

Allegheny County Homeless Advisory Board

CoC Bi-Monthly Meeting

November 28, 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 Members*

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

Guest Attendees

Carla Adams, Women's Center & Shelter	T Krepp, OSN
Envoy John Barnett, Salvation Army	Terri Laver, DHS
Andrea Bustos, DHS	Jessica McKown, DHS
Liz Daniels-Totten, City of Pgh	Stephanie Meyer, DHS
Laura Drogoski, City of Pgh	Danielle Minty, CHS
Judy Eakin, HEARTH	Janice Palucis, DHS
Rob Eamigh, DHS	Mary Parks, Sisters Place
Joe Elliott, DHS	Leah Rainey, DHS
Andy Halfhill, DHS	Richard Rapp
Nancy Heastings	Gretchen Rectenwald, YWCA
Rachael Herbert, Solider On	Kelly Russell, City of Pgh
Knowledge Hudson, HACP	Barb Smith, HEARTH
Diane Johnson, DHS	Sally Stadelman, Mayor's Office
Chuck Keenan, DHS	Lisa Trunick, Familylinks
Lisa Kessler, DHS	Caroline Woodward, Bethlehem Haven

* (P) indicates that the HAB member participated in the meeting.

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Minutes

1. Welcome & Review of Meeting Minutes—John Lovelace

- September 2017 Meeting Minutes were approved pending a correction to the CoC Analysis and Planning Committee report (Section IV) to state that the 2017 Performance Outcome Evaluation Tool was being reviewed for updates in preparation for ranking projects in the 2018 NOFA.

2. 2018 HAB Nomination Process—John Lovelace

Mr. Lovelace reminded meeting attendees that an Ad Hoc Provider Committee was convened in 2016 to explore recommendations for supporting the coordination/collaboration of homeless service providers and the HAB. Linda Kilderry agreed to Chair that Committee, which put forth a set of recommendations, including the election of a Provider Representative on the HAB. This proposal was discussed during the September meeting, and was being raised for a HAB vote. He then opened the floor for public comment.

Sister Mary Parks provided comment, referencing her previously submitted letter, and summarizing that the current HAB structure feels like “taxation without representation.” She voiced recognition that the HAB currently has members who are part of provider agencies, but expressed that these members do not serve as representatives of providers because they are not positioned in a manner to gather provider input and then put forward those positions. As such, these members are not provider representatives, but rather are individuals who happen to be providers. As such, the group was recommending a “provider representative” who could talk with providers, capture their input, and present that perspective to the HAB. Such a Representative would not only put forward concerns, but also be able to capture the experiences from across the continuum and share those. She shared that this position would also help encourage provider engagement across the continuum, regardless of provider size or service scope.

The HAB then discussed the proposal, including the following:

- There was disagreement pertaining to the level of involvement of HAB members who are service providers in the Ad Hoc Committee. Ms. Kilderry noted that the involvement was incredibly low, and other HAB members argued their agencies were represented, they felt unwelcome, or they choose not to continue attending because the work of the group seemed completed (i.e., as an Ad Hoc Committee, once the recommendations were put forward, the charge was fulfilled). Chris Roach reported that while he was only able to attend one meeting, he has always approached his role on the HAB as representing the needs of the CoC as a whole, and that he is always open to working with other providers, discussing ideas, and presenting their perspectives. Ms. Kilderry responded that the commitment to coordinate with other providers requires the time of a designated representative.
- Also discussed was the role of a Provider Committee. Amy Snider questioned why the existing Committees could not capture the perspective of providers, as those Committees cover essential topics to the CoC and are open to CoC members, so by participating in them any member’s perspectives can have a role in shaping ideas for the entire continuum. Ms. Kilderry responded that each Committee is already tasked with specific activities and to incorporate capturing the provider voice could take them off task. Adrienne Walnoha noted that, historically, the CoC did have a Service Committee, which could be an important piece missing from the current Committee structure and a role for providers.
- Abby Horn asked for clarification on how the election of the Representative would occur, and Ms. Kilderry noted that specifics were not discussed but the intent would be to have each homeless service provider have one vote, which would be collected via an online survey platform.

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Ms. Kilderry put forward the motion to have a committee of providers elect one representative to the HAB annually. The motion passed.

The HAB then discussed establishing a standing Provider Committee, open to any homeless provider in the CoC as well as CoC members. Potential focus areas for such a committee could include: electing a representative, gaps in system, collaboration, trainings.

Mr. Lovelace motioned to amend the Governance Charter to include a standing committee open to all homeless provider in the CoC, with the expectation that if the motion passes the Ad Hoc Committee will develop a charter. The motion passed.

