

Continuum of Care Oversight Committee

Meeting Minutes

March 15, 2017

3602 Pacific Ave., Soundview Conference Room 1

Members Present

Nick Bayard, The REACH Center
Jeff Rodgers, Pierce County
Valerie Crout, AM
Marilee Hill-Anderson, Sumner School District
Sean Raybell, WSD of Corrections
Deborah Howell, Workforce Central
Keith Galbraith, Family Renewal Shelter
Nhan Nguyen, City of Tacoma
David Bugher, City of Lakewood
Courtney Casady, City of Lakewood
Tammy Boros, AP4H

Staff: Valeri Knight and Elsa Jaramillo

Members Absent

Ellie Ottey, Pierce County Housing Authority
Chris Baird, Veteran's Administration
Laneta Able, DSHS Region 3
Beatrice Dixon, Optum Health
Connie Brown, Affordable Hsng Consortium
Sebrena Chambers, TPC Health Department

Guests/Public Attendees

Al Ratcliffe
Patty Spaulding-Klewin
Genevie Borja
Gerrit Nyland

The meeting was called to order by Jeff Rodgers at 8:37.

Jeff Rodgers suggested amending the agenda and moving the guest presenters for the Veteran's Program to 8:45.

Welcome & Introductions

Introductions were made around the table.

Public Comment

Al Ratcliffe shared the Homeless Coalition decided at their last meeting they will be approaching the City Council to encourage them to reconsider their approach to homeless housing and tent encampments and offering to assist in the process. Additionally, he shared a flyer for participants on a Pierce County Accountable Community of Health (ACH) Bi-Directional Provider Panel.

Veteran's Program Update

Patty Spaulding-Klewin and Gerrit Nyland presented handouts and information about the current criteria and benchmarks for achieving the goal of ending veteran homelessness, the Gap Analysis for FY 2017 and their integration with coordinated entry.



Approval of Minutes

This was delayed to later in the agenda until the minutes were available for review. Keith Galbraith moved to approve the minutes as written. Deborah Howell seconded the motion. Al Ratcliff asked if the minutes reflected the decision last month to include a comment period before each decision. This was confirmed. The motion carried.

Progress Reports

Updates were limited to five minutes each.

Key Result 1

Valeri Knight reported the goal is to have the narrative for the Strategic Plan to the CoC by the end of May.

Jeff Rodgers reported that the rebranding of the CoC has been voted on and the results were to use "The Road Home". It was not clear if the coordinated entry name has been finalized yet.

Nick Bayard reported the CoC Board Application has been revised and finalized. Nick provided both Oasis Youth Center and Diane Powers from the City of Tacoma, Equity and Human Rights Division, a CoC Board Application in an effort to encourage them to apply. It was suggested a list with available positions on the board would be helpful to potential applicants.

Courtney Casady reported she has interviewed their partner with Greater Lakes Mental Health and works in the Lakewood Police Department. It appears they do not track arrests pertaining to homelessness. Courtney also reported that she has contacted 27 agencies including hospitals, out-patient clinics and commitment centers for alcohol and drugs, and they are not willing to share information about the homeless status of clients upon discharge or even if they collect such data.

David Bugher shared the City of Lakewood has also seen several illegal conversions of structures into ad hoc shelters. These buildings have been shut down for unsafe conditions. Some of the structures/owners were approved and receiving auto-payments from DSHS for housing.

Key Result 2

Nick Bayard reports that much of this was discussed already under Key Result 1, but they are working on filling the gaps and ensuring that current committee members consistently attend the meetings.

Courtney Casady reported that despite the impression that individuals leaving Western State Hospital are put into permanent housing, it appears that this is not always the case and there is a lack of coordination with follow-up case management to confirm that the residence is established. The GLMH contact confirms that it is the norm to be discharged with-out a permanent place to live.

Key Result 3

Valorie Crout reports they have met and developed a form, questions and leads for the focus groups. The timeline for people of color and youth and young adults is May 30th with a report to the CoC in September. For LGBTQ focus group should be completed in August with a report in December. The focus group for chronic homeless will be complete by June and reported in October. There is no Veteran's focus group at this time.

Tammy Boros reports there is already a master list for chronically homeless, so it was decided to create a master list assessment. She will continue to work with county staff to complete the lists.

Jeff Rogers shared the County prepares and submits to HUD, a Five Year Consolidated Plan which includes community development, housing and homeless work. He intends to use the homeless portion of this plan as well as a study conducted by Washington State University to develop a needs assessment.

Key Result 4

Nick Bayard reported he has connected with Diane Powers of the Office of Equity at the City of Tacoma. She has submitted an application to be a member of the CoC.

Key Result 5

No update

Key Result 6

Courtney Casady reports that she has spoken with the GMCC (Growth Management Coordinating Committee), the group that will be developing the Comprehensive Plan for Pierce County. Jeff Rogers suggested this be discussed with the recruitment committee to determine how many positions need to be filled on the committee before we proceed.

Valorie Crout reports the intake/assessment work group is complete. The resulting plan is to increase their time at individual shelters and decreased their time for scheduled appointments. The hope is to divert the in-eligible people from entering the coordinated entry system.

Key Result 7

No update – County is recruiting staff.

Key Result 8

No update – County is recruiting staff.

Deborah Howell provided handouts and preliminary data for the Housing and Employment Navigator. This study used a control group with 659 families referred to the program. 358 heads of households were enrolled in the study and 136 of those were in Pierce County. The final data will be available in June.

Funding Updates

Jeff Rodgers explained the State has indicated the funding allocation for this year will be reduced. Last year after funding was reduced, the state issued additional funds, so at this time, it is difficult to know but it is expected to be 1.75 million in Consolidated Homeless Grant (CHG) base funding and the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funding combined. Additionally, \$4,000,000 is expected for Housing and Essential Needs Program (HEN) . We have potentially over allocated funds and it may be necessary for some providers to reduce their budgets. The application is due to the State April 17th and the contracts would begin July 1st for two years.

The CoC NOFA is expected to be released early this year - in May and due in August. It is hoped that those on the CoC who do not have funding needs of the CoC will be available to participate on the application review committee. The tentative dates are: NOFA released the first week in April; CoC

Evaluation Committee receives applications June 26th; Meet on July 19th; present recommendations to the CoC on July 21st and finalized for submission to HUD in August. If there are not enough CoC members available for a review committee, members will be recruited from the City of Tacoma and other outside agencies.

100-Day Challenge on Youth Homelessness

Nick Bayer reported the focus of this challenge is to move the needle on youth homelessness as much as possible in 100 days. Three other areas, LA, Cleveland and Austin have done this challenge, Tacoma will be the fourth. The focus will likely be on 16 to 18 year olds, in partnership with the Juvenile Justice System for homeless prevention of youth that would otherwise be going into the criminal justice system or be homeless. The launch is April 18th and 19th the 100 days begins right after that. The event is sponsored by The Way Home, Washington.

For the Good of the Order

Jeff Rodgers shared that the County is recruiting for a Program Specialist 2 position in the Homeless Division. Please share the word. A committee member expressed their hope that the department will reach out and hire a person of color.

Meeting adjourned at 10:38