me
 - increase in number of youth coming through Coordinated Intake
- Veterans – Latonya Murray, FLS (benchmark chart)
 - Working with EDEN, VOA, VA, etc. to identify veterans in hotels and provide VASH support
 - GPD is not being utilized at a high rate/ currently at 38% occupancy

Next OHS Advisory Board meeting: November 19th from 9:00-11:00am

Please send proposed agenda items to Melissa Sirak by **November 9, 2020** –
msirak@cuyahogacounty.us