

Eastern PA CoC Full Membership Meeting
October 17, 2022, 10am – 2:00pm

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0ucuiqT4pG9VW09ftc3Hd37mEG080Dc15>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email with the log-in info to join the meeting.

- 10:00 Welcome and call to order-Alisa Baratta
- Please register your attendance - <https://forms.office.com/g/muAF5y2cs1>
- 10:10 President's remarks-Alisa Baratta
- Ad Hoc Strategic Plan Committee
 - Board recruitment update
- 10:15 CoC Evaluation-Brendan Auman
- [Collaborative Applicant and Board Evaluation Survey](#)
- 10:25 Coordinated Entry Committee Report-Leslie Perryman and Jason Alexander
- Coordinated Entry System Redesign
 - Review of Homebase Recommendations
 - [Homebase Evaluation available on CoC's website linked here](#)
- 11:25 NOFO debriefing and Move On Strategy- Leigh Howard and Helen Kelly
- 12:00 *Lunch Break and/or Complete the CoC Evaluation Survey*
- 12:30 Group discussion- Increasing meaningful participation from People with Lived Experience
- 1:00 Vote to approve August and September Board meeting minutes
- 1:05 Board Discussion- New funding sources and how they move the CoC strategy forward
- PHARE
 - Home4Good
- 1:35 DCED Update – Brendan Auman
- 1:50 Closing remarks & Time to complete Evaluation Survey
- [Collaborative Applicant and Board Evaluation Survey](#)
- 2:00 Adjourn

October 17, 2022

Meeting called to order by Board President Alisa Barratta

- Alisa welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave a brief update on plans for the Ad Hoc Strategic Planning Committee and a board recruitment.

DCED update

- Brendan Auman-noted he will be out on leave beginning in November in his absence you can contact Amanda Riehl amariehl@pa.gov for assistance. Brendan provided an update on the feedback from the 2021 evaluation survey. The feedback from the survey has been very helpful. In response to survey suggestion the HMIS Governance Committees was created to address governance concerns which is meeting for the first time tomorrow. HIMS staff capacity has been expanded has been and more frequent HMIS training has been held in response to feedback received. A DEI committee has been created to address diversity concerns and facilitate a more equitable process. DCED has heard concerns that about the large size of the RHABs and they are evaluating that as part of the strategic plan. Brendan shared the survey link [Collaborative Applicant and Board Evaluation Survey](#) and encouraged everyone to participate.

The Coordinated Entry Committee

- Leslie Perryman and Jason Alexander provided an overview on the Coordinated Entry System Redesign plan. Leslie explained the recommendations from consultants Homebase who reviewed the Eastern CoC coordinated entry system last year. Those recommendations were:
 - Replace the VI-SPDAT with a more equitable trauma informed assessment
 - Implement a phased assessment process
 - Improve system wide diversion strategies
 - Move from a pull system to a push By Name/Case Conferencing approachFurther steps are required to align with current HUD HMIS data standards for Coordinated Entry
 - Send referrals in HMIS from CE to Permanent Housing Projects
 - All ES, RRH, PSH, and EHV projects record timely and accurate results in HMIS

To implement these strategies goals for 2022-2023 have been established beginning with:

1. Creating a CoC systemwide diversion strategy that begins at Coordinated Entry intake.
2. Transition from a pull to a push system
3. Create a more trauma informed and equitable CE intake process

Leslie and Jason answered questions submitted in the chat during the presentation.

One question posed by multiple people was “How will these changes affect the Victim Services Providers?”

Jason responded that this will be a huge part of the redesign. He continued, they would make sure this a very inclusive thoughtful process and that the VSP community is very well represented on the committee and involved in the implementation process.

Leslie summarized some of the additional questions asked about how the push concept may look and asked Jason to provide more detail.

Jason explained VSP providers have some aspects of the that push system in place and the CE managers work with VSP providers and work to ensure those on the BNL are treated equitably. It may take several months to develop the new process, but he assured that the CE committee will work with VSPs to create something that best makes sense. The committee will take into account that VSP providers can not offer identifying information. It is not determined yet how the push system will be applied to VSP providers.

Question- Who would be developing the new assessment tool? Jason responded that the CE committee will be developing the assessment themselves with support from the CE consultant and TA from HUD.

Question- Can you explain for those who are new, the importance of a diversion strategy? Leslie began the response by stating how helping folks remain housed it helps reduce the strain on the system. It will help us to spread the resources we do have go further. Jason added diversion is not one activity but a collection of strategies that prevent household from becoming homeless. Creating a systemwide uniform system with potentially uniform funding. Diversion also involves creating stronger partnerships with other systems. Additionally, problem solving with housing providers and landlords to prevent eviction.

Question-Where will funding for potential diversion strategies come from? The board is currently working an application for PHARE funding, Home4Good funds, and possibly local foundations. ESG might be an option.

2022 NOFO Debrief

Leigh Howard provided an overview of the 2022 policy priorities. New and expanded priorities this year include increasing affordable housing supply, improving assistance to LGBTQ+ individuals, expanded focus on Persons with Lived Experience, and Racial Equity. The CoC had a strong response to the NOFO this year. The system performance measures were not perfect but certainly stronger in the last year. This is important because HUD has prioritized that and supports the competition aspect of this NOFO. Some CoCs are still recovering from Covid and are not doing as well.