Mr. Lovelace then reminded attendees that the annual nomination period for HAB membership was ending at COB. He reminded HAB members that there is a level of participation expectation, and for any current members who were not fulfilling that benchmark a discussion of future participation would be merited. He also noted that the Officers' current terms were ending in January, and there would be a vote for Officers. Mr. Lovelace and Jane Downing are interested in a second term as Chair and Secretary, respectively, but others are welcome to seek participation in those roles. Ms. Walnoha is stepping down, and the role of Vice Chair will be open. Any HAB members who are interested in one of those positions should contact Hilary Scherer.

3. Governance Charter Annual Review—John Lovelace

As part of the annual review process, a series of recommendations were drafted for updating the Governance Charter. These recommendations were received through public comment, as well as HAB and IO review. Mr. Lovelace requested that any additional suggestions be shared with Hilary Scherer before the end of the month. The HAB Executive Committee would draft changes, to be voted on by the HAB at the January meeting.

4. Infrastructure Organization Update—Abby Horn

Ms. Horn provided the following updates from DHS:

- On November 13, 2017, a shelter training day was held with Iain De Jong, President and CEO of OrgCode. Shelter staff reported finding it useful and DHS would be working with interested shelters to implement some of the recommendations.
- The Winter Shelter opened November 15, 2017, and will be open through March 15, 2018.
- Homes Within Reach conference is scheduled for the first week in December and Allegheny County will be well represented on panels.
- The Supportive Service Fund is a collection of funding from various Foundations, and has historically provided a competitive pool of funds for match for HUD contracts. Now the funds can continue to be used for match, but really looking at a strategic use of the funds to put towards initiatives around client improvement. Thirty-two applications were received, and a selection committee will be reviewing them in mid-December.
- The quarterly provider meeting is December 15, 2017.
- RRH Community of Practice meets regularly, and DHS is now looking for peer sharing opportunities for permanent housing.
- A potential site visit to Cleveland is being looked into, and would include both ESG and DHS staff and potentially some providers. This would be a single day trip to see how they design RRH programs and integrated them in their system.
- RFP for the 24/7 low barrier shelter has been released and proposals are due December 21, 2017. This shelter would replace the winter shelter and would operate year-round.

5. Committee Updates

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CoC Analysis and Planning Committee—Amy Snider

Kelly Russell, Senior Planner/Labor Compliance Officer at the City of Pittsburgh Office of Management and Budget, has been appointed the interim CoC Co-Chair of the Committee.

Communication and Education—Sean DeYoung

Moving forward, the Committee will spend some time drafting a communication plan as part of the Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness. Otherwise, the group has been continuing community events and communication efforts to raise awareness. The Committee's website (onedayaway.info) continues to grow, and includes a question and answer blog that Mr. DeYoung encourages CoC members to look at. Currently, the group is also working on organizing a walk leading up to the vigil on December 21, 2017.

HOCC—Chris Roach

Mr. Roach updated meeting attendees on the work of the HOCC's three workgroups:

- **Vulnerable Populations:** Working on identifying needs of, and ways to effectively serve, women, LGBTQ, and youth. Fidelia Renne, the HOCC's Co-Chair, is coordinating an education session that is scheduled for December 8, 2017 at Carlow University and is focused on identifying and addressing victimization of people on the street. The session will include local expert speakers, and the intent is to use the event as a catalyst for collecting ideas and moving forward on planning to serve those living on the street.
- **Judicial:** Working on data collection to understand the need. Coordinating with Pittsburgh Police, Paramedics, Hospitals, and DHS around data collection. The intent of the workgroup broadly is to address the revolving door of clients by better understanding their needs.
- **Outskirt Communities:** Currently focusing on the Mon Valley, the workgroup is spending time in the area and seeking to understand what services, providers, and gaps exist.

6. Ending Veteran Homelessness—Marlon Ferguson

Marlon Ferguson reported that a week prior to the CoC/HAB meeting, Allegheny County, City of Pittsburgh, and the HUD Regional Director convened to announce that we have effectively ended veteran's homelessness. He expressed that the announcement is a culmination of a lot of effort. In May 2014, USICH, HUD, the VA, Allegheny County Housing Authority, City of Pittsburgh Housing Authority, Pittsburgh Mercy, Shepherd's Heart, Solider On, United Way, Veterans Place, and Veterans Leadership Program came together and convened the Veterans Boot Camp with the goal of making veteran homelessness rare, brief and non-recurring. In 2015, the Boot Camp created a by-name list of veterans experiencing homelessness. At the start, there were 587 veterans identified, and now there are four that are unsheltered. Additionally, a rapid response system is now in place, so that when a veteran is identified, care can be provided to make it rare, brief and non-recurring. While veteran homelessness in the county has been greatly reduced, Mr. Ferguson cautioned that the CoC not get complacent in the naming of it as "effectively ended". Veteran homelessness is something that will need to be continuously worked on, and there needs to be constant vigilance to address homelessness on an ongoing basis.

