

# Allegheny County Homeless Advisory Board

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## **CoC Bi-Monthly Meeting**

July 19, 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 to 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 persons and families who are homeless.

### **HAB Member Attendees**

Meg Balsamico, Penn Hills  
Jerry Cafardi, City of Pittsburgh  
Tom Cummings, URA  
Jane Downing, Pittsburgh Foundation  
Abigail Horn, ACDHS  
Linda Kilderry, Michael's Place  
Joe Lagana, HCEF  
John Lovelace, UPMC

Mary Frances Pilarski, VA  
Lenny Prewitt, FamilyLinks  
Laurel Randi, McCune Foundation  
Richard, Ranii, All. Co. Economic Development  
Amy Snider, ACTION Housing  
Philip Spina, Light of Life  
Adrienne Walnoha, CHS

### **Guest Attendees**

Seth Abrams, ACDHS  
Renee Bell, Naomi's Place  
Annie Boyd, ACDHS  
Andrea Bustos, ACDHS  
Joann Cyganovich, Sojourner MOMS  
Elizabeth Daniels-Totten, City of Pgh  
Nancy Dunkis, All Co. Economic Development  
Rob Eamigh, ACDHS  
Joe Elliott, ACDHS  
Lora Fraire, ACDHS  
Angalo Farrara, Salvation Army  
Pete Giacalone, WPIC  
Erin Gillette, Alle-Kiski Area HOPE Center  
Andy Halfhill, ACDHS  
Peter Harvey, ACDHS  
Kate Holko, ACDHS  
Lisa Kessler, ACDHS

Terri Laver, ACDHS  
Jessica McKown, ACHDA  
Stephanie Meyer, ACDHS  
Nicole Molinaro-Karaczan, WC&S  
Mary Parks, Sister Place  
Emil Pyptyk, ACDHS  
LeaEtta Rhodes, Urban League  
Rachel Rue, ACDHS  
Kelly Russell, City of Pittsburgh  
Hilary Scherer, ACDHS  
Trishia Silvis, YWCA  
Barb Smith, HEARTH  
Pat Valentine, ACDHS  
Stephanie Villella, Chartiers  
Laverne Wagner, HACP  
Kyona White, Sojourner MOMS

### **Minutes**

1. **Welcome & Review of Meeting Minutes—John Lovelace**
  - a. The May 31, 2016 meeting minutes were approved.
  
2. **HAB Member Term Appointments—Hilary Scherer**

Before the main meeting discussions were started, initial term designations were selected randomly by HAB members. Moving forward terms are 3-years, with members being able to serve 2 terms. However, since a new HAB process was started with the revisions to the Governance Charter in October 2015, the CoC is seeking to avoid having the entire HAB membership leaving at the same time, and has thus implemented shorter initial term limits

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for 2/3 of the membership (1/3 having a 1 year initial term, and 1/3 having a 2 year initial term). Again, moving forward there will be the standard 3 year term and any member can seek a second term. As such, HAB members who are designated a 1 year initial term can submit a nomination for a second term, and in total serve the HAB for 4 years. Nominations for HAB members will be sought this fall with new members being voted on in January 2017. A list of the initial term periods is provided in Appendix 1.

### 3. HUD 2016 NOFA Ranking Strategy—Amy Snider

Amy Snider, on behalf of the Evaluation Committee, put forth a recommendation to the HAB on a ranking strategy to be used to rank projects for the 2016 CoC Program NOFA. The Evaluation Committee's proposal for the ranking strategy was designed to be reflective of the following CoC priorities:

- serve the most vulnerable, most specifically ending chronic homelessness;
- a system that embraces Housing First;
- a high performing system; and
- a system that is responsive to the populations' needs

As such, the Committee organized projects into the five (5) categories below, and within each category the projects are to be ranked by score (i.e., performance). For any Category that has Renewal and New Projects, the Renewal Projects would be ranked first, followed by New Projects. Within this organization, the entire list then can be reviewed for special consideration around sub-populations and other critical factors (e.g., program operation time to determine if score accurately reflects service performance).

In reviewing the draft ranking list based on this strategy the Committee found that sub-populations were represented across the Tier 1 projects (Tier 1 reflects 93% of funding). The Tier 2 line would be expected to occur towards the bottom of Category 4, and bonus projects would be placed at the end of the entire list (and thus in Tier 2).

Category 1: Housing First, 100% Chronically Homeless, PSH only

Category 2: HMIS, HMIS Expansion, LINK

Category 3: Housing First, 100% Chronically Homeless, RRH only

Category 4: Housing First, some Chronically Homeless beds prioritized, PSH and RRH

Category 5: Not Housing First

Ms. Snider went on to clarify that scores by which Projects would be ranked in each Category. For Renewal Projects, the score is that Project's Renewal Score, which is calculated using the Renewal Score Process approved by HAB in March 2016, and includes the Performance Worksheet, which Projects submitted by June 2, 2016. For New Projects, the scores reflect the each Project's proposal score, as assigned by the RFP's Evaluation Committee within the competitive RFP process.

