**GA-506 Marietta/Cobb Continuum of Care**

**Cobb Homeless Alliance Board Meeting**

**August 15, 2023 Minutes**

**12:00pm – 1:30pm**

**Members Attending**: Irene Barton, Carolyn Bridges, Noel Taylor, Martha Logan, Christianna Jackson, Jazmyn McCloud, Dayna Parker, Bryan Stephens, Falecia Stewart, Marcy Stidum, Kelsey Thompson-White, Allyson Borges

**Staff** **Attending**: Joan Toder (CFR), Nicole Hodge (CFR), Elliot Carter (MUST), Dan Johnson

(The Extension)

***Overview***

This is the regular bi-monthly Continuum of Care Board of Directors Meeting. The Board will review what needs to be accomplished this coming year and what has been done so far.

***Welcome***

Nicole Hodge welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order @ 12:04pm.

***Attendance and Proxy***

**Proxies:** Kelsey has proxies forMaj Patrick Bonito, Melanie Kagan, Nicole Lawson & Cheryl Musial. Rev. Raushanah Butler – general proxy

Mallori Bruning

Kelsey confirmed a quorum.

***Minutes***

Minutes for the June 20th meeting sent out for approval.

**Motion on the table**: Accept June 20, 2023, minutes as written -Bryan Stephens

**Seconded by**: Irene Barton

Motion passed unanimously.

***Introduction: Alexandra Macdonald***

Carolyn introduced and welcomed Alexandra Macdonald to the CoC as the new HMIS Administrator. She will be assisting Joan with reports, training and other duties related to the CoC.

***FY2023 NOFO Competition***

Kelsey expressed the importance of the document – determines how the process is carried out. Encouraged feedback and discussion.

Carolyn explained that as part of the annual funding application HUD requires that there are polices and procedures in place, so the process is open and transparent. Carolyn proceeded to go over the GA-506 Marietta/Cobb Continuum of Care 2023 Competition Procedures Document. (see attached)

**HUD’s Homeless Policy Priorities**

1. Ending homelessness for all persons.
2. Use a Housing First approach
   1. Most of the projects in the CoC follow this approach and are low barrier projects.
   2. Required to have people with lived experience be involved with the development of the process. The policy document was sent to five people with lived experience, and three participants sent responses
   3. PLEEs comment- CoC’s should make it more appealing for landlords and property owners to want to help in the re-housing effort.
3. Reducing Unsheltered Homelessness
4. Improving System Performance
   1. Used HUD’s guidance reflected in the criteria used to evaluate projects.
5. Partnering with Housing, Health, and Service Agencies
   1. PLEEs comment- work with mental and substance abuse facilities to help provide stability during the time of rehousing.
   2. Did not earn any points in this area last year – no new projects. The CoC needs to revisit in the coming months, review the data, and see how we can design new approaches.
      * Bryan asked how is Healthcare defined?
        + Mental, physical, and behavioral
      * Dan asked if their facility build counted as a new project
        + Carolyn explained that their new building was not a project submitted for funding. Their transitional housing project was a renewal project with HUD.
   3. CoC will be partnering with MHA. MHA received 32 housing vouchers and wanted to partner with the CoC to see how the vouchers can be used to assist homeless persons through coordinated entry.
   4. PLEEs comment – work with local employers so clients can obtain on-the-job work experience and placement.
6. Racial Equity
7. Improving Assistance to LGBTQ+ Individuals
8. Persons with Lived Experience
   1. Worked with PLEEs to get feedback on projects and responses to the policy procedures
   2. Committee for PLEEs will be formed. Hope to engage them in planning process and projects in the coming year.
9. Increasing Affordable Housing Supply
   1. Work on educating our local officials about the need for additional housing

Carolyn reviewed the Program Components that the NOFO will allow:

1. Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH & RRH)
2. Transitional Housing
3. Supportive Services Only
4. HMIS
5. Joint TH/PH-RRH projects

**New Projects**

The deadline for submitting new projects is Friday June 23, 2023

**Reallocation and CoC Bonus**

The CFR is going to ask the CoC to reallocate one of the RRH grants and allow us to do a transition grant for a Joint TH-RRH project. We have many families that are referred to us who live in their cars or unsheltered, and being able to transition one of the grants to a Joint TH and RRH would allow us to immediately house families and spend the grant funds wisely and more efficiently.

**Renewal Projects**

Highland Rivers Behavioral Health is working with HUD to get the renewal grant switched from CBS.

Kelsey asked if we received any LOIs (Letters of Intent)

* We did not receive any LOIs
* Sheltering Grace asked for a LOI but did not send the application back.

Carolyn stated that during this meeting we will need non-conflict organizations to volunteer to be on the Rating & Ranking Committee.

**CoCs Rating & Ranking Process**

Carolyn reviewed the points available per section. In some areas RRH & PH is not scored.

All projects except for HMIS, SSO-Coordinated Entry projects and the CoC Planning project will be scored using a scoring system based on HUD-established performance measures and ranking criteria. A total of 87 points will be available.

* 87 points was the total amount in last year’s system. Did not make any changes in the point spread based on the criteria.
* Last year on the scoring we received all but 1 point in this category. Received 20 of the 21 points from HUD, therefore suggested no changes in the scoring.

**Permanent Housing Placement or Retention**

RRH & TH projects will be scored on the percent of persons who exited to permanent housing destinations during the operating year.

Kelsey commented that this was an area on the application last year where we lost the most points.

Carolyn confirmed that was correct – the lack of percentage of exits to PH destinations.

