Minutes

Committee: Local Policy & Practice Committee
Date: 2/20/19
Meeting Place: ECHO 300
E. Highland Mall Blvd

Duration: 9:00 – 11:00

Attendance:
P = Present
TC = Attended via Dial in
A = Absent

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attendance</th>
<th>Local Policy &amp; Practice Members</th>
<th>Co-Chairs</th>
<th>ECHO Staff</th>
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<tr>
<td>P</td>
<td>Allison Shurr</td>
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<td>P Chris Laguna</td>
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<td>A</td>
<td>Greg McCormack</td>
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<td>P Dylan Shubitz</td>
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<td>Mamadou Balde</td>
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<td>P Sarah Frazier</td>
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<th>Action Items</th>
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AGENDA | DISCUSSION | ACTION ITEMS |
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<tr>
<td>I.</td>
<td>Review and Approve January 2019 Minutes</td>
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<td>• Approved with no changes</td>
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<td>II.</td>
<td>Co-Chairs</td>
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<td>• No actions items were voted on during the February 2019 Membership Council Meeting.</td>
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<td>• Discussed Membership Council’s role with providing public comments due to possible conflict of interest related to voting members relationship with funding sources. Concern around membership not consisting of a neutral body and comments should be from ECHO as an agency vs ECHO representing the Austin/Travis County CoC.</td>
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<td>• Request to approve the COC Performance Scorecard Appeal Policy placed on hold until revisions to Scorecard are finalized. MC chairs expressed concern with policy needing to be more specific.</td>
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<td>• YHDP Leadership Advisory Council is re-establishing Data and Evaluation Subcommittee. Contact Susan McDowell if interested in participating.</td>
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<td>• Homeless Awareness Day is April 4th at the Capital. More information about advocacy efforts can be found on the Texas Homeless Network website.</td>
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### AGENDA

- HUD released notice that all Austin/Travis County CoC-funded projects are renewed with slight increase in FMR.
- On the agenda for March MC meeting:
  - Vote to approve ECHO as CoC Lead Agency (Collaborative Applicant) and ECHO as the CoC Lead HMIS Agency
  - Review and approve Coordinated Entry Written Standards. Requesting approval to update prioritization to allow transfer from one RRH program serving youth to YHDP RRH Plus program as a community demonstration to increase housing stability. HUD has not released clear guidance around this. No waiver from HUD is needed in order for community to adopt in written standards.
  - MC seat representing substance use services is vacant – request to approve new member from Austin Recovery to fill vacancy.
- D Shubitz encouraged all CoC-funded agency staff to attend March 2019 COC and ESG Committee meeting which includes discussing upcoming proposed changes to CoC Performance Scorecard.

### DISCUSSION

#### III. Board and Care Follow-up Discussion

**Co-Chairs**

- L. Enderle not able to attend meeting but reports needing additional time to collect more information about City of Austin’s historical participations with regarding standards for Board and Care facilities.
- A. Weems researched standards and oversight adopted in other cities across Texas for Board and Care facilities:
  - Spoke with National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Texas and the Hogg Foundation surrounding best practices with implementation and enforcement of state standards
    - Houston created own standards
    - Brenham, San Antonio, El Paso adopted state standards
      - Reports are not descriptive which may indicate limited procedural oversight currently.
    - Austin yet to adopt standards
  - Discussed past barriers due to concerns with implementing standards for Board and Care facilities:
    - Facility operators may move outside of city limits to avoid oversight and enforced regulations.
    - Current state standards and requirements will create more burden and possibly reduce the number of providers willing to operate facilities.
    - Adopting standards may result in reduction of available housing in providers close or move away
    - Lack of ability to identify responsible party: who would be responsible for verifying compliance with standards (e.g., COA department)?

**ACTION**

- August Weems to send email to members finding on research about Board and Care standards
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|Proposal to conduct survey of NAMI affiliates that have adopted standards to determine if standards have been effective  
  • E. Goodison on assessing the current state of Board and Care facilities in Austin:  
    o Need to develop/adapt survey of residents’ experiences with Board and Care facilities and establish a mechanism to conduct survey  
    o Possible questions for a survey of current Board and Care residents  
      ▪ How safe do you feel in the housing?  
      ▪ Are services meeting your needs?  
      ▪ Are you treated fairly?  
      ▪ Has your physical/mental health improved/declined/stayed the same since moving in?  
      ▪ Have your social supports improved/declined/stayed the same since moving in?  
  o Discussed need to determine who will develop a survey and how it will be administered  
    ▪ C. Laguna will check with HCC evaluation department regarding their ability to develop a survey  
    ▪ Suggestion to involve Family Elder Care in development and administration of a survey  
    ▪ D. Shubitz will reach out to Austin Tenants Council regarding the experiences of their clients with Board and Care facilities |

