

OHS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Thursday, November 18, 2021, 9a-11a

In-person at Greenbridge Commons, 7515 Euclid Ave., Cleveland, OH and Online via Zoom

Attendance:

Board Members: Chris Knestrick, Mike Sering, Elaine Gimmel, Natasha Wynn, Abigail Staudt, Jeannie Citerman-Krager, Karen Anderson, Angela Glassco, Teresa Sanders, Ed Gemerchak, Fred Berry, Dorivette Nolan, Clare Rosser, Peter Schindler, Loh

Others: Angela D’Orazio, Karen McHenry, Cynthia Rios, Jennifer Harrison, Suzanne Wagner, Beau Hill, Christie Sozio, Maria Foschia, Sharon Parries, Mike Hahn, LaTonya Murray, Mitch Wasserman, Megan Scheck, Kai Cotton, Kate Lodge, Lisa Smith, Jacqueline Salter, Claire Gauntner, Danielle Cosgrove, Laurie Leverette, Joye Toombs, Rebekah Dorman, Jim Dombard

OHS: Erin Rearden, Allison Gill, Melissa Sirak, Nicholas Butina

1. Decision Issues

a. Approval of Advisory Board Minutes 10.21.21

- i. Motion – Chris Knestrick; 2nd – Fred Berry
 1. Loh – amendment to add Loh to attendance from last week
- ii. Unanimous, no abstentions, no oppositions

b. OHS Advisory Board Membership Term Extension

- i. Motion – Chris Knestrick; 2nd - Loh
- ii. Requesting extension through January to elect new board members
- iii. Unanimous, no abstentions, no oppositions

c. Program Policy Committee By-Law Update (Suzanne Wagner)

- i. Governance committee reviewed by-law that stated that PPC would have authority to create/implement new policies
 1. Changed to presentation of policies and procedures to OHS Advisory Board for approval and adoption; concern about time sensitive policies and procedures - may be circulated and voted on by email
 2. Membership application was developed for PPC; reviewed in meeting
- ii. Motion – Mike Sering; 2nd – Angela Glassco
- iii. Unanimous, no abstentions, no oppositions

2. 2021 NOFO Submission (Melissa Sirak)

- a. NOFO was submitted a week early
- b. Thank you to continuum partners for assistance and being available!

3. Initiative Reports

a. Ending Veteran Homelessness (LaTonya Murray)

- i. 88 total homeless veterans in community
- ii. 8 chronically homeless veterans
- iii. LOT to housing is still relatively longer than pre-COVID numbers

b. RRH (Elaine Gimmel)

- i. Challenges with understaffing – hiring positions this month
- ii. Delay in inspections leading to longer times to housing
- iii. Identified large number of families to move to EHV vouchers (CMHA); some waiting on issuance while others working on completing full online applications

4. Youth Drop-In Center Presentation (Angela D’Orazio, Kai, Kate Lodge, Maria Foschia, Lisa Smith)

- a. Vision: safe & youth friendly, basic needs, housing and economic needs, wellness, internet access/leisure
- b. Core values: youth leadership & partnership, racial & LGBTQ equity, hospitality, highly relational, low barrier
- c. Drop-in center will be for 18–24-year-olds; doors will be open to younger individuals and will be referred to other community partners
- d. Resource connections to be made for all kinds of needs (e.g., workforce, college counseling, mental health counseling, GED, etc.)
- e. Cuyahoga County HHS Levy to provide funding for drop-in center; LMM selected as operating partner through RFQ process
- f. Operating 7 days/week, 10 hrs/day
- g. Location – 4100 Franklin Blvd, Ohio City
- h. Goal for renovations to begin early 2022 and open midyear 2022
- i. Presentation slides to be provided via email after meeting

