

Detroit Continuum of Care | Board of Directors
Working to Equitably End Homelessness in Detroit, Highland Park, & Hamtramck
February 1, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes

(Agenda can be accessed by [clicking here](#); Supporting Materials by [clicking here](#))

Board Members Present

Amy Brown
Anne Blake
Ari Ruttenberg
Ashlee Cunningham
Catherine Distelrath
Celia Thomas
Chioke Mose-Telesford
DaJuan Smith
Deloris Cortez
Donna Price
Eleanor Costa
Erica George
Gerald Curley
Joy Flood
June White
Katie Zeiter
Ray Shipman
Sharyn Johnson
Shawntae Harris-Mintline
Tasha Gray
Ted Phillips
Terra Linzner
Vanessa Samuelson
Elizabeth Vasquez

Absent Board Members

Excused Board Members

General Public

April Dryden
Amanda Sternberg
Brandon Mays
Candace Morgan
Carolyn Neville
Curtis Smith
Cynthia Elmore-Lejeune
Denise Goshton
Emily Foreman
Jamie Wojahn
Jane Scarlett
Jeremy Cugliari
Kaitie Giza
Kathleen Noel
Kevin Solarte
Kiana Harrison
Kiel Opperman
Kimberly Benton
Lauren Bianchi
Lindsey Bishop-Gilmore
Michele Monette
Nakole White
Olivia Carter
ReGina Hentz
Shani Campbell
Viki DeMars
William Sheeley

Amy B. opened the meeting at 2:02pm with introductions – utilizing the chat box.

Executive Committee Report & Announcements:

Summary –

- Amy B. took some time to go over the webinar logistics: including the agenda, breakout rooms, and the presentations.
- Amy reminded board members that conflict-of-interest forms (COIs) and board member agreements (BMAs) are due today. Some time was spent helping board members complete the docs.
- Terra L. gave a brief update on the status of vaccine distribution for the homeless population in Detroit. The health department began vaccinating at shelters about 2.5 weeks ago. DHD is working to schedule appointments with each shelter directly. Terra told folks who haven't been contacted to email Terra (linznert@detroitmi.org). Terra requested that people approach this season with flexibility and willingness to adjust.
- Tasha G. gave a brief update about CERA (COVID Emergency Rental Assistance). As a reminder, 95 million dollars are anticipated to be allocated to Detroit. At the last board meeting, the board approved a short-list of providers to administer the funding. The list of 6 agencies has been narrowed down to the following

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three agencies: UCHC, Wayne Metro, and THAW. If additional providers are needed, the other providers on the short list will be brought in. There was initially hope to begin operating the CERA program by February 15th. However, there are issues in the state legislator that are holding up the disbursement so it likely will not become operational until mid-March.

- Tasha also gave an update on the CoC Planning Grant. HAND received notice from HUD that the CoC planning grant will be awarded for FY2020 for the full amount that Detroit is eligible for – which is 843,000 dollars. Planning around how to utilize this funding will occur at future meetings.
- William S. invited any interested CoC Board members to join planning efforts for the State of Homelessness Report for Detroit. Interested board members can contact William at william@handetroit.org. The first planning meeting will be on Thursday, February 4th at 3pm.

Consent Agenda

January Board Meeting Minutes

- The floor was opened for questions. None were asked.
- Eleanor motioned to approve the January 2021 Board Minutes. Ray seconded the motion. Of the 22 voting members present, 22 voted in favor. 0 were opposed. 0 abstained. The motion passed.

FY2020 CoC Competition Update:

Summary –

- Amanda S. provided an update on recent developments for the FY 2020 HUD Competition. On Friday, HUD gave the definitive word that there will be no new project funding for the FY2020 competition. This impacts the local process that was initiated in November to receive and renew applications for new funding. The New Project Review Committee will move forward with reviewing these applications for consideration in the FY2021 competition.
 - Amanda also highlighted that an unfortunate result of the cancelling of the FY2020 competition is that there will be no CoC-based new project funding coming into the community until 2022 at the earliest.
- HUD also gave notice that all existing projects would be renewed non-competitively. The next steps for the renewal projects is that they will be getting their grant agreements from HUD in the coming months.

Next Steps –

- Values and Funding will be meeting tomorrow to discuss what to do with the FY2020 New Project Applicants
- Amanda will update everyone as more information is released from HUD.