### IV. Workforce Solutions Childcare Services

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| • Not in attendance.  
  • Dylan Juza to f/u with WFS staff to schedule presentation for March agenda. | N/A |

### V. NHCD Consolidated Plan

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| • Angie Sommers provided presentation on COA Consolidated Plan and public comment period:  
  o Neighborhood Housing and Community Development Department: FY 2019-23 Consolidated Plan  
  o 5-Year Federal Funding Online Survey  
  • Draft of plan will be released on April 15, 2019 and will be open for public comment for 30 days.  
  • Public comment period ends May 17, 2019  
  • June 6, 2019 plan will be presented to City Council.  
  • Request to encourage community members to provide Feedback:  
    o Online Survey: Take online survey in either English and Spanish  
    o Provide Written Survey/Comments via Email-Mail: Download and complete a PDF or Word version of the survey (also in Spanish) to submit by 5 pm, March 15, 2019 to  
    o Request A Community Presentation by email at NHCD@austintexas.gov  
    o Attend a Public Hearing. Meeting dates and locations are available here.  
  • Discussed how to use HUD money in addition to recent $250m Austin Housing Bond | N/A |
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|        | o Bond money is restricted to use for developing, building, and repairing housing  
|        | o Suggestion for Bond money to replace HUD funds used for Housing Development and Repair to free up HUD funds for other uses like rental assistance or voucher programs  
|        | • Concerns that projects developed using funds from COA bonds might not accept poverty/high barrier individuals into housing sites developed unless it is specifically focused on ending homelessness.  
|        | • Rental Housing Development Assistance (RHDA) funding to be discussed at future Policy and Practice meeting |

### VI. Workgroup Updates

- **PSH WG**
  - Chris Larson is new co-chair of PSH WG.
  - Discussed what are reasonable community performance benchmarks for time from referral to move-in date.

- **RRH CM and Policy WGs**
  - Jeanette Cebrian is new RRH CM Co-chair with Allison Mabbs as ECHO staff representative.
  - Allison Mabbs will also be assisting the RRH Policy WG. Chairs are still Megan Podowski and Taryn Davis.

- **Outreach & Navigation WG**
  - Next meeting is on March 14th at Sobering Center

- **Income/Employment WG**
  - Work assistance programs (Goodwill, Workforce Solutions, etc.) are interested in developing a direct referral process to get in touch with clients who complete Coordinated Entry.

- **VAWA Housing Protections WG**
  - Next meeting 3/11/19 at 1pm
  - L Evanoff to present on HUD/CSH Webinar on March 11 on implementing VAWA regulations at the community level.
  - E Goodison and L Evanoff to present at the NLHP’s Housing Justice Network Conference in March.
  - Last meeting focused on Rental Agreements and Participant Agreements to ensure VAWA compliance.
    - All programs providing TBRA need to have language affirming VAWA requirements in their rental assistance agreements
  - VAWA WG created model forms to be used as “best practice” forms and templates that can be adapted for use by individual programs
  - Currently seeking feedback on VAWA template forms.
  - Workgroup plans on sending VAWA rights sheets to MC for endorsement as community best practice – not requesting approval as a policy.
  - HUD is planning on releasing updated Lease Addendum in March.
  - Emergency transfers between programs to be discussed at next meeting

- **VAWA best practices sheets to be presented at next MC meeting**
### VII. Health Communities Collaborative

**C. Laguna**

- **Construction of Terrace at Oak Springs** scheduled to be completed by the end of May 2019.
  - Move-ins expected to begin at the beginning of June 2019
  - Currently conducting “hard hat tours” of Terrace at Oak Springs
    - Next tour is 3/14/19
    - Tours are followed by a neighborhood meeting at the library across the street for the facility

- **Explanation of suitable applicants for Terrace at Oak Springs**
  - Housing comes with some restrictions included controlled access of visitors. Not all potential residents would be comfortable with this
  - 25 units for veterans
  - 25 units for individuals pulled from CA list
  - Currently working with ECHO and HACA to identify potential residents

### VIII. City of Austin Updates

**COA Reps**

- **Mainstream Voucher Program**
  - Orientation letters being sent out to qualified applicants.
    - 90 letters sent out so far
    - 11 vouchers claimed
  - First orientation was 2/15/19
  - Upcoming orientations
    - 2/20/19
    - 2/28/19
    - 3/4/19
    - 3/15/19
    - 3/28/19
  - To apply complete a Mainstream Voucher application at [www.hacaapply.org](http://www.hacaapply.org)
  - To qualify applicants must be able to document their age, qualifying disability, and homelessness status
    - Currently many applications are missing these supporting documents
  - Contact D. Shubitz with questions

### Adjournment

- **Next Meeting:** March 20, 2019 9:00AM – 11:00AM; ECHO Training Room, 300 E. Highland Mall Blvd

- **N/A**