February 2016 Steering Committee Meeting

Table of Contents

Agenda........................................................................................................................................................................2
January 2016 Meeting Minutes ....................................................................................................................................3
Lead Agency Report.........................................................................................................................................................6
Memo: System Updates .................................................................................................................................................8
Memo: Texas State TDHCA ESG Local Funding Competition.........................................................................................9
AGENDA

I. Call to Order – Daphne Lemelle
   a) Roll Call

II. Approval of Minutes – Daphne Lemelle
   a) January 2016 CoC Steering Committee Meeting

III. Lead Agency -- Add to official minutes

IV. Vacant seats update – Daphne Lemelle

V. Old Business
   a) The Way Home Workgroup and Activities Updates – Add to official minutes
   b) Priorities for State ESG – Eva Thibaudeau
   c) Point in Time – Eva Thibaudeau

VI. New Business
   a) Harris County Domestic Violence Coordinating Council Project Management Role

VII. Announcements

VIII. Public Comments

IX. Adjournment
The meeting of the Continuum of Care (CoC) Steering Committee was held on January 14, 2016 at 601 Sawyer St., 1st Floor Conference Room # 102, pursuant to proper notification of all Steering Committee members.

Welcome and Introductions
Daphne Lemelle called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm. Barbara Dawson conducted roll call and Lemelle noted that there was a quorum.

Approval of Minutes
The minutes from the November CoC Steering Committee meeting were presented. Lemelle called for a motion to approve the September minutes as presented. _______ motioned, _______ seconded. The minutes were approved.

Lead Agency/HMIS Report
- Eva Thibaudeau introduced the Lead Agency and HMIS Lead Agency Reports to the Consent Agenda.
- A brief discussion was held about the upcoming Landlord Marketing event on January 20.
- The Steering Committee reviewed the Communications Dashboard.

Provider Representative
• Eva Thibaudeau introduced Gerald Eckert (Salvation Army) and welcomed him to the Steering Committee. Eckert was selected by voting members of the CoC to fill the vacant Provider Representative seat.

Vote to approve Consumer Representative
• Eva Thibaudeau introduced the nominee for Consumer Representative Da'Quam Taylor, and called for a motion to approve him as a Consumer Representative. Motion carried and Mr. Taylor joined the meeting.

Old Business

• The Way Home Workgroup and Activities Updates
  o Workgroup activities and updates were previously included in the Consent Agenda.

New Business

• CoC Communications Guideline update – Marilyn Brown
  o Marilyn Brown (President/CEO, Coalition for the Homeless of Houston/Harris County) presented information surrounding collaborative communications guidelines for CoC members. These guidelines would help ensure consistent, accurate communication and sharing information when responding to media inquiries about programs of The Way Home.
  o Brown proposed to compose a committee to assemble recommendations for guidelines.

• State ESG Competition and Preview – Eva Thibaudeau
  o Thibaudeau referenced that the Houston/Harris County CoC anticipated serving as the collaborative applicant for Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) ESG funding again this year.
  o The competition is anticipated between February and March.

• Point-In-Time Methodology – Eva Thibaudeau
  o Thibaudeau discussed the changes in the 2016 Point-In-Time Homeless Count & Survey. Instead of a visual count done on a single night, the 2016 Count & Survey will take place during the day time, over three days. Also, all homeless individuals will be engaged in a brief, conversational survey.
  o These surveys will help provide our CoC with more specific demographic details that will allow us to refine our system and ensure that we hit our goal to end chronic homelessness.

Announcements
• A Domestic Violence Community Summit will be hosted by the United Way and members of the local funder community on Monday, February 8, 2016.
• The 2016 Point-In-Time Homeless Count & Survey will be held on January 26, 27 & 28, 2016 throughout Houston, Harris County, and Fort Bend County.

