



**PY 2020 Ohio Consolidated Plan
Supportive Housing/Homelessness Crisis Response Program
Advisory Committee Meeting**

**State Library of Ohio
274 E. 1st Ave.
Columbus, OH 43201
November 6, 2019
9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.**

Welcome – Scott Gary

- 2020 program year -no significant changes planned
- Solicited ideas for improvement or avenues that may lead to more uniformity
- Introductions - 25 attending, please see attachment
- Controlling Board gave approval for 2019 SHP and HRCRP recommendations making awards official. Grant agreements will be sent out early December (hopefully, pending readiness of templates/new process... including all being done electronically.
- Reviewed the agenda
- State Priorities
 - Community
 - Infrastructure
 - Innovation
 - Job creation
 - Tech credit – work with employees increasing skills
 - One-year period
 - Children and families
 - Lead-based paint
 - Recovery Housing
 - Mental health and addiction
 - Federal \$25 million pilot in first round funding
- Census is being conducted in 202, headed up by ODSA
 - Census results are important as they effect levels of federal funding

Program Updates

- 2019 HCRP Recap – Pat Hart
 - Successful, most funded at their requested amounts
 - Award notices issued
 - Grants are being processed
 - \$14.9 million in Ohio Housing Trust Fund dollars and \$5 .8 Emergency Solution Grant funds
 - Emergency shelter
 - Demonstration program
 - Five agencies operating seven shelters combined through Community Shelter Board, a Unified Funding Agency (UFA)

- 2019 SHP Recap – Amy
 - *8.2 million Ohio Housing Trust Fund dollars to 34 agencies operation 38 projects that will serve over 6,000 persons
 - 15 projects are transitional housing; 23 are permanent supportive housing

Policy Issues

- New scattered-site PSH projects: use of funds for housing focused case management – Scott Gary
 - Current restriction: NEW projects not currently funded through the SHP can only apply for operating funds
 - Rural area – BoS new scattered site PSH projects would need housing focused case management, but funding for new projects limited to operating costs.
 - Discussion on eligibility going forward
 - - Denise Stryker, Clinton County Homeless Shelter has considered a new scattered-site PSH project site for a while. There is great need and removing this restriction from current SHP funding would make scattered sites much more feasible.
 - Linda Kramer - every program is different, the more flexible the funding the better. That the target should be funding outcomes not “widgets”. Inquired about a discussion with OMHAS to match funds for supportive services for PSH for mental health or addiction case management. Linda feels that when helping people, all case management, is the same and it is difficult to separate housing from other case management. She and another group had a meeting with Governor DeWine and flexible spending dollars was one of the items discussed; therefore, she suggested the possibility of change may start with legislation.
 - Scott Gary – Because the need is so great, parameters around funding must be set as the amount of funds allocated, is not growing with the need. Under current procedures, if PSH funds could be used for case management we would be overloaded and would not have sufficient funding to fund all our current grantees as well as increased requests for a new activity. Also suggested having a meeting with OMHAS for flexible funds spending.
 - Lianna Barbu – Agreed with Linda. Added that Medicaid makes changes, that is taking monies from one pot to fund another.
 - Ruth Gillett – Agrees with flexible funding, her clients are coming with barriers, need additional support; most kids already have a disabling condition that cause additional need for long term outcomes.
 - Fred Barry – Agrees with flexible spending, adding case management is a form of housing stability.
 - Denise Fox – Agrees with special funding as long-term housing, most often needs additional visits to remain stable; therefore, case management is important and should be dependent on their need. Also added, there is a high turnover rate among case management staff due to low wage and burn out.
 - Kevin James- Not sure about the OMHAS match restrictions pertaining to use for only operations.
 - Christina Blair –Mentioned that positive outcomes results when case managers work with landlords so in support of flexible funds. Tries to hire own counselors for mental health to lessen the wait time.
 - Beth Fetzer-Rice – The case load has changed. The most vulnerable cases, such as those with addiction and mental illness, are getting turned down and those are the very situations these programs were created for. Also stated need better pay for staff retention.
 - Difference between Medicaid funded and non-Medicaid funded agencies and PSH.
 - Include additional cost in administration
 - Erica Mulryan – stated that some of the projects funded by OSDA are not the best

projects from a CoC perspective which presents several issues, with the BosCoC having no input. Would like to have some input into the new and continued funding. OCD suggested an offline meeting to discuss how the BoSCoC might be able to better show support for new SHP projects.

- Entitlement area reps discussed the Exhibit in the OCD application that requires the CoC to describe its selection process and to include documentation of the latest round of funding results (priority order and award amount). Scott discussed possible consideration for similar request from the BoSCoC for future, new PSH requests.
- Scott Gary concluded this discussion with the following comments.
 - Aside from limited Target of Opportunity Program funds, capital funds are not available for large shelter repairs or maintenance despite of significant need.
 - Guaranteed funds for shelters in good standing provided sufficient funds are available.
 - Wants to work offline with Erica about collaborating on new projects to discuss types of information (beneficial to OCD's review process) the BoSCoC can provide.
- RRH projects-provision of funds directly to clients
 - Does not apply to HCRP funded rapid re-housing projects
 - Does apply to CoC funded rapid re-housing projects
 - Lianna Barbu states public housing authority is paying utility payments directly to the tenants, as they are required to do so.
 - Heather Hall - Harder to manage when the check is paid directly to utilities when more than one utility provider paid. If client is diligent can pay bills and have extra to buy other items the household needs. Working with clients to pay their own bills is a step toward self-sufficiency.

