

Detroit Continuum of Care | Board of Directors
Working to Equitably End Homelessness in Detroit, Highland Park, & Hamtramck
March 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
Chioke Mose-Telesford
Deloris Cortez
Donna Price
Eleanor Costa
Elizabeth Vasquez
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

Absent Board Members

Dajuan Smith

Excused Board Members

Celia Thomas

General Public

Amanda Sternberg
Andrea Dye-Farginson
Brandon Mays
Candace Morgan
Denise Goshton
Donna Lyons
Faith Smith
Jamie Wojahn
Jane Scarlett
Jennifer Tuzinsky
John Stoyka
Kaitie Giza
Kathleen Noel
Kiana Harrison
Kimberly Benton
Leo Hanifin
Lindsey Bishop-Gilmore
Marguerite Lawrence
Olivia Carter
ReGina Hentz
Shani Campbell
Viki DeMars

Amy B. opened the meeting at 2:04pm 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 informed attendees that the next General Membership Meeting will be on March 16 from 1:30 – 3pm. The content will be focused on adopting a vision rooted in equity as a CoC that will help to shape and drive our work moving forward. Amy encouraged everyone to attend. The Board Meeting today will end early in anticipation of the meeting on the 16th.

Consent Agenda

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- The floor was opened for questions. None were asked.
- Gerald motioned to approve the January 2021 Board Minutes. Eleanor seconded the motion. Of the 16 voting members present, 15 voted in favor. 0 were opposed. 1 abstained. The motion passed.

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FY2020 CoC Planning Grant:

Summary –

- Tasha reminded Board Members that this was part of an ongoing series of planning discussions. Shortly after last month's board meeting, HAND was notified that the Detroit CoC had been awarded the full \$843 thousand that we are eligible for in the FY2020 term. This money will be available beginning in January 2022. As a reminder, the CoC planning grant allows for CoCs to pay for staffing, training, and other infrastructure costs. Tasha shared the [linked document](#) with the CoC Board to help guide a planning conversation to determine how the CoC would spend the funding. The document provides details on how the funding is currently being expended.
- Tasha briefly reviewed the different allowable expense categories: coordination, determining a service area (not applicable to us), developing a system, evaluation and monitoring, participating in the community's consolidated plan, CoC funding application. In regards to staffing, the CoC planning grant currently funds the CoC Coordinator, the Systems Coordinator, and the Performance Management Analyst positions. In 2021, the following 3 positions are planned to be hired and brought online: CoC Manager, Engagement Coordinator, and Program Support. Tasha then briefly reviewed a few gaps/needs that she has heard mentioned that may be good to consider for utilizing funds in 2022 to address. Those include: landlord engagement, having dedicated resources around racial equity (whether staffing, training, stipends for persons with lived experience), and incorporating additional trainings for the Detroit CoC (e.g. improving shelter quality). Tasha requested that the CoC Board Members complete a survey to provide feedback on how they'd like to see the CoC spend the money in calendar year 2022.

Next Steps –

- Board members are requested to complete the survey that Tasha shared by March 19th.

Analysis of Renewal Project Performance in FY2020 – Rapid Re-Housing (RRH) and Transitional Housing (TH):

Summary –

- Amanda reviewed the performance of CoC-funded Rapid Re-Housing (RRH) and Transitional Housing (TH) Projects in the FY2020 local CoC Competition process. For context, in January 2020, Amanda reviewed the average project performance for the Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) projects. This is a continuation of that review, focused today on TH and RRH. Every fiscal year (FY), the CoC reviews project performance for CoC-funded programs. Each program is scored on several metrics. Over the course of the spring and the summer, the renewal projects receive scores based upon their performance on these various metrics. The majority of measures that are assessed annually relate to client access to mainstream resources, housing outcomes, and spending rates since those are tied directly to client outcomes. For the purpose of the presentation, Amanda reviewed CoC performance for two different years: FY2019 as compared to FY2018 (the local application process always looks back on performance for the prior year, therefore the CoC reviewed performance in FY2019 for 2020).
- Amanda went on to highlight some findings from the analysis:
 - Mainstream Resources and Employment: RRH performance improved in general from 2018 to 2019, whereas TH performance saw a slight decline. TH performance did improve in increasing total cash income for participants (as did RRH performance). An important caveat to the TH performance is that the number of transitional housing programs decreased from 4 in 2018 to 2 in 2019. One of the remaining programs funded for TH serves a client base that is fleeing violence and seeking asylum in the US. This has an impact on performance in this measure as well as a number of measures below.
 - Housing Performance and Quality: performance has remained consistently high from 2018 to 2019 for RRH with 98% of persons served being either moved into or able to maintain their housing. We also saw a significant increase in performance for TH – jumping from 89% to 98%.

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- Spending Rates: These help us understand the extent programs are fully utilizing CoC resources to help clients. Combined RRH programs spending rates improved from 2019 to 2020. CoC project performance typically ranges from 90-95% expended. TH programs maintained 100% expenditure rates from 2018 to 2019.

Next Steps –

- Board Members can expect to hear about evaluation criteria for the FY2021 Competition in the coming months.

