

Allegheny County Homeless Advisory Board

CoC Bi-Monthly Meeting

September 26, 2017 10:00AM
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 Members¹

Frank Aggazio, ACHA (P)	Abigail Horn, DHS(P)
Meg Balsamico, Penn Hills Caster Binion, HACP	Linda Kilderry
Diana Bucco, Buhl	Anna Kudrav, Pgh Police (P)
Jerry Cafardi, DCP (P)	Joe Lagana, HCEF (P)
Tom Cummings, URA (P)	John Lovelace, UPMC
Sean DeYoung, PATF	Lenny Prewitt, Familylinks (P)
Jane Downing, Pittsburgh Foundation (P)	Chris Roach, OSN (P)
Marlon Ferguson, Veterans Place	Amy Snider, ACTION Housing (P)
Pete Giacalone, WPIC (P)	Adrienne Walnoha, CHS
	Bethany Wingerson, Center for Victims (P)

Guest Attendees

Liz Daniels-Totten, City of Pgh	Stephanie Meyer, DHS
Rob Eamigh, DHS	Janice Palucis, DHS
Andy Halfhill, DHS	Mary Frances Pilarski, VA
Nancy Heastings	Richard Rapp
Chuck Keenan, DHS	Kelly Russell, City of Pgh
Lisa Kessler, DHS	Sally Stadelman, Mayor's Office
Terri Laver, DHS	Stephanie Villella, Chartiers
Caroline Magee, OSN	Caroline Woodward, Bethlehem Haven
Eric, Marasco, OSN	Adam Zody, DHS

Minutes

1. Welcome & Review of Meeting Minutes—Jane Downing

- The July 2017 meeting minutes were approved.
- Jane Downing announced that Richard Ranii had retired, including stepping down from the HAB. Cassandra Collinge has been appointed as a representative from the County's Economic Development and will begin attending meetings in November.

¹ (P) indicates that the HAB member participated in the meeting

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2. 2017 NOFA Process Review—Jane Downing

Ms. Downing provided a review of the 2017 NOFA process and welcomed feedback to incorporate into 2018's process.

- The Renewal Project Performance Outcome Tool was approved by the HAB on February 21, 2017 and was used to evaluate all projects that operated in 2016. The tool included metrics around utilization, housing performance, changes in income/benefits, length of time, recidivism, data quality, fiscal, cost effectiveness, housing first. Projects received the completed tool for review, and could provide comment on any score for considerations for reevaluation of points by the Evaluation Committee, which reviewed all tools, assessed score changes, and ranked the projects by score.
- The Ranking Strategy was approved by the HAB on May 8, 2017 and included ranking projects by their score on the Performance Outcome Tool, ranking Link and HMIS in the middle of Tier 1, and ranking reallocated projects at the top of Tier 2.
- The strategy for reallocating projects was also approved by the HAB on May 8, 2017. The strategy outlined that funds would be reallocated from projects scoring below 60 on the Performance Outcomes Tool, underspent amounts for projects underspending for 2 or more consecutive years, and from any projects that elected to not continue. Reallocated funds would be directed to PSH and RRH projects for households without children.
- Using the approved strategies and Performance Outcome Tool the CoC Application was completed. The ranking list was distributed to all projects, posted online, and then approved by the HAB. The Ranking List was part of the completed Consolidated Application, which was completed by DHS as the Collaborative Applicant, approved by the HAB and posted online.

3. Infrastructure Organization Report—Abby Horn

Abby Horn provided the following updates from DHS:

- The CoC's 2017 NOFA application was being finalized for submission ahead of the September 28, 2017 deadline. DHS is the designated Collaborative Applicant, and the CoC Application was being put in for almost \$19 million, including applying for over \$1 million in bonus funding for existing projects.
- On November 13, 2017, there will be a shelter training by Iain DeJong of OrgCode. All shelters have been invited to bring as many staffers as they like. DHS is sharing the CoC's shelter data with Mr. DeJong so he can fine tune the training to our community experiences and needs. The intent is to create a community of proactive for shelters out of this training.
- Program monitoring for the year is now complete. DHS now has a full-time data monitor, Jess McKown, to meet with providers and provide assistance. DHS is also in the process of hiring a third program monitor.
- A single shelter pilot has been created so that the shelters can take walk-ins without having to go through coordinated entry. The intent of this pilot is to review the timing and access process for entering these shelters. The downside to this is that not everyone in shelter has been assessed by the Link.
- Winter Shelter will be run with Mercy starting on November 15, 2017 and continuing through March 15, 2017. DHS will be issuing a new RFP this fall for a new year-round shelter to replace the Winter Shelter.
- DHS has kicked off an initiative to end youth homelessness, led by Chuck Keenan.

