

Allegheny County Homeless Advisory Board

CoC Bi-Monthly Meeting

January 26, 2016 10:00AM to Noon
Human Services Building
One Smithfield Street, Pittsburgh.

Purpose: The Homeless Advisory Board (HAB) is a public/private partnership formed to assist and recommend Allegheny County, the City of Pittsburgh, the City of McKeesport and the Municipality of Penn Hills on public policy, programs, activities, data and all other efforts that will eliminate homelessness and improve the wellbeing of homeless persons and families.

HAB Member Attendees

Meg Balsamico, Penn Hills
Jerry Cafardi, City of Pgh
Tom Cummings, URA
Jane Downing, Pittsburgh Foundation
Nancy Dunkis, All Co. Economic Development
Frank Hammond, BNY Mellon
Linda Kilderry, Michael's Place

John Lovelace, UPMC
Mary Parks. Sisters Place
Mary Francis Pilarski, VA
Lenny Prewitt, FamilyLinks
Barb Smith, HEARTH
Reginald Young, ACDHS

Guest Attendees

Frank Aggazio, All. Co. Housing Authority
Sheila Bell, ACDHS
Diana Bucco, Buhl Foundation
Liz Daniels-Totten, City of Pgh
Sean DeYoung, PATF
Joe Elliott, ACDHS
Lora Fraire
Steve Forrester, WPIC
Andy Halfhill, ACDHS
Abigail Horn, ACDHS
Chuck Keenan, ACDHS

Terri Laver, ACDHS
Richard, Ranii, All. Co. Economic Development
Josh Rolon, Mayor's Office, City of Pgh
Kelly Russell, City of Pgh
Hilary Scherer, ACDHS
Trishia Silvis, YWCA
Amy Snider, Action Housing
Philip Spina, Light of Life
Sally Stadelman, City of Pgh
Pat Valentine, ACDHS

Notes

1. **Welcome & Minutes Review—Frank Hammond**
 - a. Vote to approve October 2015 will be confirmed by the Executive Committee following the finalizations of the HAB elections.
 - b. Vote on RFP for the St. Vincent De Paul Path to New Life Program for nine (9) single male scattered site permanent supportive housing will be confirmed by the Executive Committee following the finalizations of the HAB elections (Linda Kilderry abstained from vote)

2. **HAB Member Responsibilities and Charter Overview—Jane Downing (Attachment 1)**

In October, 2015 the HAB approved a new charter, which outlined roles and responsibilities. Jane Downing presented an overview of the charter, highlighting the following:

 - The Continuum of Care (CoC) is a broad network of people and organizations, engaged in ending and preventing homelessness. CoC representatives include:

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nonprofit homeless providers, victim service providers, faith-based organizations, governments, businesses, advocates, public housing agencies, school districts, social service providers, mental health agencies, hospitals, universities, affordable housing developers, law enforcement, organizations that serve homeless and formerly homeless veterans, and homeless and formerly homeless persons. Membership in the CoC is dependent on attending at least one (1) recognized meeting and providing contact information. The responsibilities of the CoC are outlined in the HEARTH Act, but broadly categorize to operating the CoC, designating and HMIS lead and operating HMIS, and planning for the CoC.

- The Homeless Advisory Board (HAB) is the working board that acts on behalf of the CoC, and is therefore ultimately responsible for operating, designating the HMIS lead and Collaborative Applicant, and planning for the CoC. The HAB consists of 15-21 members, with nominees for appointment coming from CoC members. Stakeholder organizations represented in the HAB include: affordable housing developer/landlord, homeless providers, county government, city and municipality government (Pittsburgh, Penn Hills, McKeesport), behavioral health providers, education, faith-based organizations, health care/hospitals, housing authorities, funders, training and employment, business community, and consumers.
 - HAB members are expected to attend bi-monthly CoC meetings, serve on at least one (1) HAB Committee, and carry out the mandate of the CoC
- For the last 20 years, the day-to-day and operational responsibilities to fulfill the core duties of the CoC have been delegated by the HAB to an Infrastructure Organization (IO), the Allegheny County DHS. As the IO, DHS has a number of responsibilities pertaining to administration, planning support, data collection, monitoring, and reporting, systems coordination, fiscal oversight, and accountability.

3. Election of New HAB Members and Officers—Frank Hammond

Frank Hammond reviewed the new HAB member election process for meeting participants, explaining that a number of nominations were submitted by CoC members and were carefully reviewed and considered by the HAB Executive Committee across a series of meetings. A slate of twenty-one (21) members was selected (Appendix A), along with recommendations for Officers, including John Lovelace for Chair, Adrienne Walnoha for Vice Chair, and Jane Downing retaining her post as Secretary.

