



## Housing Work Group Minutes

February 15, 2017

9am-11am

1000 E. 11<sup>th</sup> Street, Austin, TX

4<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room

Co-Chairs: Sandra Chavez (ASA) & Jim Ward (Caritas of Austin)

Present: Abby Tatkow (ECHO), Niki Paul (ECHO), Chelsea Townsend (ECHO), Bree Williams (ECHO), Sandra Chavez (ASA), Catherine Williams (VA), Whitney Bright (Goodwill), Allison Shurr (Saint Louise House), Chris Laguna (ATCIC), Jim Ward (Caritas), Preston Petty (ECHO), Haggai Eshed (Front Steps), Greg McCormick (Front Steps), Marilyn Hartman (NAMI), Katie Rose (ECHO), Allison Rottenburg (Goodwill), Tasha Ponzek (Austin Public Health), Lourdes Flores (TRLA), Erin Goodison (Safeplace), Serena Cardoso (ATCIC), Elizabeth Gillespie (Seton)

9:00-9:10 Welcome and Introductions

9:10-9:55 Task Group Updates

Co-Chairs

- Housing Specialist/Landlord Outreach Committee-
  - Discussing changes to format of group- did survey of skills most helpful for attendees. Bree and Abby doing more one on one trainings for individual skill building and looking at moving towards one on one LOS training instead of continuing the workgroup. Better format for updates might be a newsletter and housing resources can be brought to Thursday staffing.
  - Dissolving LOS task group as it is now and addressing skill sets for specific LOS in community- meeting with those "job title" LOS individuals and focusing on building their skills
  - Going forward, programs will flag clients in Thursday staffing that have an LOS issue and use that info to inform next steps
  - Concerns: For organizations with no dedicated LOS, is there opportunities for a CM who is not an LOS but does do housing location? Avenue for decision making with other housing location specialists?
    - The LOS specific group would continue to do decision making.
  - Question: All the initial goals for this original task group have come to life, so what's next for this group?
    - Need to reconfigure meeting structure to make it most effective for everyone's time.
    - Caution to keep connected to the community, esp. to those agencies that don't have an LOS- How can ECHO support programs getting more dedicated LOS
  - Will communicate this change broadly
- Austin Homeless Veterans Initiative
  - VASH RFP new deadline of March 24<sup>th</sup>; Great opportunity for community for project-based, housing first VASH; Up to 75 in community; Benefits to landlords; Each voucher tied to VA, but can be creative in how the supportive service is provided; 25 of these coming to Oak Springs
  - VA's hiring is no longer frozen
  - USICH updates- some formulas have switched
  - Austin was recognized at SSVF launch meeting in Denver- Greg and Megan Podowski represented
- Ending Youth Homelessness

- Youth demonstration grant- still waiting to hear from HUD on documents, timeline and outcome expected; Have until mid-June to develop draft of coordinated community plan to prevent and end youth homelessness; Held wrap-up of 100 day challenge and launch of demonstration
- Demonstration is 2.5 year process. Charged to develop and get HUD approval before moving forward; Next week is NA Youth conference- Ashlyn presenting; best practices for youth; Advisory council working together with true colors fund- they have informed much of 100 day work and recipients of demonstration grant; Technical support through CSH
- PSH Committee
  - Discussed sub-pop preference and original vet preference; talked in depth about outreach and navigation P&Ps- will talk more about these today

9:55-10:15 Healthy Communities Collaborative Update Chris Laguna, ATCIC

- 25 VASH vouchers coming to Oak Springs, application for other 25 is in; groundbreaking for end of April 2018; late spring to summer of 2018 will be open for occupancy; Serena is new RRH lead- structure changes w/in RRH at ATCIC; Counselor and intake position at ATCIC- community based intakes for MH services- incorporate into Thursday staffings with navigation- more efficient; Capacity to take new clients has increased again
- CF! up to 85 residents; meeting last week with Allen and Trisha- they expressed continued commitment to population and plans for expansion.
- Communities for Recovery is strong out at CF!; want to increase their presence in the larger collaborative- provide peer-led substance use and MH support; want to bring this to the table- especially for youth
- Local SOAR lead is part of ATCIC- she's had national exposure advocating for more capacity in Austin; FS just hired someone to do SOAR
- Continuing work with CA- organizing at jail; Picking up and following high vulnerability clients from jail to release; working on getting CA into hospital

10:15-10:45 Coordinated Assessment Updates Preston Petty, ECHO

- Ongoing Veteran Preference & "Tie-breaker" Policies and Procedures
  - Choosing which client comes next within scores depends on these tiebreakers; Original veteran preference trumps vulnerability for RRH and PSH; Request for research into shifting veteran preference to even preference with other populations. There is no significant downside (system-wide or client-wide) to putting veterans on same playing field with other populations.
  - Proposal to prioritize chronic, vulnerability, over vet preference.
    - Veteran only breaks tie within scores now
  - Biggest move is that veteran preference was made for backlog of veterans originally; Now that we have several benchmarks to hit- it makes more sense to put on even field with other subpopulations.
  - Question about prioritizing youth over vets within tie breakers
    - \$5.2M grant to create youth dedicated housing- which is something we didn't have for Veterans
  - **Vote for vulnerability coming first before veteran status- Approved**
  - Can talk about youth preference on Friday
  - 4 subpopulations: Vets- active duty, chronic, families with minor children, unaccompanied youth
    - The group agreed on a cumulative tiebreaker; If multiple subpopulations apply to one person/family- that household would go first.
- Navigation P&Ps
  - Traditionally, we know that next PSH opening goes to next client of highest vulnerability who is eligible; We found that for clients waiting a very long time- clients have disappeared, don't have docs, and are hard to find-

- PSH staff are starting outreach and engagement process too late in process when we could've started it on day one; we can do a better job of formalizing this
- **Navigation pilot** is adding a pre-referral opportunity. We know client is eligible for certain type of navigation (Case management) program, so the pilot will connect there first so that the client is already engaged and ready
  - Case manager attachment allows for client pre-engagement
  - Minimum services for navigation- This is essentially light case management with some specifics; informed consent for clients with program choice
  - Standardizing the grey area between CA and PSH referral
- Goal is to include Navigation training and standardized packet
- Question: Is there an MOU or community agreement for this? Timelines?
  - Agreement to participate and clarify expectations for handoff to PSH program
- Pilot will last one month.
  - Adding notes on having original docs versus copies of docs; updating chronic homelessness documentation prior to referral
  - Adding notes about warm pass from navigation to PSH program
  - Want to bring in other agencies who do different types of case management for navigation
- Proposal: Blessing to pilot steps for next 4 weeks, as we're pulling together training steps- informed by community and including navigation training module
  - ***Approved to move forward with navigation pilot***

10:45-11:00 Other Community Updates

Open

- TRLA- legal standpoint; worried about clients unable to care for their units. Because TRLA can't be social workers, who can they call on to help with this?
  - *Clients need support services- parking lot this issue*

Next Meeting Schedule: March 15, 9AM-11AM, NHCD, 1000 E. 11<sup>th</sup> Street, Austin, TX-4<sup>th</sup> Floor Training Room