

PA-504 Continuum of Care Governing Board Meeting Minutes

DATE 6/30/2023

TIME 11:30-12:30pm

LOCATION Zoom

Distributed Documents:

- Agenda
- Revised Governing Board Charter
- EFSP Meeting Agenda
- Maureen Feeny-Barnes Bio
- Pottstown Mercury Article- re: Beacon of Hope Zoning Violation

Attendees:

Governing Board Members: Synethia Hill, Mark Boorse, Vera Zanders, Lisa McGee, Maureen Feeny-Byrne, Brie Wright, Cindy Heron, Dennis Miller, Jade Utz, Joanne Washington, Karin Eyrich-Garg, Meg Snead, Rob Mott, Rossy Calderon, Kate Houstoun; Jason Alexander`

Guests: Mikaela Lanford; Tom Niarhos; Kayleigh Silver; Sabrina Lyons

Notes

- I. Welcome- Stacey Woodland welcome to quarterly meeting; introductions of all members
- II. New Board Member- Dennis Miller introduced
 - Maureen Feeny-Byrnes, Martha’s Choice Marketplace- serves over 2,000 people monthly as county’s largest food pantry
 - Certified Peer Specialist with 30 years’ experience as a Mental Health provider
- III. Governing Board Charter- Jason Alexander
 - Charter revision & vote
 - Noted that Jason, Stacey, Synethia and Dennis worked together to edit charter
 - Updates to governing board membership and representation-
 - responsibilities for members (meeting participation 75%, ongoing voting- 75% total,

action team participation, active involvement, disclose Conflicts of Interest)

-- clarification and expanded appointed representatives—continued representation of: two representative from OHCD; McKinney Vento liaison, OMH; Dept of Health; VA

--additional suggestions- Office of Community Connections; MCHA; Planning Commission; VAWA representative

--PLEE representative in the future

--HRC appointed members- there to represent the needs of service providers; modeled after Allegheny County

--FEMA EFSP appointed representatives— expanded to Red Cross

- Noted official name for OMH within charter- Office of Mental Health/Developmental Disabilities/Early Intervention
- Motion: Dennis Miller; seconded: Stacey Woodland; unanimous approval

IV. Home4Good Announcement & Voting- Jason Alexander and Synethia Hill

- Home4Good gives an annual award that was usually given to HRCs; this year they asked for governing board input
- Home4Good is a block grant and more flexible than federally distributed CoC grants
- Communities across the state can submit their own plans for usage of the money based on their largest community need

- \$103,000 awarded to Montco- suggested continuing RRH funding as highest need within the community
- Applications and plan need to be submitted by July 31, 2023
- Vera Zanders- is there a need to make providers go through an additional proposal process?
- Kayleigh Silver clarified- HRC RFP still out; loss of AHTF funding for continued HRC operations and increased need for support
- Vera Zanders motion- winner of RFP process receives funding; Dennis seconded motion; unanimous approval

V. LGBTQIA2S+ Your Way Home Training *Rescheduled-
Synethia Hill

- July 14, 2023, 1-3pm, Colmar PA
- Training opening for governing board members and all staff; registration is required; capacity is 50 people but may have some flexibility in adding other members

VI. Shelter Advocacy, Zoning & Recent News

- Mark Boorse – Access Services
- Guest Speaker: Tom Niarhos, Executive Director, Pottstown Beacon of Hope
- Recognition that homelessness is a community issue- how do you help community members move to action in response?
- Increase in municipalities acknowledging learning about homelessness within their borders who want to “do something about it”

but not sure where or how to start—asking for help

- Mark pointed out that this is good news, despite not getting as much public/press attention
- How can we encourage and help meet needs within individual communities?
- All interested communities have a sparking interest/moment followed by a convening where they ask for help- information and education about homelessness; accompanied by the facilitation of a process- how to move into the early steps of action
- As a community we're beginning to narrate what process is happening- acknowledgement that this process is different from other service programs and it is flexible- requires ongoing follow up in each community
- Starting to collect resources and experience- formalize our capacity to offer technical assistance. Unfolded organically but beginning to grow.
- Tom acknowledged that all communities/municipalities respond to homelessness differently; Pottstown (ongoing roadblocks from BOH- tried education, public appeal, and legal communication of messaging) vs. Upper Perkiomen (members of community, zoning board, and business leaders already united in interest)

- Creating resources and strategy guidance for interested communities
- Importance of having the support of those who make the decisions in addition to community support
- Mark stated that there are many things groups/communities can do before they identify a funding source- may make solutions seem possible and can help people address housing issues
- Many spaces ID Code Blue/Winter Shelter as the first step- not permanent, easy pilot program; urgent need and high risk- public appeal; tangible to organize support around
- Most spaces also recognize there is more to be done- importance to continue to engage in larger housing issues
- Need to tap into public faith-based support- how do you build up those spaces?
- Synethia recognized the opportunities for members of the public to voice their opinions- survey from Norristown, biweekly meetings, County commissioners meetings
- Mark- CoC board can publicly influence and highlight the other work being done/possible to do within communities- deviation from our ongoing footprint related to funding decisions
- Vera- governing board discussions could be more around a big picture- new additions to governing board will contribute to planning and

	<p>jointly looking at addressing homeless issues in a more global way</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meg- about maximizing our authority and taking advantage of governing board influence- can advocate outside of employment • Jason- Your Way Home Advisory Council was meant to be more of the advocacy voice- governance board focus has changed; sunsetted advisory council and now governing board has taken both roles (funding and advocacy). What should that advocacy voice do?—conversation for the next year <p>VII. Feedback & Input, Announcements, Closing Statements-</p> <p>VIII. Adjourn- Stacey Woodland; thank you to Mark and Tom; we need to be facilitators and thinkers; flexible in processes; narrators who help connect community members to help those who need it. We all need to be working together- no one can solve this by themselves.</p>
Next Meeting	