



HRS Leadership Council Public Minutes

Duration: 12 pm – 2 pm

Date: 7/1/2024

Meeting Place: VIRTUAL MEETINGS

Meeting ID: ZOOM INFO

P = Present
A = Absent

Leadership Council Members -OR- Committee Voting Members							
P	Larry Wallace	P	Candace McGary				
P	Summer Wright	P	Dylan Shubitz				
P	Emily Seales	P	Amanda Jasso				
P	David Gray	P	Liz Baker				
P	Nathan Fernandes						
Committee Chairs							
P	Sasha Rose	P	Jason Phillips	P	Liz Schoenfeld	P	
P	Dawn Perkins	P	Kimberly Holiday	P	Mark Hilbelink		
Guest Attendees							
Guest attendance is recorded.							
ECHO (CoC Lead)							
P	Maya Beit-Arie	P	Danica Fraher	P	Kyle Walker	P	Joseph Montano
P	Whitney Bright	P	Bill Wallace	P	Joseph Montano	P	Dominique Peevy
P	Kat Hammer	P	Alesandra Dominguez	P	Meagan Biscamp	P	Micki Metz
P	Angel Romero	P	Eri Gregory	P	Anthony Curtis	P	Tania Hughes
P	Quiana Fisher	P	Jenelle Adetunji	P	Sara Fuetter	P	Nina Gutierrez

AGENDA	PRESENTER	DISCUSSION	ACTION ITEMS
Quick Business	Summer Wright	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Approval of the June 2024 Leadership Council minutes with no suggested edits or amendments.	Consent to approve June 2024 minutes.

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<p>YHDP Funding Opportunity</p>	<p>Bree Torres Maya Beit-Arie</p>	<p>Presented by Maya Beit-Arie, Director of Planning at ECHO and Bree Torres at Lifeworks.</p> <p>Overview</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> HUD has released new Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project (YHDP) Round 8 funding. The NOFO was released on June 6, 2024, and due August 29, 2024, with a minimum application of \$600,000 and up to \$15,000,000. This includes any projects eligible under CoC regulations with additional planning and “special YHDP activities.” YHDP is special earmarked dollars for youth experiencing homelessness and originally served as seed funding to find creative solutions and a coordinated community approach to reduce youth experiencing homelessness. <p>Local Background</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Austin/Travis County was 1 of 9 originally funded communities and this was non-competitively renewed until FY23 when Austin/Travis County lost 1 project “PORT Program,” otherwise known by HUD as a joint component project type. The other original projects included the “Youth Dedicated Rapid Rehousing ‘Plus’,” and “Deeper Diversion and Familial Home Supports” which was a supportive services project. The latter will be replaced with a permanent supportive housing project. <p>Other Information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The YHDP process will include <u>3 phases</u>, beginning with community designation in 2024, coordinated community plan in 2025 in phase 2, and a final project application in 2025. This will require policymaking on the part of Leadership Council and Austin Youth Collective, and the overall project will necessitate collaboration among Lifeworks, Austin Youth Collective, ECHO, and Leadership Council. Additional application information can be reviewed in the meeting backup materials. <p>Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What it comes to the YAB integration with Leadership Council and Austin Youth Collective, what does that look like – are there examples from other communities; should Leadership Council transition the Youth Lived Expertise seat into a Austin Youth Collective seat? Thinking through how Leadership Council interfaces with AYC, all of those are things we need to think through for phase 2 of the process once we have been awarded by HUD and we will receive technical assistance assigned by HUD. Potentially, there is room to change Leadership Council bylaws regarding Austin Youth Collective. In other communities, there are emerging practices to have direct lines with the CoC 	
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		<p>Board and even dedicating multiple seats on governing boards for peer relationships.</p>	
<p>Central Presbyterian Church Presentation</p>	<p>Andi Brauer</p>	<p>Presented by Andi Brauer, Neighbors Program Manager at Central Presbyterian Church.</p> <p>Overview</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Central Presbyterian Church offers Thursday morning and Tuesday afternoons social programs. ▪ Andi Brauer is also representing the Homeless Advocacy Project – a provider networking effort – which was formally known as the Downtown Cluster. ▪ The recommendations presented today are also sponsored by Homeless Advocacy Project group and based on a survey of the biggest needs. ▪ Background information and full recommendations can be found in the meeting backup materials. <p>Recommendations</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Open or expand shelter capacity to add 100 new beds of family shelter. 2. Locate and operationalize a congregate shelter to replace Marshalling Yard by March 2025. 3. Replicate Denver’s Safe Outdoor Spaces Program. 4. Implement a community-wide shelter referral process using the coordinated entry system and a common intake assessment. 5. Create a task force that includes HSO, ECHO, providers and members of the community to design an actionable plan. <p>Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are the 325 beds removed in 2025 from Marshalling Yard? Yes. • In the Denver model, what was done about inclement weather? Some of the canvas tents used were sturdier, but we will look into that further. • A discussion related to the question of why there are a fewer number of shelter beds than those experiencing homelessness including factors related to bed turnover (1 bed for every 4 persons); in terms of funding, shelter beds are proportionate with funding for other interventions and permanent housing; additionally, shelter is a more expensive investment; centralized and coordination for shelter beds will require more engagement with shelter providers in the community. 	

