

## ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES – November 19, 2020

**Attendance: Board Members** –Mary McNamara, Karen Anderson, Councilwoman Yvonne Conwell, Barb Karam, Natasha Wynn, Chris Knestrick, Allison Schaeffer for Maggie Tolbert, Loh, Patricia Pearse, Teresa Sanders, Kerry McCormack, John Litten, Angela Glassco, Elaine Gimmel, Mike Sering, Ed Gemerchak, Jeannie Citerman Kraeger, Linda Uveges, Abby Staudt, Dorivette Nolan, Paul Mosher, Megan Scheck for Fred Berry (22/28 Members in attendance to meet the Quorum requirement)

**Community Members:** Angela D’Orazio, Councilman Dale Miller, LaTonya Murray, Karen McHenry, Maria Sosa, Sarah Froimson, Meghan McGuan, Eric Milkie, Peter Schindler, Kate Lodge, Christie Sozio, Ed Gemerchak, John A, Beth Graham, Christine Mitton, Marcus Madison, Karen McHenry, Angeline Sulak, Jennifer Griffin, Jacqueline Salter, Lisa McGovern, Marcus Madison

**OHS Staff:** Melissa Sirak, Allison Gill

### 1. Welcome & Opening Remarks

#### 2. Decision Issues:

- a) Approval of Advisory Board Minutes 9.17.20  
Elaine Gimmel Motion to Approve ; Chris Knestrick Second; No discussion  
Unanimous approval – No opposed, No abstentions
- b) Recommendations from CI Work Group for Coordinated Entry Policy & Procedures  
CI Work Group acknowledges CE Policy & Procedures were completed pre-pandemic and will require future revision due to pandemic and post-pandemic.  
This item is being tabled for further review. Advisory Board will read document thoroughly and provide feedback on concerns or inability to operationalize.
- c) Transitional Aged Youth (TAY) Project Proposal  
Request for #1 Priority for Permanent Supportive Housing Application. 18-24 Youth Singles and Parenting HH  
Councilwoman Conwell Motion to Approve; Jeannie Citerman Kraeger Second; no discussion;  
Unanimous approval – No opposed, Elaine Gimmel, Angela Glassco, Mike Sering Abstain

### 3. COVID Response Update

- a) CoC Covid Overview  
Maintaining Social Distancing Hotels and funding plan to support deconcentration strategy. Efforts to further reduce census at NHWC. COVID testing continuing at continuum facilities. Flu vaccinations also being offered. LOH/Discussion around staff testing as positive at hotel locations. Councilman Miller commented on the possibility of vaccine being available late next month and inquired if a process has been identified to distribute/deploy efforts to administer vaccine. Sarah Fromison indicated difficulty access to tests for DVAC clients. Melissa indicated she will follow up with Metrohealth. LOH asked if Metro team could provide testing early evening.
- b) Port-o-lets:  
Consideration for permanent units
- c) COVID Funding – Jennifer Griffin (Presentation Slides)

#### OHFA COVID 19 Emergency Funds and Criminal Justice Housing Program

Began end of April. Nearly all funds spent on Rent Arrears. 564 Households Served. Receiving referrals through designated partner agency listing (legal aid, NEOCH, etc.) and CHN (renthelp.org)

#### OHFA Re-Entry Funds

Partnering with North Star and CMC's Returning Home Cuyahoga Diversion Program Short term assistance for persons released within the last 180 days from prison, jail, halfway house, or Community based correctional facility. Emergency Rental Assistance and Prevention.

#### COHHIO Housing Now for Families and Risk Mitigation Funds

Literally Homeless persons or imminent risk of homeless with custody of at least one minor child or at least 6 months pregnant and 200% of Federal Poverty. Referred through CE. Back rent/Arrearages and Security Deposit. Contract from COHHIO is for \$2,000,000.00 available in TANF Funds to be used by June 30, 2021. Persons could be bridged through Day One or CHN.

#### City CARES Act Rental Assistance

Referred by CHN who provide initial emergency assistance. Receiving almost 300 referrals. Delinquent in rent due to COVID. HH income must be below 50% AMI. Serves Singles and Families. Difficulties obtaining all documentation in order to move forward with inspections. 182 referrals denied due to incomplete applications or no longer needing assistance. Participant pays 30% of adjusted income towards rent.

