

Detroit Continuum of Care | Board of Directors

Working to Equitably End Homelessness in Detroit, Highland Park, & Hamtramck
May 3, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes

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

Board Members Present

Amy Brown
Anne Blake
Ari Ruttenberg
Catherine Distelrath
Celia Thomas
DaJuan Smith
Deloris Cortez
Donna Price
Eleanor Bradford
Erica George
Gerald Curley
Katie Zeiter
Sharyn Johnson
Ted Phillips
Vanessa Samuelson

Absent Board Members

Ashlee Cunningham
Joy Flood
June White
Ray Shipman

Excused Board Members

Chioke Mose-Telesford
Elizabeth Vasquez
Shawntae Harris-Mintline
Tasha Gray

General Public

Amanda Sternberg
Andrea Dye-Farginson
Bobby Brown
Carly Steele
Erin Nixon
Jamie Wojahn
Jane Scarlett
Jasmine Morgan
Joey Merchant
Kaitie Giza
Kathleen Noel
Kiana Harrison
Kimberly Benton
Lindsey Bishop-Gilmore
Luke Hassevoort
Marguerite Lawrence
Matthew Tommelein
Michelle Monette
Olivia Carter
Patricia McCaffrey-Green
ReGina Hentz
Scott Jackson
Sheila Scheppman
Viki DeMars
Vineta Mitchell
Virgil Williams Jr.

Amy B. opened the meeting at 2:00 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.
- Upcoming General Membership Meeting:
 - Amy B. reminded board members to attend the May General Membership Meeting to participate in the vote on whether or not to adopt the proposed vision for the Detroit CoC. This meeting will be held on May 18th from 1:30 – 3pm ([registration link](#)).
- Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Update:
 - Catherine D. reminded attendees that MSHDA has been pulling more people from the Homeless Preference HCV Waitlist. The anticipation is that MSHDA will continue to pull monthly throughout 2021. Catherine requested that participants ensure staff from their agency are aware of the increase and are working with clients to navigate the process.

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- Catherine gave a shoutout to NSO Tumaini, DRMM Genesis House, AFG RRH, and Wayne Metro RRH for their exceptional progress in moving clients who have been pulled through the process.
- Persons with questions can reach out to Catherine (cdistelrath@swsol.org)
- New Outreach Initiatives
 - Terra reported that Motor City Mitten Mission (MCMM) will be coming on board to provide Outreach in Detroit within the next month or so. They will be participating on two special initiative projects.
 - Homeless Outreach Teams (HOT) – a combined effort between street outreach (provider = MCMM) and community mental health (provider = CCIH) to collaboratively engage unsheltered folks to address their housing and behavioral health needs simultaneously. This is targeted in the 3rd precinct in Detroit.
 - 8 Mile and Woodward – MCMM will partner with the PATH team in Oakland County to link persons who panhandle at this intersection with long-term housing resources.

Consent Agenda

April Board Meeting Minutes

- The floor was opened for questions. None were asked.
- Celia motioned to approve the April 2021 Board Minutes. Sharyn seconded the motion. Of the 13 voting members present, 12 voted in favor. 0 were opposed. 1 abstained. The motion passed.

FY2020 CoC Competition Launch:

Summary –

- Amanda S. provided the CoC Board with context about what has happened with the CoC Competition to-date and what they can expect to come before them in the coming months.
 - Amanda explained that there two branches to the CoC Competition that occur mostly at the same time: the national competition (where the CoC puts together the application packet to HUD that is evaluated and scored to determine how much funding to allocate to the community) and the local application process (the process we use locally to determine how we will allocate the CoC funding that we are awarded from HUD). The local application process also encompasses two elements: renewal projects (projects that currently receive CoC funding that are seeking to have that funding renewed) and new projects (projects that do not currently receive funding from HUD and are applying to become a recipient).
 - Amanda also reviewed an anticipated timeline for this year’s CoC Competition. The timeline is as follows:
 - 2020 – CoC Board approved the VFPC recommendations for new project funding and evaluation criteria. A new project RFP was released and local projects applied for funding.
 - January 2021 – HUD canceled the FY2020 CoC Competition.
 - February 2021 – VFPC reviewed draft CoC policies for the FY2021 competition. The New Project Review Committee reviewed the FY2020 new project applications.
 - March 2021 – The proposed policies reviewed by VFPC were opened up for public comments. The New Project Review Committee developed recommendations for the applications that were received.
 - April 2021 – VFPC approved the recommendations from the New Project Review Committee (presented to the CoC Board today). VFPC and PEC met collectively to provide responses to the public comments that were received.

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- May 2021 (current) – The CoC Board is being asked to approve the FY2021 CoC Renewal Project Evaluation & Scoring Criteria as well as the New Project Review Committee’s recommendations. Agencies will be informed of the Board’s decisions and given additional instructions about the local competition.
- June 2021 (future) – The CoC Board will be asked to approve CoC Project Priority Ranking & Reallocation Policies. Renewal project review process will be underway.
- July 2021 – Review of Round 2 new project applications. Anticipated release of HUD’s FY2021 NOFA.
- August 2021 – CoC Board will be asked to approve the Appeals Committee and New Project Review Committee Recommendations. VFPC will develop a final project priority ranking list.
- September 2021 – CoC Board will be asked to approve the final project ranking priority ranking list and to provide input on the CoC application. If the NOFA is released in July, the CoC application may be due to HUD in late September.
- November 2021 – CoC Board debriefed on FY2021 CoC Competition.
- Late 2021/Early 2022 – HUD announces FY2021 new and renewal project funding.
- Amanda then reviewed the recommendations that CoC Board was being asked to approve: the FY2021 Renewal Project Scoring and Evaluation Criteria and the New Project Review Committee recommendations. These recommendations are detailed in the meeting materials. The aims of the recommendations are as follows:
 - To ensure that the CoC is using data to make funding decisions – ensuring that funded projects meet performance standards and fill local need
 - To increase capacity and quality of PSH projects and to create opportunities to diversify the portfolio of providers (particularly PSH providers)
 - To further our CoC’s goals of ending chronic homelessness.

