

Detroit Continuum of Care | Board of Directors

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

July 12, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes

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

Board Members Present

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

Absent Board Members

Ashlee Cunningham
DaJuan Smith
June White

Excused Board Members

Ari Ruttenberg

General Public

Amanda Sternberg
Bobby Brown
Chinelo Onuigbo
Courtney Smith
Curtis Smith
DeJ'a Lowery
Diana Lu
Jasmine Morgan
Julia Janco
Kaitie Giza
Kathleen Noel
Kiana Harrison
Kimberly Benton
Lindsey Bishop-Gilmore
Matthew Niemi
Rosie Jones
Scott Jackson
Shani Campbell

Amy B. opened the meeting at 2:05 pm 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.
- August & September Board Meeting Dates Moved:
 - Amy B. informed the board that the next two Board Meetings will be moved back a week. The September meeting is moved due to the holiday. And the August meeting is moved to accommodate the needs of the CoC Competition and to allow for more time between the July and August meetings to continue to advance important work.
 - The August board meeting will now be held on August 9th and the September Board Meeting will now be held on September 13th.
- MSHDA (Michigan State Housing Development Authority) ESG (Emergency Solutions Grant) Annual Funding Application:
 - Jasmine M. explained that Detroit was awarded \$245,609 in ESG funding from MSHDA to be spent from October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022. HAND acts as the fiduciary for this funding and subgrants it out to Southwest Solutions to administer the services. This funding will be devoted to RRH programming.

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- In order to obtain the funding for the community, HAND must submit an Exhibit 1 to MSHDA annually. This usually consists of several pages of narrative response to various questions. However, due to the ongoing pandemic, MSHDA has shortened their requirements for the Exhibit 1 this year. The shortened materials are due to MSHDA by July 31.
- There will be some changes for future funding. Jasmine will be presenting to the board in the coming weeks about these changes and garnering the board's approval for a proposed process to select a new agency to administer the services from this funding.

Consent Agenda

June Board Meeting Minutes

- The floor was opened for questions. None were asked.
- Eleanor motioned to approve the June 2021 Board Minutes. Gerald seconded the motion. Of the 16 voting members present, 16 voted in favor. 0 were opposed. 16 abstained. The motion passed.

FY2020 CoC Competition Update:

Summary –

- Amanda S. gave a brief update about the CoC Competition. As a reminder, in May the CoC Board approved the Renewal Evaluation Criteria and New Project Application Process Recommendations. In June the Board approved the FY21 Project Ranking and Reallocation Policies.
- Renewal projects and new projects have submitted their applications and they are currently under review. Decisions about new projects cannot be made until the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) is released and Detroit is informed about how much new funding is available. 7 projects applied for a total request of roughly \$3.3 million.
- The NOFO is currently going through the legal review process at HUD which means that it could be released in a couple of days to a couple of weeks depending upon how long the process takes. If the application is released within July, that would put the application due at some point in either September or October.

Next Steps –

- HAND will continue to move forward the work of the CoC Competition and will come to the Board for updates and decision-making in the coming months.

Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHV):

Summary –

- Jasmine M. explained that The American Rescue Plan has allocated \$5 billion for the implementation of Emergency Housing Vouchers to target specific populations that will allow individuals and families to choose and lease safe, decent, and affordable housing. It is expected that individuals are housed quickly. These vouchers were divided by HUD among a number of Housing Authorities across the nation to be distributed to local communities. The Detroit CoC will receive a total of 160 vouchers from both MSHDA and the Detroit Housing Commission (DHC).
 - In essence, the EHV's will function like a traditional Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) but with the addition of targeted supportive services to assist clients with lease up and stability post-housing. For Detroit, CHS and Wayne Metro will act as the supportive service providers.
- Due to the promotion of speedily housing persons, clients have already been pulled for the EHV's from MSHDA. Initial paperwork was sent to clients on June 28th and is due to the housing agent by today, July 12th. Local efforts have been set up to help clients complete the paperwork within the designated timeframe and to provide immediate briefing upon completion.
- The goal is to have 80 households housed by October 31 with everyone housed by the end of 2021. Separate timelines will be established for the DHC vouchers.

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Next Steps –

- HAND will continue to partner with and provide assistance to the housing authorities and local service providers.

Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project (YHDP) Application:

Summary –

- Kaitie G. reminded the CoC Board that they approved the Detroit CoC applying for YHDP at the June meeting. Since then, HAND and a team of stakeholders from the Committee on Youth Homelessness (CYH) have been advancing the work of the application. Through weekly team meetings and independent work, the following has been accomplished to-date:
 - Development of a workplan and corresponding timelines;
 - Analysis of past application responses, where improvement could be made, and determination of how to respond in 2021;
 - Completion of a youth-focused needs assessment (see attachment in packet for key findings); and
 - Development of a strategy to end youth homelessness in Detroit.
- The following work is in progress:
 - Hosting 2-3 youth-led focus groups to garner input for the application and overall system improvement;
 - Developing a draft of the narrative responses required for the application; and
 - Securing letters of support.
- Kaitie went on to review the proposed strategy to end youth homelessness. It was approved by the CYH on July 8th and now the Board's approval is sought. It's development included the following:
 - Referencing of federal guidance and prominent sources on youth homelessness;
 - Conducting a literature review of work accomplished by other YHDP communities and theming the findings;
 - Juxtaposing against the findings from the local needs assessment and feedback from local providers and youth.
- The strategy has 8 overarching goals with a corresponding textual and data rationale. There is a particular emphasis on promoting equity and minimizing trauma perpetuated by the system – which culminated in two equity-focused goals and is intentionally integrated throughout. The remaining goals focus on key touchpoints in the system for youth on their journey to housing stability (identification, prevention, housing access, tailored supports, and stability). Kaitie reviewed the various goals and rationale with the CoC Board.

Decision –

- Celia motioned to approve the proposed strategy to prevent and end youth homelessness. Donna seconded the motion. Of the 17 voting members present, 17 voted in favor. 0 were opposed. 0 abstained. The motion passed.

Next Steps –

- Kaitie and the CYH will continue to advance the YHDP application. The final submission is due to HUD on July 27th.
- The strategy to end youth homelessness is intended to be a living document that adapts to emerging findings and needs. The CYH will work to continue to build out the goals – incorporating objectives, tasks, and measurable outcomes – and will modify the goals as new information arises.

Local Family Housing Accelerator (FHA) Initiative:

Summary –

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- Shani C. explained that the CoC launched a pilot process in which we strove to house all families with children under 18 that were identified in December 2020 by May 31, 2021. The pilot ran from January 1 – May 31. This was intended to be accomplished through the following:
 - Targeted collaboration among providers and system partners,
 - Accomplished through developing a by name list and regular meetings with providers to coordinate, case conference, and problem solve
 - Braiding of various funding streams to better target existing resources,
 - Accomplished through resource mapping conversations among systems leaders
 - In depth data tracking and analysis
- Shani went on to review some takeaways from the process. They are as follows:
 - Having a by-name list is extremely helpful in tracking client outcomes and fostering collaboration among providers.
 - There are major barriers outside of the system that impact our ability to house folks quickly (housing stock quality and availability; landlord willingness; vital documentation attainment; etc). While they are outside of our system, addressing them will be critical in improving outcomes for families (and all persons) experiencing homelessness.
 - It was helpful to have an opportunity to case conference and collaborate among the providers. Conversely, it was also difficult to find the time/capacity to attend all the meetings for the initiative.
 - Adaptation and flexibility were essential. Building strong relationships was/is crucial as well.
- Julia J. reviewed some of the outcomes from the initiative. See the linked power-point (above) for the various data points. Some highlights are as follows:
 - Length of time that families spent in shelter did not change from the efforts of the initiative
 - Length of time to housing move-in, particularly for RRH clients decreased from the efforts of the initiative
 - Rates of exit to positive housing destinations increased for families in the initiative
 - Percentage of clients who exited w/ a housing subsidy increased for families in the initiative

Next Steps –

- Discussions are underway on whether families should be elevated as a priority population within the CoC (in the same way that Veterans and persons experiencing chronic homelessness are prioritized).

Housing Justice Roadmap Updates:

Summary –

- Amy reminded the board that the CoC adopted a new vision rooted in equity in May. With this adoption, the CoC committed to undergoing a system transformation process. We are in a period of transition currently with planning and preparation for the next phase underway. Some of the next steps are as follows:
 - Joint board and general membership meetings will resume in the fall of 2021
 - HAND is working to hire an Engagement Coordinator to advance the CoC's commitment to elevating the voices of those with lived expertise
 - Coordinate with committees and workgroups to align tasks and work with the CoC vision
 - Analyze and discuss CoC-level data about racial disparities within the system
 - Coordinate with the Housing and Revitalization Department (HRD) at the City of Detroit to promote their adoption of the community-developed vision and garner their commitment to participating in the system re-design process alongside the CoC.

Amy B. closed the meeting at 4:02pm. *The next CoC Board meeting will be on Monday, August 9th, from 2 – 4:30pm. Location will continue to be virtual.*