Detroit Continuum of Care | Board of Directors
Working to Equitably End Homelessness in Detroit, Highland Park, & Hamtramck

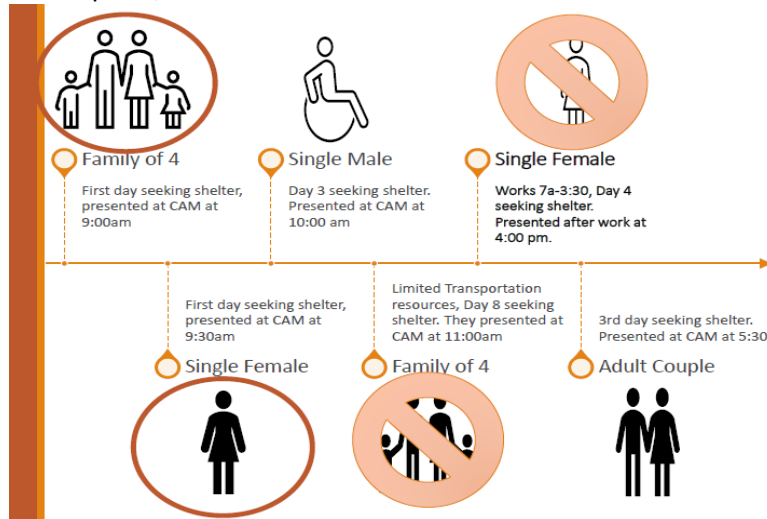| Present Board Members	Absent Board Members	Excused Board Members	General Public
Katie Zeiter	Ari Ruttenberg		Chelsea Johnson
Desiree' Arscott			Emma Bierkle
Tasha Gray			Jessica Blackman
Michelle Parker			audrey jones
Celia Thomas			Robert Cooper LBSW
Chioke Mose-Telesford			Amanda Sternberg
Taura Brown			Ki-Jana Malone
ReGina Hentz			Robert Cooper LBSW
Chris Harthen			Meghan Rutigliano
Candace Morgan			Lauren Licata
Dr. Gerald Curley			Eleanor Bradford
Sarah Rennie			Scott Jackson
Tania James			Deloris Cortez
Donna L. Price			Kimberly Benton
Terra Linzner			Ed Cieslak
Amy Brown			Sharifa DOudi
Erica George			Daniel Carravallah
Courtney Smith			Meredith Baughman
Kiana L. Harrison			Donna Lyons
Julisa abad			Jeremy Cugliari
			Robert Dewar
			Lindsey Bishop Gilmore
			Sabrina L. Rudy
			Safiya Merchant
			Rhonda Sanders-Adams
			Denise Goshton
			Elise Grongstad
			Paige Beasley
			Torrey henderson

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Working to Equitably End Homelessness in Detroit, Highland Park, & Hamtramck
December 4, 2023 Continuum of Care Board Meeting

Welcome and Introductions: **Celia T. opened the meeting at 2:00 pm with introductions – utilizing the chat box.**
Executive Committee Report & Announcements   • CoC Board Chair   o Dr. Celia Thomas, the CoC Board's current chair, term is expiring at the end of 2023; thus, the Board will need to be prepared to vote on a new chair for the upcoming year. In the meantime, Candace Morgan, the co-chair of the Board, will stand as interim chair until we have an election in the early months of 2024. More details will come soon.
Consent Agenda
November Board Meeting Minutes
Board Vote
• The floor was open for questions. None were asked.   • Approval of the Nov. 2023 CoC Board Meeting minutes was motioned by Sarah R. and seconded by Dr. Gerald Curley. The vote passed.
CAM Transition Updates
Summary –   • In November, the warming centers opened; HAND has been coordinating with City for the shelters.   • HAND and Wayne Metro (WM) have been working on launching the in- person access points. Since the last Board meeting, there have been changes to the timeline so now they will be launching the access points in the New Year at NOAH and CASS.   • WM did a soft launch at NOAH which will be publicly shared in the coming year on all platforms. They have also been working with shelter prioritization with funding partners and will conduct a vote later in the meeting.
Strategic Plan

Summary –
 • Held 10 community feedback sessions in November.
      o They asked community members and PWLEH for solutions that they want to see to improve the shelter system. They also had 6 sessions on how to improve rehousing activities and housing supply (i.e., PSH, Vouchers, affordable housing, RRH).
      o Throughout these sessions, they discussed numerous topics which included community members emphasizing building more effective partnerships with other systems to connect residents experiencing homelessness to a holistic set of resources. Please click here to see a list of all of the topics they have covered as well as meeting minutes and presentations.
 • After the community sessions, HAND and HRD staff came up with key themes and then BPA put it into a community survey that was sent out to PWLEH, the attendees, partners, funders, etc. for them to pick which themes they want to see implemented in 2024. The BPA is now analyzing the results which will go to the planning teams and then will be sent to the SPOC to adopt a final plan in February and March.
 • Amy Brown, Celia Thomas, Julie Schneider, and Tasha Gray are conducting a group to involve executive directors and providers to get them engaged in this process as well.