Overview of ESG-CV Funding Allocation & Projected Impact:

Summary –

- Terra reminded the CoC Board that Detroit received additional ESG funds as part of COVID-19 relief legislation. The funding amounts are as follows:
 - Round 1 – \$10,458,172 – fully allocated to providers
 - Round 2 – \$9,124,129 – will be allocated within the next 30 days
 - Round 3 – recently announced, funding amount unknown, competitive process will be launched once more details are received
- Terra then spent some time discussing what resources have been brought online with the new funding. They are as follows:
 - Three New RRH Providers:
 - Will bring 225 new RRH units
 - One new Prevention Provider: Matrix Human Services

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- One new Emergency Shelter Provider: Pope Francis Center
 - Will function as a day center that can serve anywhere from 100 – 200 people
- Three New Outreach Providers: Central City Integrated Health, Community & Home Supports, and Pope Francis Center
- Terra also announced an initiative that has been made possible due to the influx of funding into the CoC. The project has been titled the Family Housing Accelerator (FHA). FHA kicked off in January 2021 and is a pilot initiative which aims to house all families who were in shelter in Detroit on December 1, 2020. The project also aims to help the CoC discover how to better house families more effectively and efficiently. We hope to carry the lessons learned from this project into future planning.

Update on NIS' Housing Justice Initiative:

Summary –

- Vanessa S. briefly reminded the CoC Board of the history of the partnership with NIS and gave a brief overview of the work completed to-date. Vanessa also briefly reviewed the goals of the work.
- Kevin S. then spent some time giving an overview of how the process is intended to lay out. There are 3 basic phases. The first phase (current) is the research phase in which a deep dive into the system is conducted and feedback is garnered from a broad group of stakeholders about the system. During this phase, a roadmap with recommendations on how to move the Detroit CoC to the co-developed community vision of housing justice. As part of the work in phase one, a community workshop was held in October to begin the process of developing a vision for housing justice rooted in racial equity.
- Kevin then went on to highlight some of the findings that are emerging from the systems analysis to-date:
 - There are many different elements working on homelessness and housing insecurity in Detroit, but there isn't clear interconnections or mutual accountability between all of those elements. The elements have some connections to each other, but there is not a broad connection across all the areas of work. There is a need to unify all of these elements to ensure that priorities and policies align across all stakeholders.
 - The community should co-design and implement a system transformation that shifts power to those with lived expertise and holds the community accountable to those served by the system.
 - Detroit needs to define what housing justice rooted in racial equity looks like in Detroit.
 - One key factor of this is the need for the system to be led by people with lived experience who reflect the community
 - Detroit needs an accountability structure to drive the 4 tenants of the vision forward. This accountability needs to address the following shortcomings in Detroit's current function:
 - Lack of accountability to people being served
 - Lack of clarity on which elements are accountable to which
 - Unclear structures to hold elements of the system accountable
- Kevin briefly previewed the 7 recommendations that will be incorporated into the housing justice roadmap. These will be discussed in more detail at the second community workshop that will occur in February. Invitations to the workshop were sent out last week. All board members were encouraged to attend.
- Participants were then divided into breakout rooms to discuss their reactions to the presentation in small groups.

Next Steps –

- The next Community Workshop will be held on February 16th from 4:00 – 5:40pm via zoom. Those who would like an invitation can contact Vanessa at vanessa@mcgregorfund.org

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- The Housing Justice Roadmap from NIS should be finalized by mid-March.
- These discussions will continue during the March & April CoC Board Meetings.
- Work is currently underway to brief elected officials and philanthropic partners.

Systems Performance Measures Submission to HUD

Summary –

- Denise G. gave a brief explanation about what Systems Performance Measures (SPMs) are. Systems performance measures are a series of metrics intended to help the community gauge its progress towards the goals of reducing and ending homelessness. The tracking of these measures is intended to assist communities with the following:
 - Summarize the year-to-year comparison of system-wide performance
 - Measure how well projects are working together as a system to respond to homelessness
 - Strategize and use resources to address homelessness
 - Enhance coordination with mainstream resources
 - Collect and use data to guide decision making processes
- Denise explained that a community's performance on these measures is linked to how much federal funding a community receives. It is important to recognize HUD does not compare CoC's against each other, but rather measures a community's progress against itself from year-to-year.
- There are 6 measures that are applicable to Detroit. These measures as well as Detroit's tentative performance in FY2020 (October 1, 2019 to September 30, 2020) are detailed below:
 - Length of time someone experiences homelessness (want to decrease from year to year)
 - Increased from 2019 to 2020 in Detroit
 - Number of persons who return to homelessness after being linked with a housing resource (want to decrease from year to year)
 - Increased from 2019 to 2020 in Detroit
 - Number of persons experiencing homelessness (want to decrease from year to year)
 - Decreased from 2019 to 2020 in Detroit for sheltered, unsheltered, and all persons experiencing homelessness
 - Income of persons exiting CoC funded programs (want to increase from year to year)
 - Decreased for leavers' earned income, but increased for leavers non-employment income
 - Number of persons experiencing homelessness for the first time (want to decrease from year to year)
 - Decreased from 2019 to 2020 in Detroit
 - Number of persons placed in and able to retain permanent housing resources (want to increase from year to year)
 - Remained the same from 2019 to 2020 in Detroit
- Denise highlighted the caveat that some of the measures in the FY2020 data may have been impacted by COVID-19, so board members should consider this when analyzing how this reflects CoC performance. The floor was then opened to the CoC Board to approve the draft data for submission.