#### Landlord Risk Mitigation Funds

Dmages in excess of security deposit, delinquent rent up to one month of abandoned unit, double deposits for high barrier hh, Paying over FMR. This is used as a recruiting tool for landlords. \$50,000 awarded. Assistance capped at 2x FMR for a one bedroom unit for County in which HH resides

John Anoliefo asked about requirement for additional document and methods to outreach. Jen indicated EDEN has explored various types of communication to outreach clients.

Chris asked about reentry go into 2021, Cares act 5.30 2021, COHHIO 6.30.2021. Will CHN spend all funds before 12.31.20?

Maria City Cleveland go through 2021...CHN 586,000.00 with 1.3 million allocated.

#### d) CDC Eviction Moratorium

Active September 4<sup>th</sup> with halt to evictions for non-payment of rent. CDC Declaration form is required. Tenants must complete and attest to 5 separate issues. Ends December 31, 2020..no news of extension.

- a. Yvonne Conwell asked if any outreach has been made to landlords. Abby indicated there were two webinars in May and August organized by Community partners to address initiatives in our community to inform landlords.

#### 4. Seasonal Overnight/Day Shelter Plan

a. Overnight Seasonal Shelter Plan

Mike Sering indicated LMM and NEOCH are partnering. Gearing up for Dec 1<sup>st</sup> start with located at Cleveland Hostel and Guest House on W. 25<sup>th</sup>. Process of reconfiguration of space with 60 person capacity. LMM will be responsible for food and safety. NEOCH will provide outreach and engagement services via dedicated staff persons (Community West Funding). Kerry McCormack indicated the community support. He is now Chair of City of Cleveland Health & Human Services Committee. Funding plan is a culmination of Treasury dollars, ESG CV1 and CV2, and possible other additional resources. Community West is providing funding for staff at NEOCH. With the inclusion of this space, the CoC has more seasonal shelter units than in previous years.

b. Day Shelter Update

John Litten indicated that the Seasonal Shelter group has met weekly to discuss options for day shelter. Trinity Lutheran Church will be the secondary warming site for December 1-March 31 based on weather. Community West is involved in the planning and providing funding for additional staff. Meghan McGuan described Catholic Charities response and indicated that persons seeking

**5. Race Equity**

Melissa indicated our commitment to this work as a community and prioritization of this work. Various providers and committee to begin...Councilwoman Conwell commented on YWCA letter and forwarded to Citizens Advisory Equity Group....partnership with OHS. Councilman Miller policy adopted on Racial Equity.

**6. OHS Update**

a. Staffing

OHS has filled two Social Program Administrator positions. Allison Gill has been promoted to this new position and Erin Rearden has accepted a SPA position as well. It was noted that the HMIS Administrator position should soon be posted and OHS will work to fill that position as soon as possible.

b. Logitudinal System Analysis Update

The Longitudinal Systems Analysis (LSA) report, produced from a CoC's Homelessness Management Information System (HMIS) and submitted annually to HUD via the HDX 2.0, provides HUD and Continuums of Care (CoCs) with critical information about how people experiencing homelessness use their system of care.

The LSA data submission process includes an upload aggregate data files from HMIS into the HUD Data Exchange. Initial data sets submitted October 30, 2020, December 1<sup>st</sup> deadline for OHS Data Quality Review, and December 31<sup>st</sup> final deadline

## 7. PSH Update

### St. Joseph's Commons and Harper's Pointe

All referrals come through Coordinated Entry. Both buildings will be leased and at full capacity by the end of December. Housing most vulnerable. 58% of persons receiving units were previously unsheltered.

## 8. Initiative Reports

### a. Ending Youth Homelessness

Kate Lodge (Presentation Slides of By Name List)

LMM received Runaway Homeless Youth (RHY) Basic Center Grant through Family Youth Services Bureau (FYSB)

CWRU received grant to analyze youth data

### b. Ending Veteran Homelessness

Latonya Murray reported out and indicated that work continues to serve and house veterans. The team meets regularly and has expressed that the pandemic has created some challenges, however, they continue to work towards serving veterans.

Barb Karam indicated working with challenges with Housing Authority. CMHA was awarded additional 50 VASH vouchers. SSVF has also received additional funding. Striving towards 60-70 day housing placement given these new resources.

Next OHS Advisory Board meeting: January 21, 2021; 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Please send proposed agenda items to Melissa Sirak by January 8, 2021 – [msirak@cuyahogacounty.us](mailto:msirak@cuyahogacounty.us)