Decision –

- Gerald motioned to approve the FY2021 Renewal Project Scoring and Evaluation Criteria. Donna seconded the motion. Of the 10 eligible voting members present, 10 voted in favor. 0 were opposed. 0 abstained. The motion passed.
- Anne motioned to approve the Values and Funding Committee’s three recommendations for New Project Funding for the FY2021 competition. Donna seconded the motion. Of the 10 eligible voting members present, 10 voted in favor. 0 were opposed. 0 abstained. The motion passed.

Next Steps –

- HAND will continue to move forward the work that was detailed above and will come to the Board for updates and decision-making in the coming months.

Notice of Policy Updates:

Summary –

- The City of Detroit in collaboration with HAND and CAM has updated the Rapid Re-Housing P&P and developed a new P&P to guide how the CoC helps clients navigate the HCV Process. The new policies have been posted on HAND’s website and can be found by clicking below:
 - [Link to RRH P&P](#)
 - [Link to HCV P&P](#)

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2020 CAM Annual Report:

Summary –

- CAM recently released their 2020 data report. Scott reviewed the report (included in the meeting materials) with the CoC Board – calling out important data and take-aways. The report is organized into four main segments – access, assessment, prioritization, and referral (the four main service components of CAM). Some of the highlights are as follows:
 - In 2020, over 67,000 people either presented at a CAM access point (3,573) or called into the call center (63,691). CAM saw significantly more volume of contacts through the call center model.
 - CAM documented over 40,000 engagements with persons who sought support – averaging to roughly 147 engagements per day.
 - CAM conducted 8,211 intakes in 2020, coming to an average of 29 intakes per day. This is lower than the average intakes for 2019. This shows that while CAM talked to significantly more people with the opening of the phone lines, a lot of the calls were not related to services that CAM and the CoC is able to provide.
 - New in 2020, CAM was able to report on the number of youth who were referred to youth-specific shelters vs. general shelters. The data shows that 61% percent of unaccompanied youth and 28% of parenting youth were referred to youth-specific shelters.
 - We saw a decline in the total number of shelter referrals throughout 2020. This is the opposite of the trends that were seen in 2018 and 2019. This may be something that we want to dive into more and try to better understand as a system.
 - CAM staff made 2,294 diversions in 2020 – coming to an average of 8 per day. Families were referred at a higher rate than singles.
 - Single adults are more likely to score in acuity group 1 (prioritized for PSH) whereas families are more likely to score in acuity group 3 (prioritized for RRH). This is due in part to the fact that singles are more likely to be chronically homeless than families.
 - In 2020, 609 referrals were made to permanent housing programs (this is a decline from the 732 referrals made in 2019). This decline is likely explained in part due to the impacts of the pandemic.
 - In 2020, roughly 63% of the persons added to the Homeless Preference-Housing Choice Voucher waitlist were pulled for a voucher.
 - 176 households on the chronic by-name-list and 289 households on the veteran-by-name list were housed in 2020.

Next Steps –

- CAM will continue to monitor and report out.

Modifying the CoC Board Values:

Summary –

- Vanessa S. briefly reviewed a timeline of the work that has been done to facilitate the adoption of values to drive the work of the CoC Board. The work began in late 2019 when values were drafted and adopted. This work continued in mid-late 2020 with small group discussions. Feedback highlighted a desire to center the values in equity. These values were updated to align with this and feedback was gathered on the new revision in early 2021. A small working group of board members met in March 2021 to incorporate the feedback and create the drafted values which are being discussed today.
- The proposed values are as follows:
 - An Outcomes Orientation – actions adopted and advanced by the CoC Board will be rooted in successfully preventing homelessness where possible, and if not possible, making the experience of homelessness rare, brief, and one-time.

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- Equity – we demonstrate a commitment to equity through inclusive, transparent, and thorough decision-making processes and communication, regular examination of equitable outcomes, and diverse representation across the board and committees.
- Person-Centered Housing & Services – all persons have the right to accessible, low-barrier, safe, and sustainable housing and services that honor all identities, strengths, and needs including race, age, gender, sexual orientation, mental health supports, substance use, and any other dimension that could be used to discriminate.
- Data-driven approach – decision-making processes should make the greatest possible use of quantitative and qualitative data, disaggregated in ways to assess equitable outcomes where possible.
- Responsive Solutions – the entities that form our CoC must have the flexibility to respond to emerging ideas and challenges and to try new and innovative ideas and projects.
- Cross-Systems Collaboration – the experience of homelessness is a result of structural inequities and systemic racism. To successfully make progress towards our outcomes, inclusiveness, engagement, collaboration, and cross-systems partnerships are required.

Next Steps –

- Participants were asked to reflect on the values and complete a survey to share what they think we should be doing to connect the board's values to action. The Board will be asked to vote to formally adopt the proposed values at an upcoming meeting.

Amy B. closed the meeting at 4:35pm. *The next CoC Board meeting will be on Monday, June 7th, from 2 – 4:30pm. Location will continue to be virtual due to COVID-19.*