

Detroit Continuum of Care | Board of Directors

Working to Equitably End Homelessness in Detroit, Highland Park, & Hamtramck

February 2022 Continuum of Care Board Meeting

(Meeting packet can be accessed by [clicking here](#); Meeting Slides by [clicking here](#))

Welcome and Introductions:

Executive Committee Report & Announcements:

Summary –

PIT Update

- The Point in Time Count for unsheltered people experiencing homelessness was held on January 26th. HAND is now in the phase of data analysis, conducting the Housing Inventory Count for those in shelters, and will be doing so for the next few months. Thank you, participants, volunteers, and staff, for participating! Please look out for a survey being sent out via email to gather feedback on the PIT Count.

Racial Equity Updates (EC)

- The Executive Committee will be forming a workgroup to analyze racial equity-related suggestions made during the last CoC Board Meeting in breakout rooms. This workgroup will make recommendations to the CoC Board and the Executive Committee as to how to make the CoC Board Meetings more equitable. Interested parties were asked to type their interest in the chat and Amy Brown will follow up with those individuals to loop them in on further workgroup developments.

Racial Equity C4 Update

- The Michigan Homeless Policy Counsel, partnering with C4 Innovations, is undertaking a Racial Equity Strategic Planning process. This Thursday, from 3-4:30 PM, is an informational meeting session, linked here. Contact Luke Hassevoort with questions.

Community Workshops

- HAND has signed up one employee for a community workshop hosted by HUD on Systems Performance Analysis using Stella. These workshops are intended to expand community understanding of how to incorporate equity into the homeless response system and to aid CoCs in making strategic decisions around housing. HUD requires having 2-4 participants from the CoC to attend a workshop, so HAND needs 2-3 volunteers to express interest by emailing Denise at denise@handetroit.org. The time commitment is 6-10 hours a week over a 12-week period.

YHDP

- Workgroups to gather feedback on youth homelessness from youth and service providers for the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program are a great place to get involved with this work. More service provider representation is needed in those meetings, which weekly, on Tuesday 12:30-2:00 PM and Friday 3:00-4:30 PM. Join via Zoom for Tuesday meetings [here](#), or Friday meetings [here](#).

Rapport Building

- At this time, introductions between new Board Members, elected in 2022, and previously elected Board Members were made. Previously elected Board Members were encouraged to share tips for new Board Members, and new Board Members were encouraged to share something they were excited about as a new part of the CoC Board.

Staff Updates

- Catherine Distelrath is leaving the CoC Board in transition to another company. Paige Beasely is the new CAM Director and will be taking her place within the CoC.

Consent Agenda

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January Board Meeting Minutes

- The floor was opened for questions. None were asked.
- Approval of the January CoC Board Meeting minutes was motioned by Gerald Curley and seconded by Celia. The vote passed.

Advancing Equity

Grievance Review Committee Report-out

Summary –

- 42 total grievances were submitted in 2021, with most raising an issue about an Emergency Shelter. 10 grievances were submitted during the month of January, more than the total amount received in 2019. A large number of grievances addressed issues such as inconsistent program procedures, building conditions, and client mistreatment from staff. Action steps being taken to address grievances include decreasing the time needed for responding to grievances, developing a recipient-rights coordinator position, updating the CoC grievance policy, and ensuring a consistent grievance process across the homeless response system. An uptick of grievances in 2022 could be related to the following:
 - Widespread shelter unrest due to the pandemic and other sources
 - An increasingly accessible grievance process and empowerment of shelter clients to speak out against mistreatment
- A decision was made to add grievances as a standing agenda topic for future Board meetings.
- To close the report-out, a vote was held to approve Sharyn Johnson's, and then Catherine Distelrath's, continued participation on the GRC despite no longer being a CoC Board Member.
 - For the vote regarding Sharyn Johnson's committee participation, Deb Drennan motioned and Donna Price seconded. The vote passed.
 - For the vote regarding Catherine Distelrath's committee participation, Deb Drennan motioned and Donna Price seconded. The vote passed.
 - It was decided to extend these individuals' memberships on their committees for a year, and revisit the necessity of their continued participation afterwards.

Strategic Plan

Summary –

- A quick overview of the City of Detroit's Strategic Plan on racial equity. The City of Detroit is going through a planning process, asking what it would look like to develop a Strategic Plan, with benchmarks and priorities to guide the work and funding of the CoC. There is the goal of bringing in a consultant to move this work forward, and currently folks are looking at how the process should be started and who would be included.

Systems Performance Measures Analysis

Summary –

- Elizabeth Lockley presented on her consultant work with Systems Performance Measures Analysis.
 - System Performance Measures are consistent measures designed to work together in eliminating homelessness
 - Her work focused on analyzing decreases of length of time people experienced homelessness, returns to homelessness, first time experiences of homelessness, and increasing successful placement and retention of housing
 - The following inferences were made after data analysis:
 - Number of people experiencing homelessness has dropped markedly
 - LOT has increased but for justified possible reasons

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- Length of time between being housed and returning to homelessness is increasing
- COVID has most likely made a significant impact on people experiencing first time homelessness
- Street Outreach positive exits from service to housing are increasing
- System utilization of housing options were lower in 2021

HOME American Rescue Plan:

Summary –

HOME American Rescue Plan has awarded Detroit 26 million in funding. Recently, employees at the City of Detroit's HRD have been attending CoC committees and workgroups to present their proposed funding allocations and ask for feedback. They are proposing that a majority of the HOME ARP funds go to Permanent Supportive Housing, with a chunk to supportive services in making sure that housing is quality. HRD is looking for public feedback on their proposed funding plan ([linked here](#)). With questions or comments, email wilkec@detroitmi.gov or Lauren.Licata@detroitmi.gov.

Next Steps –

Provide feedback via his [link](#).

Committee Recruitment

Committee Recruitment

Summary –

- Recruitment for CoC Committees will be happening over the next few meetings. All Board Members are encouraged to participate in at least one committee.

Executive Committee Recruitment

Summary –

- Regarding the Executive Committee, since Amy Brown is stepping down as chairperson, there are two other positions open. Members are voted on to be in the Executive Committee.
- Responsibilities of the CoC Executive Committee include:
 - Providing strategic direction for the CoC
 - Coordinate and synthesize CoC committee system activities/ recommendations for system change
 - Hold CoC Board Members, committees, and system partners accountable
 - Makes decisions on behalf of the larger CoC Board if necessary and between regularly scheduled board meetings
- The EC has five elected board officers, and members representing key system partners
- The chairperson, secretary, and at large officers have specific duties and roles

Values and Funding Priorities Structure Update

- The Values and Funding Priorities (VFP) Committee establishes community values and priorities driving how community resources are utilized, ranks CoC programs for the annual competition, delegates work to the New Project Review subcommittee and the Appeals subcommittee
- The VFP is going through a revisioning process, and later this spring the Board will have a proposed, revitalized VFP structure
- A vote was held to approve Elizabeth Vasquez's continued participation on the VFP despite no longer being a CoC Board Member.