7. Ending Youth Homelessness—Chuck Keenan, Lisa Kessler

Building off the experience and success of the Veteran Boot Camp, Chuck Keenan spoke about the current initiative to effectively end youth homelessness. A kick-off meeting was held in August 2017 that brought together youth community leaders. As part of the effort, a system map was developed to explain the flow through the homeless system for youth in 2016. Lisa Kessler presented the system map:

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- During calendar year 2016, there were 260 unique youth who entered into a housing program, with 321 service involvement entries (with some youth entering more than once)
 - About 46% of involvements came from a doubled-up situation
 - About $\frac{3}{4}$ went shelter (73%)
 - 28% of involvements came from homeless
 - About $\frac{1}{2}$ went shelter (43%)
 - 61% of entries went to emergency shelter, 26% went to bridge/transitional housing; of those:
 - 47% exited to a permanent destination
 - 65% to rental/owned
 - 27% were missing
 - 82% from shelter
 - 26% exited to non-permanent
 - $\frac{3}{4}$ of bridge/transitional were to permanent
 - 31% of shelter to permanent

Mr. Keenan then described the efforts underway to end youth homelessness. He noted that a by-name list was created, capturing anyone between the ages of 18 and 24 (including families with children) who are enrolled in shelter, street outreach, or transitional housing, or who are otherwise known to be homeless but are not in HMIS (e.g. those in domestic violence programs). To be removed from the list a person would need to enter permanent housing, or there needs to have been no contact for more than 90 days. Youth on the list who then turn 25 will remain on the list until housed (i.e., they are not closed for “aging out”). As such, the intent is to close the loop on all individuals/households on the list. The list was started on May 1, 2017. Since that time, 87 youth are active on the list and 64 have found permanent housing. Of the 87 on the list, 26 are currently enrolled in RRH or PSH but are waiting for placement; 23 are in transitional or bridge housing. Included on the list are 18 families with children, and 13 youth that are from street outreach.

- Through discussion it was clarified that the list is not specific to unaccompanied youth, which is a specific population tracked for HUD. The list includes unaccompanied youth (and as such, reporting can happen as needed for HUD), as well as partnered youth and youth with children.
- Discussion also clarified that the manager of Independent Living services participates in the bi-weekly case conferencing to help facilitate the bridge between child welfare and the homeless services.

To work through the list, case conferencing occurs every other week. The group of youth stakeholders not only work on responding to the needs of the youth on the list, but also develop new models, such as Host Homes, which would supplement the emergency shelter system.

Moving forward, the group would like to improve data analysis and benchmarking, including developing a dashboard that can be utilized to review and track outcomes, and help identify patterns. Part of the goal of improved data analysis capabilities would be to understand feeder systems leading to homelessness so that work can be done to stop cycles.

8. Community Strategic Plan—Jane Downing

Jane Downing noted that there has been movement across Strategic Plan recommendations. The following updated were provided:

- *Housing Navigator*: Communication is occurring with the Housing Alliance of Pennsylvania around landlord engagement, and the utilization of a centralized housing navigator. Currently the intent is to use the navigator in a concerted way by focusing on clients enrolled in RRH and PH and finding them placements. As an initial step, one

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idea is to have a single person serving as a support to match clients who have had particularly strong issues with finding housing to pre-identified landlords. Such a person would not work directly with clients, but would be a support to the case manager.

- *Access to Affordable Housing:* The 811 Program provides vouchers for Allegheny County and City of Pittsburgh Housing Authorities, prioritizing persons with disabilities and includes a second priority for those who are homeless. Additionally, the State is looking at options around the Local Lead Agency and set asides around the income tax credit.
- *School Support:* Efforts are underway to build on the existing relationships with schools. There are 43 school districts in Allegheny County and work is happening to try to further connections. One area of focus has been around coordinating transportation, as each district has their own transportation system. About 4 years ago the Buhl Foundation invested in a study with the Homeless Children's Education Fund to try to find ways to make better use of transportation costs and economize. As costs for transportation continue to rise, and the need to support homeless children in staying at the appropriate school continues, the intent is to again explore options for implementing the proposal for transportation coordination across districts.

9. Public Comment

- The annual vigil in honor of individuals who died on the street is scheduled for December 21, 2017 at 7pm. The vigil will take place at Grant and Fort Pitt Blvd, and recognize the six deaths from 2017, as well as 11 people closely connected.
- Mr. Lovelace thanked Adrienne Walnoha and Linda Kilderry for their service on the HAB.

Next CoC Meeting

Tuesday, March 27, 2018—10:00 AM to 12:00 PM
Human Services Building One Smithfield Street, Pittsburgh