Performance of Projects

- Performance Standards Chart – Amy Bullard distributed chart with information as of spring 2019
 - Most important criteria to be measured and provided in status reports
 - Consistency of performance criteria throughout the state
 - Systemwide Data Analysis – Scott/Genelle/EricaOCD hopes to look at more analysis of the data collected in HMIS by each of Ohio nine Continua of Care. Information will be provided to each HMIS lead at least six months prior to data being requested
- Amy Bullard introduced discussion about the merits of creating a statewide standard.
 - Linda Kramer, Denise Fox, and Lianna Barbu spoke up and collectively gave reasons to continue using regional performance standards
 - Different areas have differing issues
 - Different populations
 - Different needs and standards
 - Lianna Barbu – Do not add more standards, currently all are different
 - Heather Hall - Another measure – quantitative, qualitative. In a county, what are the scores of people that are homeless vs the scores of people getting help. Negative scores for youth going from Transitional Housing to Transitional Housing; had to realign the program so that it is not captured as a negative.
 - Erica Mulryan - mentioned BoS being able to provide additional contextual information.
- Scott Gary suggested that one person from each region and entitlement volunteer to participate in a discussion about data available and future reporting requirements. Those interested were to contact Amy Bullard. OCD will reach out to all regions and entitlements to invite participation.
- R Minor
 - Genelle Denzin from the HMIS team at COHHIO presented information about the new HMIS reporting tool named R minor
 - Provider level performance data is available for last 6 months and can be seen by anyone. Can

be accessed through the COHHIO website, BoSCoC page, HMIS tab

- R Minor Elevated
 - Password protected so that only HMIS users can see more detailed data and reports
- Standards for Regions and Entitlement CoCs - Amy
 - OCD is developing written standards for:
 - Governance Expectations, Housing Stability priority and use of Targeted Rapid Re-Housing funding
 - Colleen Bain- has experienced vast difference in various regions, some better than others.
 - Beth Fetzer-Rice commented that there can be issues when some agencies in a region do not feel they have a voice or fair treatment.
 - Possible follow-up to discuss the similarities and differences. Best practices vs. what could be done better
 - Coordinated Entry wait times
 - Wait times from call to be assessed
 - Lianna Barbu– 3 mins and 42 sec on phone, however, may be longer at peak times, up to 5 days for a bed for a homeless male; however, for 6 months of the year can house almost everyone
 - Different counties have different wait time and procedures
 - Peg Dierkers stated that Hamilton County may be an area with long wait times.
 - Tracy Long commented that the phone assessment form takes long time to complete in some areas.
- Client File Contents – Pat and Vernon
 - Written Documentation of Homelessness
 - Diversion verification
 - Case Plan/Goals
 - Components of housing-related case management notes
 - Vernon McNeil – discussed handling case notes if there is not a case manager?
*various participants offered to share formats used by their agencies.

Application Changes - Pat

- 2019 Budget form and Instructions to be improved for greater clarity, will remain different from the 2018 application
 - The shelter narrative attachment – will be very similar to 2019 version
 - Budget form (spreadsheet) will be slightly different, clearer
- Training offered in spring
- Application due dates yet to be set, separate dates for HCRP and SHP applications again
 - Community Shelter Board UFA demonstration project is for two years and will be evaluated at the end of that period

Youth Homeless Demonstration Projects Update

- Lianna Barbu, Community Shelter Board – recipient of Round 2 award
 - Provided a handout to participants
 - \$6 million award for two years
 - Collaborate with YMCA for rapid re-housing for youth
 - Permanent supportive housing
 - Youth uses the same coordinated entry process as others seeking assistance
 - Huckleberry house has a small side-door entry opportunity
 - Scattered-site until “units” are available
 - Hiring for the program
 - 13 units for single

- 6 units for families
- Erica Mulryan, Ohio Balance of State – recipient of Round 1 and Round 3 awards
 - Round 1 – Region 17 (5 of 7 counties)
 - \$ 2.2 million, 2-year grant
 - 3 new crisis transitional shelter projects are operational , filling the shelter gap
 - Street outreach
 - Youth rapid re-housing program - currently serving 17 TAY in scattered sites
 - Mediation back to family is always an option
 - Round 3 – Region 6
 - \$ 1.5 million
 - Currently in the planning process
 - Can access planning dollars
 - Grant executed this month
 - Hiring a consultant to assist with writing the coordinated community plan

Training Needs/Recommendations – Shannon Prince

- Shelter focused case management

Other Issues/Public Comments – Scott Gary

- Inquiry as to whether Governor plans to reconvene the housing and homeless collaborative. Folks will be updated if information becomes available.
- Interest in developing a progress report from the governor's office on homelessness and/or his plans going forth.
- Shared information on the governor's initiatives on housing, recovery housing and lead-based paint concerns.

Closing remarks – Scott Gary