5. Invest in Children Presentation (Rebekah Dorman)

- a. 22-year-old public/private partnership focused on children in prenatal-kindergarten period and their families; staffed by County Office of Early Childhood
- b. Focus on prevention services
 - i. Prenatal support through MOMSFirst program
 - ii. Newborn support through Welcome Home program
 - iii. Parenting support through Parents as Teachers Program, PARENTS CONNECT, and SPARK
 - iv. Universal Pre-Kindergarten Program (UPK) – 73 sites across Cuyahoga County totaling 4900 seats
 - 1. High quality classrooms
 - 2. Support for families
 - 3. Support for teachers
 - 4. Access to scholarships
 - v. Central Coordination where assessment is done and referral made to a contracted partner for services; referral to the coordinator can be called in
 - vi. Presentation slides to be provided via email after meeting

6. 2021 LSA Reporting & System Performance Measures (Nick Butina)

- a. Longitudinal System Analysis – previously called AHAR (Annual Homeless Assessment Report); goes to Congress to inform strategic planning for federal, state, and local initiatives; focuses on given year but review of data longitudinally
 - i. Gender, Age, Vet Status, Race/Ethnicity, Chronic Homelessness, Disability, DV Status, Prior Living Situations, and Exit Destinations by Household Type and Project Type
 - ii. System Use – HHs served by project types, average length of stays, returns to homelessness, 1st time homeless, etc.
- b. System Performance Measures – tool to evaluate and improve our homeless assistance programs by understanding how programs are functioning as a whole and where improvements are needed
 - i. 6 Measures:
 - 1. Average/Median Length of Time Homeless
 - 2. Returns to Homelessness
 - 3. PIT Count
 - 4. Change in Income
 - 5. New Clients in System
 - 6. Exits to Permanent Housing
 - ii. Compares all measures to previous year’s submission
 - iii. Due date = 2/28/2022; continuum deadline to have submitted before 12/31/2021

- c. Point in Time Count/Housing Inventory Chart
 - i. PIT Date typically last week of January
 - ii. Ensure all move in dates are entered for PSH/RRH projects
 - d. In preparation for these reports, agency administrators have already received communication from Nick about errors and fixes needed. Please ensure that HMIS staff make deadlines given by Nick and address all errors/issues as requested.
- 7. Seasonal Shelter Planning (Mike Sering)**
- a. LMM/NEOCH working closely with OHS on likely site; finalizing details to have up and running before 12/15/21
 - b. Entry into seasonal shelter goes through NEOCH; referrals to NEOCH & Coordinated Intake makes referrals to other possible shelters; waitlist did occur last year toward end of the season but may not be needed this year
- 8. COVID Recovery Update**
- a. **CoC Vaccine & Housing Incentives (Melissa Sirak)**
 - i. LMM working as conduit for vaccine incentives; rolling out to both individuals and families with children
 - ii. Housing incentives will be rolled out population by population or site by site; more discussion needed
 - b. **Eviction Diversion Efforts (Abby Staudt)**
 - i. Attempting to slow down eviction process or decrease number of evictions altogether at time of filing or prior
 - ii. Engaging with courts to create more consistent process/procedures in use of prevention dollars to avoid evictions
 - iii. Shift in landlords' views on eviction; greater willingness to engage in rental assistance relief conversations
 - c. **Right to Counsel (Abby Staudt)**
 - i. Uptick in eviction filings but are still below pre-pandemic numbers
 - ii. At capacity at this point in time; increasing contracted lawyers and are hiring housing attorneys
 - iii. Judge is not going to hear eviction cases during last 2 weeks of the year
- 9. Emergency Rental Assistance Update (Laurie Leverette)**
- a. Laurie had to leave meeting before having change to update group; will send update via email
- 10. CMHA Mobility & Housing Vouchers (Dorivette Nolan)**
- a. Demonstration program is being overseen by HUD; working closely with them to determine services provided to families, how wait list will be created, where high-opportunity areas will be located, etc.
 - b. EHVs – 356 referrals received for 339 referrals; 114 have completed full applications; 8 vouchers issued as of Monday