Executive Committee Elections

Summary –

- Amy explained that 3 individuals expressed interest in joining the CoC Executive Committee: Donna Price, Ray Shipman, and Erica George. Each person was given a few minutes to speak about their desire to participate on the committee and highlight what strengths they believe they could bring to the work. The Board Members were then instructed to complete a ballot in which they selected which candidate they would like to elect.
- Kaitie explained that HUD indicates on their annual application a few key entities that they would like to see the CoC coordinate with. One of those entities is the educational system. Kaitie went on to explain that we have an opportunity to appoint an educational liaison to the Detroit CoC Board. In the past, the CoC had appointed George Eason to help link the work of the Detroit CoC and the Detroit Public School System. After he retired, that seat sat vacant. In recent collaboration on the CoC Board Orientation, Julie Ratekin – who operates as the McKinney Vento Liaison with Wayne Metro – indicated that she would be happy to serve on the Detroit CoC Board and help create stronger linkages to the education system. In working to facilitate the connection, it was realized that there is not a seat that is explicitly devoted to this role. It was proposed that the Detroit CoC appoint Julie to fill one of the open cultivated seats for the remainder of 2021. Over the year, the CoC would work to update the Governance Charter to add an appointed seat devoted explicitly to this role, at which point, Julie could be reappointed to fill.

Decision –

- Of the 3 candidates, Donna Price received the most votes and was elected to the Executive Committee.
- Elizabeth motioned to approve Julie Ratekin's assumption of a cultivated appointed seat for the remainder of 2021 as an Educational Liaison. Sharyn seconded the motion. Of the 20 voting members present, 18 voted in favor. 0 were opposed. 2 abstained. The motion passed.

Next Steps –

- Donna will begin attending the Executive Committee meetings and helping to drive forward the work.
- Kaitie will partner with Julie to help her join the CoC Board.

Veteran Leadership Committee Update:

Summary –

- Jennifer T. briefly reviewed some accomplishments of the committee in 2020. She explained that 216 homeless veterans were housed over the course of 2020. The Veteran Leadership Committee (VLC) had set a goal to reduce Veteran homelessness by 30% during 2020 and that goal was met (33% reduction – from 252 persons on the by-name-list in Jan 2020 to 170 in Dec 2020). Other accomplishments include: increased resources by 103% due to CARES funding, obtained a technical advisor to help manage SSVF (Supportive Services for Veteran Families) funding, and permanently housing a number of Veterans through the various resources.
- Jennifer T. went on to explain that much of 2020 was spent facilitating a merge of the Veteran Coordinated Entry system with CAM (the Detroit CoC Coordinated Entry System). This merge went live on February 1, 2021. Prior to this merger, the CoC and the VA operated separately in linking homeless persons

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to resources – veterans accessed the system separately from the remainder of persons experiencing homelessness. Jennifer briefly explained that with the merge, homeless Veterans will first connect with CAM (as would any other homeless persons in Detroit) to be assessed and referred to resources. CAM staff have been given access to SQUARES, a database which denotes what VA funded resources a veteran is eligible for. Veterans who are new to the system will also be added to Veteran by-name-list. Based upon their vulnerability assessment (SPDAT), the person will be referred to resources for support in mitigating their homelessness. Veterans who need an immediate safe place to sleep will also be referred and connected to shelter.

- In addition to merging coordinated entry systems, the VLC has been working over the past year to help merge the data tracking systems for the CoC and the VA. HUDs new data standards that went into effect in Oct. 2020 were a major driving factor for this merge. Through this work, all veterans that are currently on the veteran by-name-list are now active in HMIS. Work is still underway to fully iron the details out – particularly in ensuring that veteran providers are clear on their roles in data entry moving forward.
- Candace M. spent some time reviewing the work that the VLC has done to identify and remove barriers for veterans experiencing homelessness. The committee has an improvement team of persons from various agencies that meet biweekly to assess and address these barriers. In 2020, the VLC made significant progress in accomplishing 9 out of the 14 goals they set related to this work. For 2021, the VLC has decided they will strive to reduce Veteran homelessness by 40%. The 3 major areas of work that will be undertaken to achieve this include: improving data tracking and utilization (relying on data to drive decisions), improving outcomes for veterans as they progress through the system, and better aligning the local VA with the federal criteria and benchmarks associated with ending veteran homelessness.
- Candace also explained that in 2019 Community Solutions partnered with Rocket Mortgage to develop a Veteran Housing Fund. This fund is intended to provide flexible funding to Veterans to help mitigate the various barriers that presented which prevented them from being able to successfully move into permanent housing. The funding is also testing an initiative to provide veterans a \$1,000 incentive for moving into permanent housing. This money can be utilized however they see fit.
- Dr. Gerald C. explained that the VA has obtained a grant to provide time-limited case management to veterans who may not have qualified for more targeted assistance through other resources. This grant allows for veterans to receive the additional support they need to maintain permanent housing. Work is underway to expand this criteria to support veterans who also self-resolved their homelessness.

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 3:44pm. *The Board is reminded to attend the General Membership Meeting on Tuesday, March 16th from 1:30 – 3pm. The next CoC Board meeting will be on Monday, April 5th, from 2 – 4:30pm. Location for both will continue to be virtual due to COVID-19.*