

# **CoC Bi-Monthly Meeting**

September 25, 2018 10:00AM to 12:00PM

1 Smithfield St

Pittsburgh, PA 15212

**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<sup>1</sup>**

Frank Aggazio	Jane Downing (P)	John Lovelace
Meg Balsamico	Laura Drogowski	Christy Pietryga (P)
Caster Binion	Amber Farr (P)	Lenny Prewitt
Jerry Cafardi (P)	Pete Giacalone (P)	Richard Rapp
Cassa Collinge (P)	Abigail Horn (P)	Chris Roach (P)
Tom Cummings (P)	Anna Kudrav (P)	Bethany Wingerson (P)
Sean DeYoung (P)	Joe Lagana (P)	Kellie Wild (P)

## **Guest Attendees**

Andrea Bustos, DHS	Lisa Kessler, DHS
Brendon Coticchia, City of Pgh	Tammie Krepp, Sister's Place
Rob Eamigh, DHS	Jessica McKown, DHS
Melissa Ferraro, Sisters Place	Aaron Mickens, Three Rivers Youth
Garletta Germany, DHS	Emil Pyptyk, DHS
Lorita Gillespie, BigBurgh	Trish Romano, CHS
Kate Holko, DHS	Kelly Russell, City of Pgh
Diane Johnson, DHS	Sally Stadelman, City of Pgh
Chuck Keenan, DHS	Caroline Woodward, Bethlehem Haven

## **Minutes**

### **1. Welcome & Introductions—Chris Roach**

- Marlon Ferguson stepped down due to other commitments; the HAB Executive thought carefully about veteran voice, and asked Christine (Christy) Pietryga to join the board. Christy has had a leadership role in the successful efforts to end veteran's homelessness, and the regular case conferencing around veteran's experiencing homelessness.

### **2. Annual Process Review—Chris Roach**

#### Annual HAB Membership Period

- The annual membership nomination period will be starting by November, with nominations due to John Lovelace by the November meeting (November 27th).
- The Nomination Form will be emailed to the full CoC and posted on the website
- Any current HAB members whose first time is ending will be able to submit a nomination to serve a second term (of 3 years)
- (Sean DeYoung, Jane Downing, Anna Kudrav, Joe Lagana, John Lovelace, Amber Farr)
- Additionally, anyone who is not currently on the HAB but is interested in serving will be invited to submit a nomination at this time.
- The Provider Committee will be electing their second (of three) representative in October, and that representative will serve on the HAB along with Kellie Wild.

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<sup>1</sup> (P) indicates HAB members who were present for the meeting.

## Governance Charter Review

A public comment period will be open before the November 27th HAB meeting for comment on the Governance Charter.

Proposed updates will be discussed during the November meeting, then the HAB Executive will review and make adjustments in advance of the January 2019 meeting.

The HAB will vote on final revisions at the January 2019 meeting.

### 3. Committee Updates

#### **CoC Analysis and Planning Committee—Pete Giacalone**

- The Committee had been reviewing and discussing: satisfaction survey results and information to integrate satisfaction performance into the annual review and ranking tool; performance management planning for the system and individual providers; and the quarterly system scorecard.

#### **Communication and Education Committee—Sean DeYoung**

- Sean DeYoung highlighted two partnerships established within the Committee, including BigBurgh now being involved in the group, and a collaboration with Dr. Robert McInerney, of Point Park University, doing ongoing advocate ethnography and community-based, participatory action research.
  - A panel discussion is scheduled for Friday, November 2, 2018.
- The Committee is continuing to plan the Awareness Walk, which will lead up to the annual vigil.

#### **HOCC—Chris Roach**

- The External Communities Workgroup is one year in, and the HOCC is looking to continue the focus on the Mon Valley for another year in order to continue building the partnership with providers in the region, before potentially identifying another community to engage with.
  - On Friday, September 21, 2018 a forum was held to convene local providers around navigating the homeless system. The event drew approximately 50 participants, including representatives from hospitals, the faith community, government, and local organizations.
- Risk of Exploitation Workgroup spent the past year collecting information and education resources for outreach workers and is working on creating a document for outreach workers who support people who have experienced sexual violence. The document is intended to provide guidance for workers on how to work appropriately with this population. In conjunction, the group is considering yearly training guidance.
- Judicial Systems Workgroup is organizing its meeting around gaining understanding of the judicial system for outreach workers. In October, JRS will be attending, followed by the Jail Collaborative in November. The group is also working with the Public Defender's Office to identify key questions that could help connect the organizations/systems working with people who are coming before the courts.

#### **Provider Committee—Kellie Wild**

- Through October and November the Provider Committee will be electing the next provider representative.

### 4. Infrastructure Organization Update—Abby Horn

Abby Horn provided the following updates from DHS:

- The HUD 2018 NOFA was submitted on Tuesday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, including over \$17

million for renewal projects, over \$2 million for reallocated and bonus projects, and about \$600,000 for planning grant and the UFA budget grant. The CoC's UFA status will begin with the start of the new grant cycle from this application. Ms. Horn noted that the final application is posted on the CoC webpage, and that a review of the application provides a very good understanding of the CoC, as well as the interests of HUD.

