

Minutes



Committee: Local Policy & Practice Committee

Date: 03/16/2021

Duration: 9:30 – 11:00

Meeting Place: Zoom virtual meeting

Attendance:

P = Present

TC = Attended via Dial in

A = Absent

Local Policy & Practice Members							
A	Akeshia Johnson-Smothers	P	Erin Goodison	P	Mamadou Balde	A	Sarah Frazier
A	Allison Shurr	P	Erin Luby	P	Marilyn Hartman	A	Scott Merritt
A	Bailey Gray	A	Greg McCormack	A	Marissa Latta	P	Shawna Arnesen
A	Beatriz Lopez	A	Hannah Cweigenberg	A	Megan Podowski	P	Sonja Burns
A	Brooke Croft	A	Jason Phillips	P	Melisa Smith	A	Steven Potter
A	Caitlin Bond	A	Jeanette Cebrian	A	Michelle Myles	A	Sylvia Garrett
A	Caitlyn Bayer	P	Jeanie Nelson	P	Myk Stocks	A	Vedia Sherman
A	Chris Larson	A	Juan Lazcano Jr	A	Quiana Fisher	P	Victoria Perez
A	Christina Montes	P	Karen Dorrier	A	Rachel Hampton		
A	Dawn Perkins	P	Katie Horstman	A	Rhie Azzam Morris		
A	Donna Ware	P	Laura Enderle	P	Rick Rivera		
A	Elizabeth Perch	A	Lauren Katz	A	Robyn Schoen		
P	Emily Edgerly	P	Linda Horbal	P	Ruth Ahearn		
P	Eric Kunish	A	Liz Baker	P	Sam Verde		
Co-Chairs							
P	Dylan Shubitz	A	Kellee Coleman				
ECHO Staff							
P	Allison Mabbs	P	Chris Murray	P	Katie Rose	P	Preston Petty
P	Andrew Willard	A	Claire Burrus	A	Laura Evanoff	A	Whitney Bright
A	Bree Williams	A	Eri Gregory	A	Mason Turpin		
A	Chris Davis	A	Jordan Schmid	P	Niki Kozak		

AGENDA		DISCUSSION	ACTION ITEMS
Welcome & Introductions	D. Shubitz	Action Item: Review December 2020 Minutes Action Item: Virtual hugs and high fives.	Action: Chair(s) will send out December 2020 minutes via email. They are also available at https://www.austinecho.org/policy-practice-

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Workgroup Updates	<p>A. Mabbs</p> <p>RRH</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case Management Workgroup is continuing to meet. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Had a representative from Austin Tenants Council to do a training at last mtg. • Policy meeting still on hiatus during governance restructure. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Can convene a special session if needed to deal with any urgent policy needs. <p>K. Dorrier / K. Rose</p> <p>Outreach & Navigation (K. Dorrier/A. Price)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Citywide O&N policy workgroup is on-hold. The monthly frontline Housing for Health group is meeting during COVID crisis. <p>P. Petty</p> <p>PSH</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trying to build a toolkit around “Move On” process and vouchers. <p>E. Goodison</p> <p>VAWA (E. Goodison/M. Stocks)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next meeting 3/23/21. • Will be working on external transfer process and landlord communication/negotiation strategies. <p>P. Petty</p> <p>Equity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Racial Equity Demo Project is ongoing. Trying to expand partnerships to new organizations and expand/target outreach to historically overlooked or underserved areas. • Continuing to pilot equitable assessment & prioritization options. • HMIS and R&E are looking into ways to add a sexual orientation / gender identity UDE to the standard demographic information that we gather. (This is a local initiative – it could pave the way for other communities to follow.) 	
Other Community Updates & Discussions	<p>R. Ahearn</p> <p>Health Communities Collaborative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current HCC grant ends August 31, 2021. IC has applied to new state HCC grant and hopes to continue the services of the current HCC grant. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Under new HCC grant, IC is hoping to be able to pivot some current RRH resources to individuals exiting jail/institutionalization settings. ○ Hoping to hear back about the new grant by the end of May. Projected new total amount is enough to continue all current HCC programs and expand a little. Requires 100% 1:1 private (cannot be federal/state/local) match. • New downtown partner program with DACC & Downtown Austin Alliance. Intended as a community-based integrated care team to provide intensive MH & intensive case management services (not housing) to several hundred clients in the downtown area. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ IC is hoping to maybe expand this to include housing services, possibly with State funding from a block grant. Will report back next month. 	

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	<p>D. Shubitz Veterans Initiative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> HACA will announce soon about 25 new project based VASH vouchers. <p>LifeWorks YHDP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No updates. Presenter(s) not present. <p>N. Kozak Care Connections Clinic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clinics have been seeing some severe frostbite cases since the freeze. Trying to pull together more resources including respite options, possibly via Central Health. <p>N/A AHAC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No updates. Presenter(s) not present. <p>ECHO PIT Count</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No new updates yet. Stay tuned. 	<p>Action: ECHO will check with DACC personnel to try to connect an AHAC representative with this meeting.</p>
<p>Adjournment</p>	<p>E. Kunish / M. Hartman</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NAMI requests awareness around House Bill 544 – proposed new regulations around voluntary certification/credentialing of certain buildings like sober homes would be run by HHSC but voluntary regulation would be outsourced. There is a possibility that facilities that were not credentialed could lose their funding. Also new bill on HHSC running a new study around regulating group homes. Also a proposal to use excess beds at state supported living centers be used as step down beds for state hospital patients who are being discharged but aren't quite ready to go back to the community independently. Also, some more bills related to mental health are coming up, including adjusting standards around mental health deterioration so those who need assistance might be able to get it more quickly. <p>D. Shubitz</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> HACA is submitting an application for the Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) program. Hoping for 75 vouchers for that population by July RENT program through COA is back (called RENT 3.0) and people enrolled in housing programs can apply this time to get help with back rent. Geographic restriction = all must be within Austin Full Purpose Jurisdiction. (http://www.texasrentrelief.com/, http://austintexas.gov/rent) 	

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	<p>S. Burns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• SB-21 “Bail reform” will be enacted tomorrow, 03/18/21. It will impact everyone in jail, especially those with mental illness, by increasing stays & limiting bailout to misdemeanors.• Next Meeting: April 21, 2021 9:00AM – 11:00AM	