Public Comments
  o No public comments

Adjournment

Upon approval, the meeting was adjourned at 4:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,                              Approved,

________________________                            __________________________
Barbara Dawson, Secretary                             Daphne Lemelle, Chairman

_____________________
Date
Lead Agency Report  
February 11, 2016

a. **Networks, Initiatives and Affinity Groups**
   
i. **CoC Provider Input Forum**
   
   1. The First Quarter Provider Input Forum is scheduled for Tuesday, February 23, 2016 from 9am to 10:30am at 601 Sawyer Street, Houston, Texas.

   ii. **CoC Consumer Input Forum**
   
   1. The CoC Consumer Forums focus groups and needs assessment were conducted the first week of December with 32 consumers participating. Three focus groups were led by researcher Dr. Cathy Troisi from UT School of Public Health on December 1st and 3rd at Houston Area Women’s Center, the Bridge, and Bay Area Turning Point focusing on domestic violence. A Needs Assessment Report has been compiled by the researcher.

   iii. **Housing Houston’s Heroes**
   
   1. Housing Houston’s Heroes workgroup met November 20th at HHA, 2640 Fountainview Board Room.
   2. The SSVF workgroup generally meets the second Thursday Monthly at US Vets from 11am-12:30pm. The 2016 SSVF Plan update was delivered on January 29th. The Coalition Staff represented the CoC on the Regional call on February 2nd.

   iv. **Youth/Young Adult Affinity Group**
   
   1. CoC members will be attending the NAEH Conference on ending family and youth homelessness February 18-19 including Eva Thibaudeau and James Gonzales from the Coalition.
   2. The CoC participated in the state wide Youth Count Initiative and hosted visitors from TDHCA and TNOYS on January 26, 2016 during the Count.
   3. The NEST Steering Committee will meet on February 24 from 2:30 TO 4:30 PM at Montrose Center.

   v. **RRH Workgroup**
   
   1. The RRH Expansion Workgroup is meeting weekly on Wednesday mornings while the FAI/CMI meeting is conducted Tuesdays from 12:30 to 1:30pm.
   2. The ESG Funders Collaborative workgroup is meeting monthly and is comprised of Cities of Houston and Pasadena, Counties of Fort Bend and Harris and the CoC Lead Agency representing the CoC.
   3. The RRH system is hosting a leasing event on February 18th from 9am to noon at St. Johns Baptist Church.

   vi. **Coordinated Access Workgroup**
   
   1. 1115 team meetings conducted weekly from 3-4 on Wednesdays.
   2. 1185 team meetings conducted weekly on Mondays from 3-4 pm.
   3. The Coordinated Access workgroup did not meet in the last quarter of 2015 however the plan to implement 4 additional CA Hubs moved forward. Two have been implemented. Staff have been trained and are currently observing assessments for the 3rd location. There was a slight delay in implementation of the 4th location due to the agency having to hire staff.
   4. The Coordinated Access Team meets the first and third Tuesdays monthly from 12:00 noon to 1:30pm at the BEACON.
5. The Permanent Supportive Housing Workgroup did not meet the last quarter of 2015. This group now meets as needed.

6. The Case Management Resource Exchange conducted on December 15th covered the new Point-In-Time methodology as well as provided training for all team captains. The 2016 PIT methodology will be utilizing a coordinated access method of surveying clients.

vii. Income Now Workgroup
1. The Income Now Implementation Workgroup is meeting on Tuesdays weekly from 2:30pm to 4:00pm at SEARCH.
2. The Income Now Leadership Workgroup is meeting bi-weekly from 9am to 10am Fridays at SEARCH. New HUBS opened the second week of February at the high demand WorkForce Solutions Offices on the East End and at Northline.
3. Income Now conducted the Phase II leadership Design Retreat on February 5th from 1pm to 4pm at WorkForce Solutions Northline office.
4. The SOAR steering committee will be meeting in February. Income Now is working with HUD TA on gaps analysis and capacity building for SOAR.

viii. Point-In-Time
1. The Coalition conducted the annual Point-In-Time (PIT) over a 3 day period from January 26-28, 2016. Over 200 volunteers participated each day. Preliminary results show a decrease in the unsheltered count compared to 2015.
2. The CoC received a waiver from HUD to change this year’s homeless count methodology. Instead of an observational count, a Coordinated Access approach was used. All unsheltered homeless will be surveyed. In addition, the count will occur between the hours of 6 am – 4 pm over a three day period from January 26 – 28, 2016.
3. The Case Management Resource Exchange conducted on December 15th covered the new Point-In-Time methodology as well as provided training for all team captains.
4. Additional trainings for team captains and community volunteers will occur on January 19th at 3 pm & 6 pm. Training for staging area captains will occur on January 25th.