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4. Committee Updates

CoC Analysis and Planning—Amy Snider

The Committee is focused on a few key initiatives currently, including: developing a community satisfaction survey to be used across homeless services; discussing potential performance measures for street outreach; and reviewing the Performance Outcome Evaluation Tool from 2017, in order to update it for use to rank projects for the 2018 NOFA.

Communication and Education—Peter Harvey

Peter Harvey spoke to a few events the Committee was engaged in, including hosting a tent during Open Streets in July to raise awareness, and participating in Asking For Change, More than Coins campaign, an effort with the Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership and Downtown Pittsburgh Ministerium seeking “to change attitudes towards our less fortunate neighbors and support those in need.” The Committee is also working on a project that pairs local comic artists with homeless individuals to animate their stories.

Ms. Horn noted that it would be beneficial to send the HAB reminders for future Committee events, and Ms. Downing requested that the Committee consider documenting their larger communication and outreach strategy.

HOCC, Chris Roach

Chris Roach reported on the multiple engagement efforts underway by the HOCC:

- Working across the judicial system, including police, courts, jails, hospital administrators and Coordinated Entry to identify people who have been involved in services more than three times in the past year and discuss the intersect of needs and issues presenting.
- Narrow focus onto the most underserved populations in order to provide targeted support; currently exploring a focus on people at risk of trafficking.
- Additionally, focusing attention in particular areas outside City of Pittsburgh; currently working with Mon Valley to assess gaps in homeless services in that area.
- Collaboration with law enforcement has been growing, and there is a good presence in the Committee, particularly specialists from narcotics, arson, and human trafficking. Anna Kudrav also spoke to the needed collaboration for reducing street homelessness and cited increased utilization of BigBurgh by law enforcement.

5. Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness—Jane Downing

Ms. Downing asked for the HAB’s consideration around two inter-related issues: operationalizing the plan and supporting necessary coordination to implement the plan. She cited Housing Innovations recommendation to use a collective impact model that helps coordinate activities and encouraged the HAB to actionably plan activities in a manner that goes beyond DHS responsibility. Regarding the strategic initiatives outlined in the plan, the group will seek regular updates as follows: low-barrier year-round shelter (Abby Horn), central housing navigator (Abby Horn), partnerships to support implementation of responsibilities under ESSA (Joe Lagana), increase supply and access to affordable housing (Chuck Keenan), increase and expand outreach (Chris Roach), and broader dissemination of information on homeless system (Sean DeYoung).

Additionally, the HAB discussed coordinating across the many activities and groups working around homelessness. Ms. Downing shared potential options, including:

- Annual or semi-annual summit

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- Add affiliate groups to HAB structure as Committees
- Add a Coordination Committee to work specifically with affiliates
- Receive updates at HAB meetings from these groups

Some HAB members voiced support for having groups participate in conversations at scheduled HAB meetings to coordinated goals and needs for the coming year. The sentiment was shared that this type of coordination may be more effective than bringing groups in as Committees under the HAB, however Ms. Downing expressed that by making groups HAB Committees there would be more ongoing and formal communication and co-planning.

6. Governance—Jane Downing

Ms. Downing explained that the annual review of the Governance Charter would be initiated in November and that suggestion would be welcome for discussion at the November 28th meeting. One area of consideration that the Executive Committee has been discussing in clarification on conflict of interest for HAB members, particularly around the HAB's responsibility to plan and oversee the direction of the CoC which impacts the delivery of services and funding decisions. These discussions also connect to the recommendation from the Ad Hoc Provider Committee to have providers elect a Provider Representative each year. In fully considering the recommendation the Executive Committee has been exploring service providers participation as HAB members and has discussed three options: (1) no providers serving; (2) providers electing a representative each year, for a total of three provider representatives; or (3) maintaining the current process in which providers are selected to the HAB through the open nomination process. The option to have no providers serve would remove potential conflict of interest issues, however both this option and the option to have providers elect representatives substantially limits the scope of provider representation on the HAB. Keeping the current system helps achieve participation from the across the homeless spectrum, but requires careful consideration of conflict of interest.

HAB members favored maintaining the current system.

7. Public Comment

- Mr. Roach reminded attendees that Stand Down was taking place on November 18, 2017 at Stage AE.
- Ms. Snider thanked DHS and staff for their work on the CoC NOFA Application.
- Terri Laver announced that there would be trainings on October 19 and November 8, 2017 regarding updated APR process.

Next CoC Meeting

Tuesday, November 28, 2017
10:00 AM to 12:00 PM
Human Services Building
One Smithfield Street, Pittsburgh