Leigh provided a detailed breakdown of how NOFO application points are awarded. For project capacity up to 30 points are awarded to CoC's that demonstrate the existence of coordinated, inclusive and outcome-oriented community process for the solicitation, review and ranking of application. The system performance in the application is worth 59 points. They provide narrative to about what the strategies are and how successful they have been. This year one of the most notable changes HUD went from asking yes/no question about what the CoC does to asking more about what you do, what is the outcome and how do you measure it. Throughout the application this year HUD seem to be drilling down to identify what strategies are working.

Up to 9 points are awarded in the HMIS section and how well we are doing. We submitted on time and have a comparable database for domestic violence. The good news is our score has gone up, but it has not gone up enough. One of the things the CoC is going to need to focus on is increased reporting HMIS bed coverage. Point in time counts worth up to 5 points. HUD is looking to see here that a PIT count is conducted and responsive to their rules. CoC coordination and engagement section adds up to 83 points

and HUD is looking to see here that CoC is coordination with other systems of care. There are three new lines in this section utilizing non-congregate shelter, partnership with public health agencies, and increasing the supply of affordable housing. This is the second year for the coordination with housing and healthcare. The CoC members have been demonstrating a good understanding of this concept and have been submitting projects supporting this concept and some are already doing this work. The CoC submitted 58 projects for just over 20 million dollars.

The HUD special NOFO deadline is due 10/20/2022. We are currently working on this project. We are submitting for six new projects for a total of a little more than six million dollars.

12:00 The group broke for a 30-minute break

Move-on Strategy

Helen Kelly provided an update on the Move-on Strategy. We have not had a roll out for this program yet, but the training was completed the end of June 2022. Moving on was created to connect tenants with supports to transition from permanent supportive housing. The program's primary goals are to support independence for those who no longer require the intensive supports associated with PSH. This process will also help to free up unit and open capacity in PSH for other individuals who would benefit from the program. The program is voluntary and not meant to push individuals from the program just to free up space. The full training program is available on the CoC website.

After the Move-on Strategy presentation concluded the Afternoon agenda was resumed

The August and September Board Minutes were voted on and passed by the board

Increasing Meaningful Participation from People with Lived Experience

Mary Penny led a Jam board Session to ask for CoC member input on how to increase meaningful participation from People with Lived Experience. Comments made can be found at the link below.

https://jamboard.google.com/d/1L9gbG5gbNmOX7Li1aW_2FYnn0qam5hUMG60-TxpZifw/viewer?f=2

New funding sources and How They Move the CoC Strategy Forward Including PHARE and Home4Good

Leigh Howard provided an update on Home4Good funding. This year PHFA has reduced the amount of funding available for the H4G program. This year the CoC received \$204,000 with the funds being made block grant style. The United Way of PA is the CoC fiscal applicant and will be receiving \$193,800. The remaining five percent, \$10,200 will be set aside for admin. The dates for operation are calendar year 2023.

Helen Kelly reviewed the PHARE grant application that is currently in progress. The application is due November 18, 2022. The awards are generally announced in the spring and the funding would be made available fall of 2023. The focus is to create a comprehensive landlord strategy. We are looking to create a flexible fund that will address the market that exists in 2023 when the funds would be available. The details and budget are still to be determined. A collaborative applicant is still needed.

DCED Funding Update

Brendan Auman provided a DCED update. Regarding the Home ARP DCED wrapped up consultation meetings, the public comments period and public hearings. They have submitted

the allocation plan are waiting for approval. Then will start building out the guidelines this fall and winter and expectation of opening the application period spring 2023. It is all fairly tentative but be on the lookout for the approval announcement. Moving on to ESG, in July DCED submitted an FMR waiver request. We heard from the HUD that there is a backlog, but they are adding more staff to the review team and are trying to get them out ASAP. Just note, that if you are approved for the funds for ESG you can continue to go above FMR. They are just waiting for the waiver to apply for 2020-2021 funds. They have not received our ESG award letter so cannot go into contracting.

ESG CE had a 50% deadline on expenditure of funds as of 6-19-22 the CoC had reached 49% at that point and HUD ended up recapturing \$250,000. DCED did extend the contract to 6-30-2023 and holding grantees to quarterly invoicing for the remainder of the contract.

DCED was awarded additional HMIS funds to expand staffing capacity. They had a good response when posting the positions and have several qualified applicants. They hope to wrap up hiring before Brendan goes out on parental leave.

Alisa asked Brendan for an update on the HMIS Governance Committee. He reported that the committee would meet for the first time tomorrow. They will be working with consultant ICF who will be leading the group and aligning them with the work that will need to be completed over the next year. They will be working on the draft charter and voting on leadership.

New Funding Sources and the CoC Strategic Plan

Leigh Howard was asked to share some final comments about how the funding sources tie back to the Strategic plan. He provided an overview how the new funding sources increased community level interventions and coordinated entry redesign.

Alisa asked if there were any additional comments there were none and the meeting was adjourned.