Proposal for Shelter Prioritization
Summary –

- Staff members from Coordinated Assessment Model (CAM), HAND, and City of Detroit formed shelter access planning group to discuss implementing prioritization system for shelter access services.
- Shelter prioritization pilot proposed to address the need for system changes in relation to shelter access; insufficient beds to serve everyone and a lack of equity in the current process of referrals.
- On November 29th, the CAM Transition team approved a recommendation to pilot a shelter prioritization system.
- The current shelter access system is operating on a first come first serve model. The households will go through CAM by phone or by presenting to an access point, and then the household is referred to a bed if there is space to accommodate the household size. Please see below for the visual model.

- During the soft launch of CAM, they had 6,000 calls which averaged out to 92 calls a day.
    - During this period (8/14/2023-11/13/2023), there were about 698 bed vacancies and a total of 2429 referrals to overflow spaces.
    - Overflow space is defined as accommodations made for shelter space, outside of the number of beds that agencies are contracted to provide.
- Over the past year, shelter providers have provided additional bed capacity for Detroit CoC's shelter system, in the form of overflow space. When providing bed availability to CAM, shelters report the number of overflow clients they can accommodate for the day.
    - Ultimately, providing overflow resources using this current model has strained access and given a false narrative that there are enough shelter resources for all in need.
- The system has recently experienced an increase in bed utilization for all population types, shelter closures for year-round programs, and limitations overflow.
    - As a direct result of this information, it has become clear that there is an opportunity to ensure that our shelter access process is the most equitable for the community we serve.
    - In an effort to continue streamlining services and creating uniform expectations across the CoC, a prioritization list can help cut back on vulnerable populations missing opportunities to be connected to services. Ultimately, a shelter prioritization system would be in line with how our CoC allocates other resources (i.e. RRH, PSH, HCV, TH).
    - Moving to this model would offer visibility and clear expectations on how their community can access services.

- Earlier in the fall, they convened a shelter access planning group who had discussions with other communities such as Chicago to get insights on how they manage their overflow, unfortunately a lot of them are experiencing the same issue. Additionally, they had conversations with shelter outreach and providers and then they went to CTT to vote on the recommendation which will be brought to the Board for a vote.
- Shelter Prioritization Process
  - CAM staff will maintain a shelter prioritization list, by collecting specific details from residents to understand their current episode of homelessness.
  - Households could be added to the shelter prioritization by way of calling the CAM line, presenting to the Access Point, or residing in Overflow spaces at shelter.
  - From the shelter prioritization list, CAM staff will make referrals based off availability of open shelter bed.
- All referrals made to shelter will use the following factors for prioritization:
  - Primary Factors:
    - Unsheltered status
    - Fleeing DV/HT
  - Tie Breakers:
    - Medical Needs
    - Time of Request
    - Special circumstance of immediate prioritization for households with CPS Involvement
- While they have formulated the prioritization process, they are still working to draw out internal processes and workflows to implement by January 2024.
  - The shelter access planning group will continue to meet internally and host discussions with system stakeholders throughout the month of December to ensure the process being established for shelter prioritization is coordinated in effort with providers and users of the system.
  - Shelter Access Planning Group will provide progress updates to CAM Transition Committee.
- Proposed Timeline
  - Dec 13th – CTT updates
  - Dec 14th – DAG updates
  - Jan 2nd- implementation
  - Jan-March- Refining Prioritization process
  - April - represent for a final vote
- Authority will be delegated to the CAM Transition Team to vote on any change to the criteria above during the pilot period. The CAM Lead Agency in consultation with CAM Partners will be able to adjust operations in the implementation of the criteria. After the three-month period, there will be a request to vote on a final version of shelter prioritization policy.
- The approval of the piloting the shelter prioritization system was motioned by Dr. Gerald Curley and seconded by Donna P. The vote passed.

Rapid Rehousing Report Out

Summary –
- This group is co staffed By HAND and CoD.
  - Attendance is mandatory for all CoC ESG funded RRH providers.
- There have been 3 main policies updates:

- o Security Deposit – Effective Feb 2023
  - ▪ Requires RRH providers to assist in both standard RRH referrals (financial assistance & case management) AND Security Deposit Only referrals (regardless of whether the household has an HCV voucher)
  - o RRH Ramp Down – Effective June 2023
    - ▪ Outlines requirements of all RRH providers who are ramping down programs due to a reduction or elimination of funding for the program.
- RRH Transfer Policy – Anticipated Early 2024
  - o Will outline the requirements of both transferring providers and receiving providers when transferring households between programs
  - o This policy is under development with an anticipated finalization early 2024

Values & Funding Priorities Report Out

Summary –
- The VFP purpose is operationalize the CoC vision by strategizing on how to utilize existing funding resources that align with CoC values and priorities and identify funding gaps and potential resources to meet those needs.
- In Feb, the VFP recruitment took place in early 2023, and went to the Board to get a Board representative. In March they went to the GM for a vote and their committee ramped up in April 2023.
- Their primary focus has been around the CoC Competition
  - o 2 subcommittees were created
    - ▪ Appeals Committee
    - ▪ New Project Review Committee
- Recommendations to the Board included (but not limited to):
  - o CoC renewal project eval & scoring criteria
  - o CoC new project priorities & eval criteria
  - o Project reallocation policies
- Currently the steps are to reconvene in early 2024, implement their goals, and keep in mind the upcoming recommendations from Strategic planning.

Celia T. closed the meeting at 4:30pm. *The next CoC Board meeting will be on Monday, January 8, 2024 from 2 – 4:30pm. Location will continue to be virtual.*