



## Local Policy & Practice Committee

1/15/2019 | 9:00AM-11:00AM

ECHO Training Room  
300 E. Highland Mall Blvd, Suite 200

<b>Co-Chairs</b>	<p>Chris Laguna Integral Care Christine.laguna@integralcare.org 512-804-3277</p>	<p>Dylan Shubitz HACA dylans@hacanet.org 512-767-7621</p>
------------------	--	---

**Attendees** Hannah Cweigenberg (Back on my Feet); Scott Merritt (Back on My Feet); Sylvia Garrett (FFH); Taryn Davis (Front Steps); Jason Phillips (Caritas); Jenn Mishler (Caritas); Chris Laguna (Integral Care); Dylan Shubitz (HACA); Natasha P Shoemake (COA APH); Rick Rivera (TSA); Eric Kunish (NAMI); Marilyn Hartman (NAMI Austin); Laura Enderle (APH); Greg McCormack (Front Steps); Karen Dorrier (Integral Care); Ruth Ahearn (Integral Care); Dylan Juza (ECHO/THN VISTA); Rachel Hampton (Goodwill); August Weems (Front Steps); Mamadou Balde (ASA); Erin Goodison (SAFE)

### Agenda

<b>9:00-9:10AM</b>	<p><b>Welcome &amp; Introductions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Action Item: Approve December Minutes</i></li> <li>• <i>Reminder: PIT Volunteering</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coming up on the 26<sup>th</sup>. General volunteers still needed.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<b>Co-Chairs</b>
<b>9:10-9:20AM</b>	<p><b>Membership Council Updates</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• December/January Actions Taken: General timeline for appeals process revision approved. Council has expanded to include two positions with lived experience of homelessness. Chris Laguna will be asking Membership Council for a standing agenda item to update the Council on what this committee is working on (and what potentially would like the Council to discuss).</li> <li>• February Voting Items</li> </ul>	<b>Co-Chairs</b>
<b>9:20-9:50AM</b>	<p><b>Board and Care Follow-up Discussion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advocacy, feedback, and requests for Membership Council on how to press the general Board and Care conversation from the City level: Questions about how we can ensure a minimum standard across board and care homes. HCBS (Home and Community-Based Services) group homes for example have a minimum state-wide services standard. Laura Enderle reported that the City Council passed a resolution to explore this issue, but that investigation and enforcement from the City side is currently driven through Code Enforcement (and therefore focused more on physical/structural building issues rather than anything related to services). Some cities (Dallas, San Antonio, Houston) have created local standards about minimum expected services and physical facilities, but a body has to be</li> </ul>	<b>Co-Chairs</b>

created to evaluate adherence to those standards and then to follow up and enforce violations somehow. There are also sample regulations from the IDD (Intellectual or Developmental Delay) that are standardized and enforced. Current local B&C standards are voluntary (and just code-based). Questions about how to incentivize adherence to potentially enhanced local standards. Easier access to tenants could be an option. Some B&C focus tends to be on tenants whose primary housing needs are affordability rather than intensive services (as opposed to HCBS or IDD focus). B&C providers could potentially be engaged like traditional landlords as a formal CoC housing partnership. Most housing programs can utilize them as long as they meet minimum program standards (such as a lease). One concern would be ensuring quality is upheld over the long-term. An additional concern is that higher regulation may reduce overall housing options. We're also missing data on existing B&C homes and what the utilization rates and patterns are.

- **Three major pieces would be standards creation, oversight, and enforcement.**
- *Question: What has the City of Austin done/tried before, and what's the status of the currently pending resolution? – Laura Enderle to bring the information to next meeting.*
- *Question: Who is responsible for standards oversight and enforcement in those other cities? What are those standards? What did those cities experience (such as did they see a significant housing inventory reduction)? -- August Weems from Front Steps to explore and bring information to next meeting (potential cities include Dallas, San Antonio, Houston, and El Paso).*
- *Question: How can we get additional data about our local Board and Care home situation? Which existing Board and Care homes would the CoC like to formally partner with? Could we administer a survey to programs and clients utilizing these housing options? Action step – participants will bring currently used lists to next meeting. Action step – Erin Goodison will also bring some sample survey questions to the next meeting.*

**9:50-10:10AM**

### **Workgroup Updates**

### **WG Chairs**

- PSH (*Co-chair open*): Update from Dylan Shubitz. Group identified priorities/projects for 2019 and agreed to initially prioritize By-Name Staffing, written standards for PSH transfer policies, and advocacy plans (to pass up to this committee and then the Membership Council).
- RRH (CM- *Co-chair open*, Policy-L. Evanoff, T. Davis, M. Podowski): RRH CM co-chairs have been identified and will be announced soon. RRH Policy has decided that RRH referrals will be pulled in real-time at the policy meeting.
- Outreach & Navigation (K. Dorrier/A. Price): Next meeting will be in February. Co-chairs are convening next week to identify priorities for this coming year.