* As a board we need to think on how HUD is reviewing performance and if we want to give more emphasis on projects that are meeting certain thresholds. If we want give more points to organizations or projects that have a higher retention.
* Working with Open Doors to create housing opportunities for the projects that provide permanent housing. Have not been able to solicit landlords to work with the clients who have housing barriers.
* PH projects require that we take those clients from Coordinated Entry which by nature ranks and refers individuals based on the highest barriers, which makes it difficult to move clients into permanent housing.
* Open Doors will be the go between with landlord/property managers to get the clients with high barriers housed.

**Return to Homelessness , based on System Performance Measure 2 Report**

This section is based on the annual report that is sent to HUD 90 days after the grant closes.

**Racial Equity**

This is a new section that was inserted last year.

The “Black, African American or African” racial group is overrepresented in the CoC’s homeless population group.

* Last year there were two projects that were not serving the group in the recommended percentages, they were asked to write a brief description of what they were doing, and points were awarded based on what they said.

**Miscellaneous**

Language Access Plan (LAP) – added this year for information only to see which organizations have a LAP for persons with limited efficiency. It is a HUD requirement and should be included in the evaluations.

Projects will be ranked and rated in Tier 1 or Tier 2 according to their scores, except for the Hold Harmless projects. Tier 1 projects are relatively safe (if CoC score is high enough) they will be funded in whole. Tier 2 projects are not as safe and will totally depend on the CoC application score. Last year the CoC score was high enough that we received full funding on Tier 1 & 2 projects.

Kelsey asked if there were any providers in the meeting who think they might have a new project to apply for.

* Falecia mentioned that MUST would like to do a Transitional Housing Project next year.

Kelsey stated that this is something the CoC needs to investigate because we are leaving money on the table and missed opportunities. Hopefully after the System Performance Modeling with KSU we will better understand what is needed vs what we have, and we should apply for based on community needs.

Carolyn stated that at the National Alliance to End Homelessness Conference in DC, HUD was very clear in saying that CoC’s move the Rating & Ranking process to the Spring before the NOFO comes out. They have provided the guidance and the criteria needed to rank, so do it early. When the NOFO comes out and there is something different, it will be easy to change during the competition process. This will alleviate a huge amount of work during a very busy time.

* Carolyn feels we should adopt this method

Carolyn asked the group if there were any questions or comments on the process or the scoring points.

* Kelsey stated that it would be a good idea to review this earlier in the year. Have conversations in the future about emphasizing certain performance measures over others when looking at projects.
* Carolyn stated that after the SPM -look at the number of units and the type of projects needed, and the process should be driven by that.

Kelsey asked for volunteers to serve on the Rating & Ranking Committee. Has to be organizations that are non-conflicting & one or two persons with lived experience.

* Kelsey Thompson-White, Bryan Stephens, Jazmyn McCloud & Christianna Jackson

**Motion on the table:** Accept the Scoring and CoC Competition Procedures as presented: Bryan Stephens

**Seconded by:** Falecia Stewart

Motion passed unanimously.

**Strategic Focus Groups**

*Awareness & Community Engagement – Website Update*

Nicole went over the mock website. Allowed for Board to provide feedback.

* Bryan asked if there was going to be a link for directions to a single point of entry.
  + Discussion was had on a pop-up on each screen that would allow the individual to select if they were homeless/about to be homeless- direct them to Coordinated Entry process and the organizations that can help.
* Bryan asked about LinkedIn
  + The CoC will have a social media presence.
    - Facebook, IG & LinkedIn
* Carolyn asked about a Coordinated Entry Tab
  + Will have a section under Resources Tab

Kelsey wanted to know if we could send out the link to the website so the Board can provide specific feedback.

* Nicole will ask Melanie

*Analyze Data – KSU Engagement Update*

Kelsey and Melanie met with Matt Lyons at KSU to go over the System Modeling Process and the scope of work. They felt that Matt and his team would be able to provide the services for what is needed. MOU has not been completed – waiting on financial commitment.

* Six-to-Ten-month process that will start in the Fall 2023
* Matt and his team will have discussions with the work groups
* Choose and organize the data. Help run the model and interpret the results.

Next steps:

* MOU established
* Establish main work groups in the system
  + Funded agencies & staff

***APR, HMIS Updates and CE Updates***

Joan went over the reports that are due, HMIS updates and CE updates.

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| **Agency** | **Program** | **FY** | **Pgm Type** | **Grant Begin Date** | **Grant End Date** | **1st Draft to Joan** | **APR Due to HUD** |
| The Extension | TH - men | FY21 | TH | 9/1/22 | 8/31/23 | 10/15/23 | 11/29/23 |
| CFR | RRH Consolidated | FY21 | RRH | 10/1/22 | 9/30/23 | 11/14/23 | 12/29/23 |

New HMIS Data Standards – beginning 10/1/23

* Coordinated Entry Updates Nicole will send out the CE Update Document

**Announcements**

* Kelsey mentioned that we will need volunteers for the Nominating Committee. There are individuals that are rolling off so will need to fill seats.
  + Low member participation – possibly send out a survey to see what will help people be more engaged
  + Adding seats to the non-conflicting members at large
* Open Doors will present to the leaders of the Funded organizations, please be on the lookout for email correspondence/invitation
* Annual Homeless Memorial & Vigil
  + Irene stated that they will be recognizing the homeless individuals who have passed while experiencing homelessness. Please send her the names of these individuals.
* Kelsey attended an open house for GMEN. Working on Cobb to assist with rental assistance via ARPA funds.
  + Falecia asked for information

**Nicole adjourned the meeting at 1:36pm**