



Membership Council – Agenda
Wednesday, January 18, 2017
1:30PM-3:30PM

LifeWorks-East Multi-Purpose Room

Chair: Mayor Pro Tem Kathie Tovo, City of Austin

Co-Chair: Patrick Howard, Housing Authority for Travis County

Present: Katy Manganello, Niki Paul, Casey Cork, Ann Howard, Mariana Salazar, Preston Petty (ECHO Staff), Paul Cauduro (Austin Apt Association), Elizabeth Baker (ATCIC), Afton Cavanaugh (ECHO Board), Vella Karman (City of Austin), John Elford (Faith-Based Rep), Patrick Howard (HATC), Terri Sabella (Community Care), Sarah Cook (CCC-IDS), Kathleen Casey (ATCIC), Mandy DeMayo (Housing Works), Kathie Tovo (City Council), Lisa Garcia (HACA), Monica Keller (VA), Stephanie Hayden (NHCD), Julia Spann (Safe Alliance), Mike Cooper (Title Heritage), Susan McDowell (Lifeworks)

1:30-1:45PM Welcome and Introductions MPT K. Tovo and P. Howard

- Action: Approval of December 2016 Minutes
 - Motion to approve minutes as is by Patrick Howard. Second by Sarah Cook. Approved by consensus.

1:45-2:30PM Background & Current State of Homelessness Ann Howard, Staff

- Federal Policy Background
 - Overview of Continuum of Care and HEARTH Act (The Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing).
 - Overview of Coordinated Assessment (universal assessment process to connect people experiencing homelessness to housing programs and services).
 - Overview of Opening Doors Federal Strategic Plan- An outline of goals and guidelines to ending homelessness by 2020.
 - For Austin, these changes in HUD are reflected in less funding for shelter and services and more focus on housing (housing first and permanent supportive housing), as well as, focuses on priority groups like Veterans and Youth.
 - Leading these initiatives through data (HMIS- Homeless Management Information System). Used to assess needs and gaps in the community and system-wide performance. All CoC funded communities are required to use an HMIS system. A community is judge by its progress and improvements in performance as it did the year before.
- Current State of Ending Homelessness in Austin/Travis County
 - We saw an increase in PIT Count numbers from 2015 to 2016, however, throughout the course of a year, our community did not see much of an increase in unique users.
 - Overview of needs and gaps analysis- available at www.austinecho.org
 - The goal is to outperform in housing, the number of people entering the system- so that output is greater than input.

- Scaling up what works based on the success of the Veterans Initiative and Youth Challenge, overhaul shelter programs and increase navigation. Expand outreach and supportive services, and align federal, state, and local resources.
- Q&A Discussion
 - Question: What is the difference between the PIT Count population and the 3500 presented as a need?
 - The 3500 comes from Coordinated Assessment Data from individuals that enter the system and identify a need for housing assistance. The PIT number is, in essence, a pulse check.
 - Suggestion to look at each housing intervention separately and the programs, housing opportunities in each to come up with innovative solutions.
 - Suggestion to look at the supportive service agencies as a means for prevention.
 - Suggestion to look at prevention closer in terms of needs and assessments.
 - At this time ECHO's focus has been housing due to the limited resources and capacity to provide attention to other areas. However, other agencies are scaling up their efforts to gather data in this area.

2:30-3:10

Overview of Membership Council

ECHO Staff

- Review of Membership Council Roles and Responsibilities
 - Membership Council is a diverse group of stakeholders representing the Austin/Travis County Continuum of Care Decision Making Board Leadership.
 - This year has both voting council members and non-voting advisors at the table. The Youth Advisory Council will also inform the work of the YHDP (Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project).
 - Overview of ECHO-led committees: to be sent out to council.
 - ECHO is responsible for ensuring the support of efforts to end homelessness in Austin/Travis County, applying for and drawing down federal funding for the community, and managing the HMIS database. Membership Council will vote for/against ECHO to continue to be the lead agency for out CoC.
- Review 2017 Action Calendar
 - Calendar is dynamic and will guide the agendas going forward.
- January CoC Business
 - Review and Approve Coordinated Assessment policy updates (Sandra/Preston P)
 - Changes include explicit guidance to offer DV services and not deny services if DV services are not wanted, as well as, explicitly stated that programs with ROI restrictions will still adhere to HUD/CoC policies.
 - Family Assessments, Youth Assessments and updated VI-SPDAT Version Two to be adopted in new P&P. VI-SPDAT Version Two slightly lowers the threshold for PSH.
 - Use of subpopulations to break any "ties" with individuals and families with the same score. Clients with multiple subpopulations will also take priority.
 - For programs pulling more than one client at a time, clients do not need to be housed in order of priority.
 - Definitions of progressive engagement and bridging.
 - Motion to approve CA P&P as is by Julia Spann. Second by Michael Cooper. Approved by consensus.
- Conflict of interest policy presented along with disclosure of conflict of interest form. All need to be turned in by February.

3:10-3:25PM

Current Events and Announcements

Ann Howard, Staff

- 2016 Continuum of Care Awards Announced \$5.6M
 - Breakdown of funding presented in handout.

- Sam Woollard hired to support application process.
- 2016 Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) grant awarded \$5.2M
 - Strong application due to previous Youth Challenge and Voices of Youth Count.
 - Very competitive- 130 communities applied.
 - The demonstration is to end, as well as, prevent youth homelessness.
 - DFPS and Youth Advisory Council will be at the table in addition to technical assistance throughout the process.
- 2017 Point in Time Count Volunteers Needed- <http://austinecho.org/get-involved/2017-point-in-time-count/>
 - Still in need of about 50 volunteers in order to match last year's count.
 - Training is available online, though first-time volunteers are encouraged to do an in-person training.
 - HUD requires data to be submitted by April. ECHO will release ballpark numbers hopefully within a week after the count.

3:25-3:30PM What's Next:

- YHDP Advisory Council and 100 Day Challenge
- 2017 Meeting Schedule: Full schedule will be shared when all meeting locations are secured.

3:30PM Adjourn

Next Membership Council Meeting: February 15, 2017, 2PM-4PM, LifeWorks East Multipurpose Room- 835 N. Pleasant Valley Rd, Austin, TX