While a quorum of existing HAB members were not available to vote, the following votes were cast:

In Favor

Meg Balsamico
Jerry Cafardi
Tom Cummings
Jane Downing
Nancy Dunkis
Frank Hammond
Linda Kilderry
John Lovelace
Mary Parks
Mary Francis Pilarski
Lenny Prewitt

Abstain

Barb Smith

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Reginald Young

The remaining HAB membership will be surveyed online and a conference call will be held to obtain votes as well. The goal will be to get as many HAB members to vote as possible, but at a minimum, a quorum must be reached as per the CoC Governance Charter, HAB by-laws which was ratified at the October 2015 HAB meeting. .

4. **Orientation—Chuck Keenan (Attachment 2)**

The remainder of the meeting Chuck Keenan provided an overview of the CoC to help orient the HAB elect and meeting participants. Mr. Keenan began with a review of the HAB Committee structure and responsibilities, followed by a summary of recent transitions and processes that have situated the CoC.

- In addition to the full HAB, a number of standing committees, ad hoc committees, and affiliate groups provide focused support to help guide the work of the CoC. Standing committees include Executive, Continuum of Care, Homeless Outreach Coordinating Committee (HOCC), and Data and Planning. Ad hoc committees are created for time-specific work to be done around a designated topic, and at this time include the Community Plan Committee. Affiliate groups are groups operating independently of the HAB but whose work is relevant and used to inform HAB processes. (Note: Committee Co-Chairs and IO representatives will be confirmed following the confirmation of the HAB elect)
 - The Executive Committee is the primary planning body for the CoC, and is composed of the three HAB officers, the HAB members who are Committee Co-Chairs, and an IO representative.
 - The Continuum of Care Program Committee reviews the annual HUD application requirements and advised the HAB and the IO on rankings and application submission. The CoC Committee also assists with the establishment of performance targets and reviews concerns of performance and outcomes.
 - The Communications and Education Committee, formerly the Advocacy Committee, develops and distributes messaging about the needs of homeless persons in Allegheny County, and coordinates advocacy efforts at the county, state, and federal levels.
 - The Data and Planning Committee considers the entire Allegheny County CoC and supports data and planning activities to guide the needs and performance of the system.
 - The HOCC addresses the complex issues and challenges faced by people living in places not meant for human habitation, and develops strategies to end chronic homelessness.
 - The Community Plan Committee is a current ad hoc committee, and is focused on developing a community planning process that results in a clear and strategic plan for preventing homelessness and rendering it rare, brief, and non-recurring.
 - For the past six (6) months, the Community Plan Committee has been operating as a small planning group, but is seeking additional members. A facilitator has been hired to help organize the group and move plans forward, focused on releasing an RFP to identify a consultant that can guide development of a community plan that brings together the broad range of disciplines necessary to end homelessness.

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- Current affiliate groups include: Homeless Education Network (HEN), Local Housing Options Team (LHOT), Employment and Training Advisory Board (ETAB), Unaccompanied Youth Task Force, Veteran's Boot Camp, and Health (H2).
- A number of developments have been underway over the past few years to move the Allegheny County CoC forward. These sampling of the developments were presented:
 - System Changes—particularly since 2014, the CoC has been moving toward becoming an integrated/coordinated system that is accessible to all residents needing services. These system changes include reducing barriers to entry through coordinated intake and moving towards a housing first philosophy.
 - The HMIS was upgraded in October 2014 with a newer platform and increased data standards, in addition to integrating coordinated intake into it.
 - Coordinated Intake began in March 2015 and provides consumers with a single access point, through which they are connected to all the appropriate resources. Coordinated Intake was initially released using a first come-first served process but in January 2016 was updated to incorporate prioritization of chronic homelessness as well as service level need, as identified through the VI-SPDAT. In moving to the prioritization listing the waitlist was also cleaned up by confirming homelessness status and de-duplicating referrals.
 - One way in which the HAB can support the effective and efficient operation of the CoC is through reallocation, whether it be by reallocating unspent grant funds to new projects or reallocating projects. Last year the HAB approved the reallocation of funds from nine (9) transitional housing programs into seven (7) rapid re-housing programs (RRH). With national research indicating RRH is an effective and lower cost option for combating homelessness, this reallocation shifted over 100 units to an intervention that is not only better, but that also reduces HUD homeless counts. While this reallocation was done at the program type level to shift the system towards a more effective model, reallocation can also be made at the program level in response to underperforming programs.
 - The ability to assess and focus on performance has also been growing. While the CoC is a formula grant, it is also a competitive one and for the Allegheny County CoC to perform well the specific programs within it need to perform well. Every year the HAB approves a ranking tool to rank each project within the Continuum, and as the system continues to mature there will be increased ability to incorporate performance into that ranking.
 - The CoC is also seeking a broader movement towards system wide standards and minimum qualifications. Many standards have already been implemented, particularly around system access; however there is opportunity and need to develop standards within the system.
 - Finally, significant efforts have been made around specific sub-populations. Guided by the federal strategic plan that was released seven (7) years ago, efforts, including partnership and resource building and benchmarking, have been made to end homelessness among veterans, the chronically homeless, and youths and families. Specific efforts include VA resource expansion, Veteran's Boot Camp, prioritization of the chronically homeless,