Abigail Horn also called the HAB's attention to the NOFA summary provided to them in advance of the meeting, point out that the description Ms. Snider provided falls very nicely in line with what HUD is looking for within a CoC. For example, in regards to Housing First there are points awarded to a CoC if over 75% of the CoC is implementing a Housing First approach. The HAB's decision in May to embrace Housing First, the decision of so many providers to move in that direction, and now how we are ranking with a highlight to Housing First will put us in good standings. Other things noted included:

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- System as a safety net to quickly house folks and support towards stability
- Focusing on participants' choice and variety of options
- This is the first year to include significant points around system wide measurements, which will be new for everyone
- And finally, ending of sub-population homelessness—at last meeting we discussed veterans end to homelessness, and next on horizon is CH, which our HOCC is really starting to get ball rolling on thinking through that, but just so HAB is aware of these nationwide initiatives to end homelessness and how they will drive a lot of our discussions over the next few years.

***The motion to adopt the proposed ranking strategy was approved.***

Following the HAB's approval of the 2016 NOFA Project Ranking Strategy, clarification was provided around "100% Chronic Homeless" referenced in Categories 1 and 3. This designation is for those projects who have dedicated OR prioritized all of their beds to chronically homeless individuals and families. This designation does not mean that all beds will be utilized by individuals and families who have documented chronic homelessness, but rather that if an individual or family is chronically homeless the Project will prioritize them and is prepared to serve them.

#### **4. Preventing and Ending Homelessness by 2020: Community Strategic Planning Process—Jane Downing**

Jane Downing updated meeting participants on the Community Strategic Planning Process for Preventing and Ending Homelessness by 2020. As a reminder, this Planning Process is a community wide effort to create a strategic plan to: (1) prevent and end homelessness among veterans in 2016; (2) finish the job of ending chronic homelessness in 2017; (3) prevent and end homelessness for families with children and youth in 2020; and (4) set a path to ending all types of homelessness. This means the community will have a systematic response in place that ensures homelessness is prevented wherever possible, or if it cannot be prevented, it is a rare, brief and nonrecurring experience. The HAB Planning Committee selected Housing Innovations from New York as the consultant and hired a local project coordinator, Iris Whitworth to help guide the process. The first site visit for this process is being held from August 3-August 5, 2016, and will begin with a Community Kick-off on the morning of August 3, in the Homestead Grays Conference Room (located at 1 Smithfield St). Following the kick-off a number of initial Focus Groups have been arranged, with participants in those Focus Groups being identified through a multi-stage planning effort. This is just the first site visit, with subsequent site visits to be scheduled over the coming 6 months.

#### **5. Homeless System Scorecard—Andy Halfhill**

Prior to the regular Homeless System Scorecard update, John Lovelace informed HAB members and meeting participants that Amy Snider would be stepping into the HAB Co-Chair role for the Data and Planning Committee. Diana Bucco and initially served in that role, but as she has become the President of the Buhl Foundation her time commitments will not allow her to continue. She will remain an active member of the HAB, and the HAB is grateful for the guidance she provided to the start-up of the Data and Planning Committee.

Speaking on behalf of the Data and Planning Committee, Andy Halfhill presented HAB members with a report update around the Homeless Scorecard, reminding members that

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the Scorecard was developed to provide the HAB with regular updates on how the Allegheny County homeless system is doing towards the goal of making homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring. The data presented provides an update around 5 core measures so that progress can be regularly tracked.

- Measure 1—Number of persons entering the homeless system for the first time (on an annual interval): What this measure does is show us how the number of people entering the system changes from one year to the next; we have had a 20% decrease in people entering the system since last year (2440 households); the percentage of people homeless has also decreased
- Measure 2—Bed utilization: For different projects in the community this measure shows how many households have been served in last 2 months, 6 months and year, and how many on a given day. What we hope to do with this measure going forward is to show number served on a given day as it relates to capacity.
- Measure 3—Length of stay: This measure shows how long, in terms of median length of stay, individuals and families stay in a program. For ES, median length is 36 days, and we want 75% to be under 30 days so there is a place to move on. Generally leading our performance goals for PSH and TH. Not quite there for RRH, but we only have few current programs for RRH and as we scale up we expect a better analysis
- Measure 4—Exit to permanent destinations: This measure shows of all households who exit, how many go to permanent destination. For ES we have increased over last year. Generally across all programs have been able to achieve higher exits to permanent destinations.
- Measure 5—Recidivism: Generally that rate of return are low.