<p>Rapid Rehousing Written Standards</p>	<p>Quiana Fisher</p>	<p>Presented by Quiana Fisher, VP of Programs at ECHO and Collaborative Applicant voting seat on Permanent Housing Committee.</p> <p>Overview</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Leadership Council identified Rapid Rehousing Written Standards as a HRS Governance Roadmap goal for 2023 – 2024. However, this work predates the roadmap. ▪ Written standards are the minimum services required to classify any project as a rapid rehousing project in the homelessness response system. Whereas best practices are data informed initiatives used in service delivery. ▪ Permanent Housing Committee shares some lessons learned from the governance process including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identifying and accepting roles in workgroup spaces. ▪ Acknowledging the needs that exist and recognizing what is working about the system – “a critical lover of the system” ▪ There is friction between what we want to accomplish and the funding available. ▪ Staff turnover in the community affected the governance process in terms of participation across the project time period. ▪ Lived experience leaders from VOCAL-TX joined and were able to provide an enhancement on the written standards. ▪ The City of Austin Homeless Strategy Office staff were instrumental in providing a check on regulations. <p>Highlighted Changes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Progressive engagement requirements specify client engagement and rental assistance requirements, and the standards identify the first 30 days of housing placement as a critical time for assessment. ▪ Rapid rehousing programs <u>must provide a minimum of 12 months</u> of rent assistance to each program participant and <u>up to 24 months</u>. This is a funding question for our community. ▪ Supportive services must include housing location, employment and income, childcare, and transportation assistance. <p>Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Under monthly rental costs, can you explain the language of lease terms? This is a HUD provision related to what is an eligible housing placement. In the Continuum of Care program, participants must have a 12-month lease. Other programs may only require a 6-month lease. The standards are attempting to provide flexibility to meet the different program requirements. 	<p>Vote to adopt the Rapid Rehousing Written Standards as presented by Permanent Housing Committee.</p>
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Related to program termination, are there are situations where a provider can voluntarily terminate a participant? Yes, what is spelled out in the written standards follows the Continuum of Care Termination Policy. Also noted, that rapid rehousing scorecards will provide tracking of terminations. ▪ Rapid rehousing exit data quality can be a concern, and we want to make sure that we are asking the right questions of providers to accurate track exits. Agreed. And the scorecard does look specifically at returns within HMIS data on a rolling quarter basis, and negative outcomes follow the original project for 18 months afterwards. ▪ Can a client receive 24 months of financial assistance and then 6 months of case management or is it within the 24 months. The client can receive an additional 6 months of case management after the rental assistance ends. Again, wherever the standard is more restrictive per funder, that holds ▪ Is this the first-time exit data has been looked at this specifically? No, HUD put forward performance measures in 2009, however whether that was used in performance monitoring has been variable. The City of Austin funded projects will be required to participate in the Continuum of Care scorecards. ▪ Are there any specifications on what is included in supportive services? The question of what is eligible for case management depends on the funder. For example, HUD requires financial planning, life skills, housing focused support, meeting basic needs, gaining employment etc. There is also an emphasis on individualized case management. ▪ How can we help people right now as their rapid rehousing is ending? Are there conversations continuing rapid rehousing outcomes. Quiana Fisher states that she is not aware of safety nets that exist today for people whose assistance is ending, because that is a funding issue. We need to get creative about braiding the funding resources that exist, but we have an intense conversation to have in the community to avoid the cliff you are talking about. David Gray comments that City funded providers just completed mid-year spending plans and going through the process of rebalancing funds and requesting the dollars from City Council to fill gaps; Family Eldercare recently received approval on this front and the Homeless Strategy Office does intend to go back to City Council for other providers. In addition, tasks have been delegated to Performance Monitoring Committee related to outcomes. 	
		<p>Meeting Adjourns.</p>	

Actions taken by Leadership Council during the meeting on Monday July 1st, 2024.

- I. Approve the June 2024 Leadership Council minutes. **Approved on consent.**
- II. Adopt the Rapid Rehousing Written Standards as presented by Permanent Housing Committee. **Approved on roll call vote.**

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