



Housing Work Group

January 18, 2017

9am-11am

First United Methodist Church-Family Life Center

1300 Lavaca Street, Austin, TX 78701

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

Present: Preston Petty (ECHO), Eric Kunish (NAMI), Marilyn Hartman (NAMI), Dylan Shubitz (HACA), Chris Laguna (ATCIC), Liz Baker (ATCIC), Haggai Eshed (Front Steps), Lauren Avioli (NHCD), Katie Rose (ECHO), Chelsea Townsend (ECHO), Stephanie Green (Caritas), Abby Tatkow (ECHO), Vella Karman (City of Austin), Allison Rottenberg (Goodwill), Whitney Bright (Goodwill), Bree Williams (ECHO), Rick Rivera (TSA), Erin Clever (VA), Niki Paul (ECHO), Sandra Chavez (ASA), Allison Shurr (St. Louise House), Casey Cork (ECHO)

Agenda

9:00-9:10 Welcome and Introductions

- Welcome 2017 Co-Chairs-Sandra Chavez, ASA and Jim Ward, Caritas

9:10-9:55 Task Group Updates

Co-Chairs

- Housing Specialist/Landlord Outreach Committee
 - A few meetings have been cancelled, however at the last meeting the team brainstormed the resources and strategies used during the Veterans initiative and how that can be used or not used going forward, with a focus on landlords being the most valuable resource.
 - Looking into how to support new landlord outreach specialists, as well as how to best support teams that do not have a dedicated LOS.
- Austin Homeless Veterans Initiative
 - Community planning group meeting once per month. Staffing is continuing once per week.
 - SSVF renewals are due in early February. This year there was an opportunity for existing programs to be renewed, as well as a new program to be developed- for specific communities that the VA has selected. Travis County was eligible to apply.
 - Gaps and needs analysis was completed for Veterans specifically. The above grant would help fill those gaps that are currently being filled by non-Veteran programs.
 - Surge of housing placements at Bluebonnet property.
 - Functional zero was not being met while programs were waiting for Bluebonnet to open.
 - Deadline for project based VASH is this Friday.
- Ending Youth Homelessness
 - Accomplished and exceeded 100 day challenge goal. 53 youth housed by 100 days. Sustainability review met last week for a sustainability workshop and learn from this experience.
 - Travis County awarded \$5.2M for the HUD YHDP grant for planning and implementation. Plan will be approved by HUD and receive technical assistance throughout. Youth Advisory Council will inform the 6-month planning process. As a demonstration, the rest of the country will be learning from our lessons and trials.

- Early February, a group of stakeholders will come together and start plotting out the planning process. The heart of this process is using the voices of youth with lived experiencing homeless to inform practices.
- At the state level, DFPS has signed a letter of agreement to participate.
- Suggestion to inquire about Covenant House model.
- PSH Committee
 - New way to target folks on the priority list to create pseudo PSH. If an individual at the top of the list is engaged with long term case management (ASO, ACT), and the next unit is not available any time soon, then we can pair that individual with a Homeless Preference Voucher.
 - Housing Navigation Day on Jan. 30th following the PIT Count. A few volunteers could be needed. Contact Katie Rose to get involved.
- CoC Community Staffing
 - See P& P below.

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

- Community First continues to expand. 3 move-ins per month. Communities for recovery visiting several times per week to meet individually and will start group sessions soon.
- CA being completed in jail, and taking steps to complete them in the hospitals as well.
- Integral Care prepping for two new hires, one for mobile intake and one for counseling.
- Developing a dedicated Rapid Rehousing Team. Collaborated with Lifeworks for some ESG funding.
- Oak Springs breaking ground this year following award of \$6M after tax credit sorted out. Roughly 25 units will go to Veterans.

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

- Outreach Policies and Procedures
 - Biggest shift is in communication. Shared link will go directly to Katie Rose rather than through email, phone, etc.
 - Initial attempts by program will be over the course of two weeks.
 - If a client is put on outreach, the program will have someone dedicated to respond to found clients within 24 hours or close of business the following day.
 - Concern that Policy 1-C (holding a resource for 30 days), will delay the housing for an available client. On the outreach side, the concern is that while some programs have very robust outreach, other programs do not- the 30-day policy will cover all programs.
 - ECHO has very limited capacity to assist with outreach and navigation outside of coordination and the scheduled Tuesday outreach time. Therefore, their ability to assist outreach prior to the 2-week mark.
 - Expressed concerns from programs that they are not utilizing the resources fast enough.
 - Suggestion to have outreach capacity reflect the PSH capacity per month. Ex: 15 openings: top 15 clients, and if one of those 15 is found, the next available PSH program accepts them. However, PSH openings are inconsistent and do not allow for this at this time.
 - Suggestion to bring this conversation to the PSH workgroup and send out responses via email.
 - Suggestion to ask the stakeholders to evaluate their case management capacity (if not a housing program), to see if they can dedicate roles to navigation to increase this capacity. Prepare and postpone for next month.
- Ongoing Veteran Preference & “Tie-breaker” Policies and Procedures

- Move to VI SPDAT 2 will increase the number of “ties”.
- Proposal to use subpopulations to break initial ties, but remove subpopulation reference.
- Outlined in the P&P’s.
- No consensus on whether to eliminate veteran preference. The group will revisit at next meeting. Consensus to choose tie breaker option C.

10:45-11:00 Other Community Updates

Open

- Proposal to meet once per month. Approved.

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