B. Other CoC Items
a. The Downtown Transition meetings are occurring as needed with the most recent one held last Thursday, February 4, 2016.

b. The CoC provided a collaborative presentation at the National Drop Out prevention Conference on October 27th including presenters from HYN, NEST, The Coalition, The Texas Homeless Education Office, and Cy-Fair ISD Homeless Liaison.

c. More than 20 local property management staff attended the Landlord Appreciation Event held on January 20 at CORT Furniture. Participating landlords were recognized for their contributions to The Way Home’s Rapid Re-housing program, and new landlords received education and information about the program as well as an invitation to participate in the upcoming Leasing Event.
This Memorandum is to inform The Way Home Continuum of Care Steering Committee about the current status of specific system activities.

**Background**

**Income Now Updates**
- TWC has released RFP for next round funding
- Income Now Leadership Team met to determine most beneficial way to apply for new funding. SEARCH will be lead applicant, with subs to include Workforce Solutions, Coalition for the Homeless, HACS, Career and Recovery. Discussions are underway with Texas Homeless Network to include them in the request.

**Youth/Young Adults**
- Texas Network of Youth Services participated in the youth/young adult point in time surveys in Houston on January 26, 2016. They will be incorporating our methodology into their report to the Texas state legislature.
- HISD seeking permission to enter into HMIS.
- YYA Workgroup convening first week of March.

**Victim Services Providers**
- United Way, Houston Endowment and Harris County Domestic Violence Coordinating Council hosted a day-long summit for providers and funders. 75+ people were in attendance. The speakers included national, state and local experts, as well as a survivor’s panel. The day concluded with the community setting actionable goals which will be overseen by the Harris County Domestic Violence Coordinating Council. Report will be forthcoming in next two weeks.
- Coordinated Access workgroup met to compile common intake assessments. Next meeting will work on housing models. All will be brought to CoC Steering Committee for final approval.
- As the work expands in the domestic violence response system, the need for a project management entity has become apparent. It is recommended that the Harris County Domestic Violence Coordinating Council be appointed and recognized by The Way Home CoC to fulfill these duties and ensure that progress is maintained.
SUBJECT: Texas State TDHCA ESG Local Funding Competition  
DATE: 2/11/2016

This memorandum is to notify The Way Home CoC Steering Committee of recommendations for the Texas State ESG funds.

Background

The Way Home CoC was notified that it would be allowed to conduct a separate funding competition for Texas State ESG funds for contracts that will start October 1, 2016. This is our second year running the competition locally. The ESG Funders Collaborative (Cities of Pasadena and Houston, CoC Lead Agency and Fort Bend and Harris Counties) has mapped current resource allocations and needs in the community. The anticipated state deadline for project selection is March 31, 2016.

We anticipate that the same restrictions will be imposed by the state as last year. They are as follows:

- **State Restriction: No application under $125,000 will be considered**
  - **Impact:** When recommended award amounts are reduced from the asking amount, we are requesting similar projects to consolidate applications for the amounts recommended by this committee.

- **State Restriction: No more than six (6) applications will be funded**
  - **Impact:** In order to maximize agency strengths and project diversity we are requesting that similar projects consolidate under one lead applicant.

The CoC priorities which will be considered in the RFP are:

- Activities aligned with and in support of coordinated assessment/entry for domestic violence and youth/young adult providers
- Projects that fill gaps in domestic violence housing
- Rapid Re-Housing case management aligned with the system RRH project
- CoC priorities to end chronic, family and youth homelessness