

PA-504 Continuum of Care Governing Board Meeting Minutes

DATE 2/23/2023

TIME 11:00-12:00pm

LOCATION Zoom

Distributed Documents:

- Bios – CoC Governing Board Nominees; DV appointed agency nominee bios
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Attendees:

Governing Board Members: Synethia Hill, Stacey Woodland, Jason Alexander, Vera Zanders, Whitney Drukier, Christopher Brzovic, Anne Leavitt-Gruberger, Meg Snead, Mark Boorse, Jade Utz, Shacambria Wright, Joanne Washington, Karin Eyrich-Garg, Dennis Miller

Guests: Ruth Almy

Notes

- I. Welcome (Stacey)
 - Introductions of all members
 - Acknowledgment of Black History Month and the disproportionate impact of housing issues on the Black and African American community
- II. Representing the Board in Public – Contributing to the Mission (Stacey)
 - Reminder to all board members to represent the board and our collective work when at events addressing homelessness and housing in Montgomery County
 - Code of Conduct & Confidentiality (Jason)
 - These agreements will be reviewed and voted on in the next board meeting. As we expand the board and homelessness crisis continues to mount in the community, it's important to have these documents to cultivate a culture of trust and mutual respect.

- Board Member Participation in Project/Application Scoring (Jason)
 - This is one of the most important roles of the board; when these tasks come up, volunteers from the Board are needed to review and score the applications. More engagement from the board would be appreciated.

III. Emergency Food & Shelter (EFSP) \$306,986 (Jason)

- Applications due March 15th, 11:59pm
- Retroactive supplemental funding for emergency food and shelter services. Each year consistently has a large number of applications. The review and scoring is crucial because the board cannot fund all applications.
- Call for Board members to volunteer to review and score by contacting Jason and Synethia over email or in the chat.
- Recommendation for the Board to prioritize emergency shelter in this funding cycle, given that MontCo Anti-Hunger Network recently received a large grant from the County.

IV. mCoC Governing Board Membership Vote (Jason & Synethia)

- Appointed – Domestic Violence
 - Melinda Himes – Laurel House
 - Ann Elizabeth Iula – Women’s Center
 - Board reviews both candidates’ resumes
 - Karin E-G: Does Beth’s experience with a criminal justice background fill any

needs or representation on the board?
Synethia says yes, the Board has been looking for law enforcement representation, although that is not related to Beth's current role.

- For appointed seats, the Board votes on which candidate to appoint. Through Zoom poll, the Board votes for Melinda Himes from Laurel House
- Open Seats
 - Marianne G. Lynch – The Open Link
 - Sean Patrick Turner – Municipality of Norristown
 - Fateemah Dedmon – Valley Youth House
 - Mike Hays – PA House of Representatives
 - The Board reviews all resumes and statements.
 - The Board votes to proceed with having Marianne G. Lynch, Fateemah Dedmon, and Mike Hays be presented to the CoC as candidates for the open seats. The Board voted with 100% agreement to not proceed with Sean Patrick Turner on the slate.

V. Your Way Home Call Center (Ruth, Mikaela)

- Community Connections officially took over as CE provider with new helpline number on 2/1/24

- They hope to be fully staffed for Coordinated Entry by next week
- Lived Experience Team participated in two sessions of mock calls with new CE staff
- Access Services as street outreach and mobile crisis are directly handling code blue and after hours calls
- OHCD is creating CE training videos
- Staff still struggle with prioritization and Street Outreach referrals but all providers have been very patient as staff figures it out
- Significant improvements already from internal control of things like the IVR messages to change and update based on community feedback, like the hold music and the prompt recordings
- Community Feedback?
 - Joanne – community feedback that many callers could not get through; this was happening within the last 2 weeks
 - Any feedback on an ongoing basis would be greatly appreciated by OHCD
 - Mark offers that increased call volume may be related to the increase in the code blue threshold and more individuals calling for assistance during code blue

VI. RFP Status – Salvation PSH: Closed, Housing Resource Centers: Closes 4:30pm (Synethia)

- These will be evaluated and awarded in the next few months

VII. Your Way Home Data Action Team Updates (Chris to lead)

- Coordinated Entry Assessment Tool
 - The Data Action team continues to move forward with creating a coordinated entry assessment to replace the VI-SPDAT, which is shown to

	<p>have racial and gender biases and is no longer a preferred tool</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment of Racial Disparities Due <p>VIII. 2024 CoC Board Meeting Schedule – Bimonthly, Fridays 11am – Noon (Synethia)</p> <p>IX. 2024 – Your Way Home 10th Anniversary (Ruth)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please help us celebrate by submitting success stories, congratulations on career milestones, etc. <p>X. Feedback & Input, Announcements, Closing Statements (All)</p> <p>XI. Adjourn (Stacey)</p>
Next Meeting	April 26, 2024, 11am