- Income/Employment (S. Verde/T. Moore): Update from Preston Petty. Next Pilot is set to start this month. The pilot will have a formal check in from all of the initial data in April.
- VAWA (E. Goodison): Laura Evanoff has been invited to present on a national conference call for Corporation for Supportive Housing. January focus was on lease addendums and landlord agreements. Some HUD staff are strongly hinting that a VAWA-specific lease addendum may soon be required for all ESG and CoC programs. February conversation is expected to focus on the emergency transfer policy details. Dylan S agreed to send over the existing HACA sample language information.

**10:10-10:20AM**

**Healthy Communities Collaborative**

**R. Ahearn**

- SAMSHA grant is officially coming together to create an intensive support team for clients with multiple co-occurring health needs. Kristi Kaiser will be the new lead for this team. Terrace at Oak Springs continues on track to open in late April/early May. Integral Care team continues to meet with the neighborhood (feedback is challenging, but encouraging overall).

**10:20-10:30AM**

**City of Austin Updates**

**COA Reps**

- Austin Public Health (T. Ponczek): Downtown Providers continue to meet to try to coordinate services towards individuals in and around the ARCH. Group has been organizing pop-up resource events on a monthly basis (had one in November and December, with another event scheduled for January 24<sup>th</sup>). Response has been positive, with an identified need for MAP Card support and Coordinated Entry access. There's also an ongoing identified need for storage space needs. Austin Police Department has been conducting regular walk-through's, but that process is slated to end this month. Greg McCormack reports that San Diego has very successfully piloted a similar storage service, and that he will be reaching out to find out more. Tasha also reminded the group that NHCD is pulling together their consolidated five-year plan for their four major Federal funding programs (CDBG, ESG, HOME, and HOPWA). Not all of this funding is targeted towards homelessness or housing, but it potentially could be, with advocacy.
- *Action Step: Tasha will reach out to Angie from NHCD and see if she can come to the next P&P meeting (or another).*
- NHCD (J. Rudow): No update.
- iTeam (T. Cook): No update.

**10:30-10:50AM**

**Other Community Updates & Discussions**

**Open**

- Veterans Initiative (T. Davis): Most programs have had lowered capacity due to staff turnover. Caritas and Front Steps SSVF will split list and ramp back up in February. VASH is expected a capacity shortfall through March. 17 Veterans were housed in December.
- YHDP (*S. Malatok*): Update from Erin Goodison. Average time to re-housing is 19 days from contact. Move-in's continue at above the targeted totals for all three partners.
- Point In Time Count (*T. Long*): No update.
- Kozmetsky Clinic (N. Kozak): Update from Preston Petty. Currently slated to open on March 1<sup>st</sup>. Lots of exciting promise and work. Current plan is for Community Care and Integral Care to collaborate to simultaneously meet physical and mental healthcare needs.

- Federal Shut-Down Effects (Open): General concern about potential housing payment delays if shutdown continues into February. Tasha reports that HUD has an operations plan in the event of a shutdown, and that it appears there's a contingency plan through the remainder of this fiscal year (through September 2019). Texas SNAP benefits are funded through a payment on January 20<sup>th</sup> (but not again after). Questions about how we could capture how many people become homeless as a result of canceled/delayed government pay. Also questions about how the new BSS+ Prevention Screening pilot might capture people at a risk due to this specific reason (and what the increased demand in general might look like). Also some concerns about what the effect on Section 8 attitudes in the future might be if payments are delayed. Goodwill reminded group that staffing and temporary employment opportunities are available for clients who need an immediate income solution.

**10:50-11:00AM**

**Next Steps**

---

**Next Meeting:** February 20, 2019 9:00AM-11:00AM; ECHO Offices 300 E. Highland Mall Blvd.