The Scorecard data will be updated and presented to the HAB at each bi-monthly meeting.

## 6. HUD System Performance Measure Submission—Andy Halfhill

Mr. Halfhill provided an update on HUD System Performance Measures, which are being required by HUD for the first time from all CoC's. In developing the Homeless System Scorecard, the Data and Planning Committee was mindful of HUD's System Performance Measures, and thus there are some overlaps, including first time homeless, exits to permanent housing, and recidivism. The System Performance Measures are due to HUD on August 1, 2016 and DHS is working with the HMIS vendor to diligently test the system and ensure accurate data is submitted by the due date. This submission will serve as a baseline for the CoC, and the goal will to show improvements each year. Mr. Halfhill clarified that the date submitted reflects the period from October 2014 to November 2015, and through the testing process DHS's DARE Analysts are identifying and fixing any existing data issues so that there is strong data quality moving forward.

## 7. Committee Updates

To begin Committee Updates, Mr. Lovelace announced that Allegheny County CoC was not approved for the United Funding Agency (UFA) status. DHS has requested direction from HUD regarding the lack of approval, and is not aware of how many (if any) CoC's received the UFA designation this year.

Representing the HOCC, Philip Spina noted that the City of Pittsburgh has hired someone to guide a Committee on the City's response and action with persons who are street homeless.

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The HAB would like to have representation on any such group that is formed, and the efforts should be linked into the Community Strategic Planning process.

## **8. Public Comment/Announcements**

- Barb Smith provided comment on the CoC's responsiveness to families fleeing DV situations
- Abigail Horn provided comment on the utilization of Section 8 vouchers by those who are homeless
- Jane Downing provided comment on ending veterans homelessness
- Elizabeth Daniels-Totten provided comment on processes for making public comment
- Mary Frances Pilarski provided comment on VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System's 2016 Veterans Community Homelessness Assessment, Local Education and Networking Groups (CHALENG) Forum
- Nicole Molinaro-Karaczan provided comment on WC&S renovations

## **Action Items**

- The approved Ranking Strategy will be used to rank all renewal and new projects being applied for in the 2016 CoC Program NOFA.

## **Next CoC Meeting**

Tuesday, September 27—10:00 AM to Noon  
Human Services Building  
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## Attachment 1 HAB Member Initial Term Period

<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Role</b>	<b>Initial Term Period</b>
Aggazio, Frank	Executive Director, Allegheny County Housing Authority	HAB Member	2 years
Balsamico, Meg	Planner, Penn Hills Planning Department	HAB Member	2 years
Binion, Caster	Executive Director, Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh	HAB Member	1 year
Bucco, Diana	Vice President, Buhl Foundation	HAB Member	2 years
Cafardi, Jerry	Community Development Program Supervisor, City of Pittsburgh	HAB Member	2 years
Cummings, Thomas	Director, Housing Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh	HAB Member	2 years
DeYoung, Sean	CEO, Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force	HAB Member	3 years
Downing, Jane	Senior Program Officer, Economic and Community Development The Pittsburgh Foundation	<b>Secretary</b>	3 years
Duckett, Anthony	JRS Specialty Court Manager Allegheny County, HSAO/Justice Related Services	HAB Member	3 years
Horn, Abigail	Senior Advisor in the Office of Data Analysis, Research and Evaluation (DARE) Allegheny County, Department of Human Services	<b>Data and Planning Committee Co-Chair</b>	2 years
Kilderry, Linda Rae	Director, Michael's Place The Society Of St. Vincent de Paul, Council of Pittsburg	<b>CoC Program Committee Co-Chair</b>	1 year

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Lagana, Joe	Founder (Retired) Homeless Children's Education Fund	HAB Member	3 years
Lovelace, John	President UPMC <i>for You</i> ; Government Programs and Individual <i>Advantage</i>	<b>Chair</b>	3 years
Pilarski, Mary Frances	Health Care for Homeless Veterans Coordinator, VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System	HAB Member	1 year
Prewitt, Lenny	Senior Program Manager, FamilyLinks	HAB Member	1 year
Randi, Laurel	Senior Program Officer, McCune Foundation	HAB Member	1 year
Ranii, Richard	Manager, Human Services Division Allegheny County Economic Development	HAB Member	1 year
Snider, Amy	Social Services Strategy Manager, ACTION-Housing	<b>Data and Planning Committee Co-Chair</b>	2 years
Spina, Philip	Corporate, Employer and Donor Relations, Light of Life	<b>Homeless Outreach Coordinating Committee Co-Chair</b>	3 years
Walnoha, Adrienne	Executive Director/CEO Communtiy Human Services	<b>Vice-Chair Communication and Education Committee Co-Chair</b>	3 years
Wyler, Jim	Director of Clinical Services, Crisis and Emergency Services UPMC-WPIC	HAB Member	1 year