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unaccompanied youth prioritization, the 412 Youth Zone drop-in center, and the reallocation to RRH which has been identified as the most effective response for families experiencing homelessness.

5. **Announcements/Public Comments**

- a. Pat Valentine, on behalf of DHS, apologized to Barb Smith for not having a designated space for all active HAB members at the table. This was a clerical mistake.
- b. Terri Laver reminded participants that the annual HUD Point-in-time (PIT) was taking place the next day, Wednesday, January 27th. Ms. Laver informed the group that the HOCC was engaging a number of new groups to find those experiencing homelessness outside, and that the Severe Weather Emergency Shelters (SWES) would be open to also engage those who are unsheltered. A training was held for the PIT during the prior week, but any questions may be directed to Ms. Laver.
- c. Linda Kilderry provided an explanation from St. Vincent's regarding their decision to move away from HUD funding, stating that the program was originally set up to give housing to those leaving jail and the program wanted to retain that mission without barriers from HUD's definition of homelessness.

Action Items

- Finalize confirmation of HAB elections—remaining votes from HAB members not in attendance will be gathered through an online survey and telephone follow-up.
- Designate Committee Chairs—following the confirmation of the HAB election, the HAB Officers will designate the Committee Co-Chairs, and coordinate with these Chairs regarding the Committee's goals and next steps.
- Schedule Committee Meetings—confirm schedule for all Committee meetings

Next CoC Meeting

Tuesday, March 29th, 10:00 AM to Noon
Human Services Building
One Smithfield Street, Pittsburgh.

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Appendix A 2016 HAB Nominee Slate*

Name	Organization	Representation**
Aggazio, Frank	Allegheny County Housing Authority	Housing Authority
Balsamico, Meg	Penn Hills Planning Department	Municipal Government
Binion, Caster	Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh	Housing Authority
Bucco, Diana	Buhl Foundation	Local Funder/Foundation community
Cafardi, Jerry	City of Pittsburgh	City of Pittsburgh
Cummings, Tom	URA	Affordable Housing Developer/City of Pittsburgh/ Funder
DeYoung, Sean	Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force	Health/Hospital
Downing, Jane	The Pittsburgh Foundation	Funder/Foundation
Duckett, Anthony	HSAO/Justice Related Services	Criminal Justice
Horn, Abigail	Allegheny County. DHS	Allegheny County
Kilderry, Linda Rae	Soc. Of St. Vincent de Paul	Homeless Services/ Faith-based Organization
Lagana, Joseph	Homeless Children's Ed. Fund	Education/Funder
Lovelace, John	UPMC Health Plan	Health/Hospital
Pilarski, Mary Frances	VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System	Health/Hospital
Prewitt, Lenny	FamilyLinks	Homeless Youth
Ranii, Richard	Allegheny County Economic Development	Allegheny County
Randi, Laurel	McCune Foundation	Funder/Foundation
Snider, Amy F.	Action Housing	Affordable Housing Provider
Spina, Philip	Light of Life Rescue Mission	Homeless Services/Training and employment
Walnoha, Adrienne	Community Human Services	Service Provider, Behavioral Health Provider, Social Worker
Wyler, Jim	UPMC Re:Solve Crisis	Behavioral Health/Hospital

*Please note: As per the rules of the CoC Governance Charter and HAB By-Laws, the 21 members on the slate above were selected by the Executive Committee from a pool of 35 applicants. The Executive Committee met regarding the applicants three times to review applications and put forth a slate that was diverse in both demographic characteristics and in organizational and sector representation. The Executive Committee also gave consideration to the leadership background of the candidates.

**Four of the nominees on the slate are also former consumers of services.