Decision –

- Gerald motioned to approve the draft data for the FY2020 SPM submission to HUD. Deloris seconded the motion. Of the 21 voting members present, 19 voted in favor. 0 were opposed. 2 abstained. The motion passed.

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Next Steps –

- The HMIS team will finalize the data over the coming weeks and make the formal submission to HUD by the end of February.
- Further data analysis will be conducted to provide recommendations for how to improve system performance. HAND will be having discussions with the Executive Committee in the future to plan for what analysis should be brought before the board in the future.
- HAND will also be bringing in a consultant to help drive the analysis of the SPMs forward. An RFP will be released soon. CoC Board Members are welcome to review the RFP prior to its release if they are interested.

Committee Recruitment & Reporting Schedule:

Summary –

- Kaitie reminded CoC Board Members that they are required to participate on a CoC Committee as part of their role. Attachment 7a in the packet provides board members with updated information about all of the committees that are currently operating in the Detroit CoC. Those who are not linked with a committee should reach out to Kaitie and/or Amy to express which committee they are interested in and facilitate the connection. New Board Members were given a survey to complete at the last orientation and were reminded to fill it out as soon as possible.
- As part of the efforts to improve the cohesion between the work of the CoC Committees and the CoC Board, Kaitie created a reporting calendar in which all of the committees in the CoC were assigned a meeting to provide an update to the Board. This calendar was based off the work that is projected to move forward in 2021 and is intended to align with that trajectory. The calendar is attachment 7b.

Next Steps –

- The Executive Committee will take the information from the surveys and link the new CoC Board Members with committees that have vacancies.

Executive Committee Elections

Summary –

- Celia Thomas expressed interest in filling the vacant Vice Chair seat on the Detroit CoC Executive Committee.

Decision –

- Eleanor motioned to approve Celia Thomas' assumption of the Vice Chair role for the CoC Board Executive Committee. Erica seconded the motion. Of the 21 voting members present, 18 voted in favor. 1 were opposed. 2 abstained. The motion passed.

Next Steps –

- An at-large seat was opened for the Executive Committee based upon Celia's election as Vice Chair. Erica and Ray expressed interest in running for this seat. Elections will be held at the next CoC Board Meeting.

Chronic Leadership Committee – Data & Workplan Update:

Summary –

- Catherine D. explained that as of the beginning of January 2021, there are 251 persons experiencing chronic homelessness in Detroit. This is a decrease from previous years which signifies that we are heading in the right direction.
- Amy B. took some time to explain strategies that the committee has defined to aid in ending Chronic Homelessness in Detroit. They are as follows:
 - Close the supportive housing gap by adding new high quality SH units (need roughly 364 PSH units)
 - Decrease households aging into chronicity by targeting interventions further upstream
 - Create robust service deliver systems based on housing first and harm reduction by improving the quality of existing SH services.

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- Use data in a sophisticated way to advance the work by ensuring quality data sharing across systems
- Lindsey B-G then spent some time celebrating accomplishments from the Chronic Leadership Committee from 2020. Some highlights are as follows:
 - During 2020, roughly 1XX chronically homeless persons were successfully connected with housing.
 - Helped to champion a cross-committee collaborative effort to improve the quality of PSH provided by our CoC to help improve outcomes for those experiencing chronic homelessness in Detroit
 - Engaged in advocacy to leadership at both MSHDA and the City of Detroit in the hopes of bringing more supportive housing units online and strengthening the partnerships with those two entities.
 - Established a plan for consistent management of the chronic by-name-list to improve data quality and consistent reporting on progress
- Candace M. then asked the Board to share feedback on how a stronger link between the Chronic Committee and the CoC Board could be facilitated. Katie Z. offered to be a link to resources at MDHHS and other state agencies.

Next Steps –

- The committee will continue their efforts to move this work forward and will report back at a future meeting.

Amy B. closed the meeting at 4:21pm. *The next meeting will be on Monday, March 1, from 2 – 4:30pm. Location will continue to be virtual due to COVID-19.*