- Federal Home Loan Bank of Pittsburgh (FHLBank Pittsburgh) and Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency (PHFA) have come together around a collaborative initiative called Home4Good. Home4Good will provide 12-month grants to projects aiming to address systemic gaps in support and services and help make homelessness in the Commonwealth rare, brief and non-recurring. In order to support a selection of projects that respond best to the needs of the local community, FHLBank and PHFA asked the local Continuum of Care (CoC) to initially receive all proposals from within the CoC and rank them based on local priorities. We convened a diverse review committee that reviewed the proposals and ranked them. All proposals will be submitted to PHFA, along with rationale for the CoC's ranking. FHLBank and PHFA will make the final award decisions and contract directly with the selected projects.
- Following up from the July meeting, Ms. Horn reported progress on the planning of "dynamic prioritization", specifically speaking to adjusting the VI-SPDAT score ranges to allow for an overlap between the scores that land on the low end of the PSH range and those that land on the high end of the RRH range so that those with low PSH scores can be offered RRH, instead of waiting for PSH services. In addition to implementing this score shift at the start of November, the clients who score in the PSH range but are placed in RRH so they can be housed faster, will be supported through progressive engagement which will enable the system to respond to their needs as they are served. In particular this means that there will be reassessment periods to determine if a move up to PSH is necessary or if the supports provided through RRH are serving the household well for their needs.

## **5. Ending Youth Homelessness—Chuck Keenan**

Chuck Keenan provided an update on the effort to end youth homelessness in Allegheny County. He noted that the process has been set up to reflect the successes and lessons learned from the effort to end veteran homelessness, sharing the following updates:

- The effort is built around a master list and regular (bi-weekly) case conferencing. The list is established through HMIS and tracks each youth from beginning of homelessness through permanent housing placement. During each case conferencing meeting, the group reviews the youth that are currently homeless, with the list capturing information such as: current housing status, gender, race, start date of homelessness, program involvement, referrals received, and destination at exit from homeless system. The names are also run against the County's Data Warehouse, which can provide information regarding any dependents, and involvement with other systems, including CYF, MH, JPO and D&A.
- When the list was initiated last year it included approximately 80 youth currently experiencing homelessness; that number is down to 56.
- A dashboard has also be developed, utilizing data from the list and HMIS, to track progress:
  - On average, youth on list are homeless for 98 days—the HUD target is below 90
  - Currently, 41 youth flow into the system every three months, while 53 resolve in that time period—the HUD target is to have a lower inflow than outflow
  - When reviewing cross-system involvement: 60% have received mental health services; 10% are currently parenting; 42% have been involved in CYF for themselves; 28% have been involved with JPO; and 23% have been involved with D&A system. DHS is looking at these systems upstream to see if we can prevent homeless episodes occurring later in life.
- A Youth Action Board was established and meets weekly; the purpose is for youth to guide

system improvements.

- In speaking to challenges, Mr. Keenan shared:
  - USICH has ambiguous language on counts—required to count those who are experiencing homelessness based on the HUD definition of literal homelessness, however there is also expectations to capture homelessness under other definitions, such as those for Education, which includes doubled-up. Additionally, definitions varies around how to categories youth in terms of youth who are single, those who are parenting, and those who are homeless but with their guardian.
  - There have been a number of very complicated cases—for example, youth with mental health diagnoses and the inability for shelters to respond to their needs because they are ill-equipped.

## **6. Provider Spotlight Discussion**

Starting in July 2018, the HAB was seeking to include a “Provider Spotlight” in each of its meetings. The intention being to hear directly from a service provider about the work they are doing, as well as highlight any considerations they’d like to share from recent experiences (e.g., something that has worked particularly well, a significant barrier, updates to services or processes, and/or a client experience that is meaningful to share). These presentations were intended to be opportunities for HAB and CoC members to become more aware of the programs within the Continuum and utilize direct experiences in the ongoing planning of the CoC. Additionally, the HAB feels this is a meaningful opportunity to showcase the agencies that are directly providing services and making a difference in our community.

Through unique circumstances, the first two meetings where the spotlight was intended to be implemented resulted in cancellations from the providers. As such, the IO sought guidance from the HAB as to the desire to try to continue this series. The HAB agreed the purpose was meaningful and suggested the invitation to providers to present be clearly formal, and that a backup presenter be identified for each agency presenting.

## **7. Public Comment**

- A Monitoring Debrief will be held on October 26, 2018 and all providers are invited. The debrief will include a review of the collective information gathered over the course of the 2018 monitoring season.
- Veterans Leadership Program thanked all CoC members for another successful Stand Down event, which included 66 providers and served 250 participants.

### **Next CoC Meeting**

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