

**SLC Heading Home Advisory Council Meeting**

**Via Webex only**

**Thursday, Sept. 16th, 2021 – 1-3 PM**

**Members attending by Webex and/or phone will be included in a quorum.**

1. Call to Order and Roll Call: (5 min)
2. Members – Board Roster: Salaam Witherspoon, Theresa Drift, Angela Neal, Biz Sorenson, David O’Leary, Katy O’Sullivan, Paul Pedersen, Cynthia Finley, Patrick Leary, Kassie Helgerson, Kristy Eckart
3. Staff – Courtney Cochran, Stacy Radosevich, Thom Romano, Cara Lundquist

Meeting called to order: 1:07pm

1. Others- Review and Approval of Agenda (2 minutes)

* No updates to the agenda were recommended.

1. Approval of Meeting Summary (3 minutes)

* Salaam Witherspoon motioned to approve the August meeting summary and Cynthia Finley seconded. Approved.

1. Board Business (10 minutes)
   1. Land Acknowledgement

Stacy read the Land Acknowledgement.

* 1. Board retreat/get together this Fall
* Proposed date & location:
  + Move to Spring: The HHAC determined that the Board retreat/get together will be postponed until spring due to COVID.
  + Ideas for building board relations and orientation:Send a Doodle poll and schedule Zoom meeting for orientation, have CoC members complete “All About Me” forms and spend time getting to know each other during meetings, build in time for more intentional conversations during meetings.

1. FHPAP Update (15 Minutes-Stacy)

* Stacy provided an overview of the FHPAP program for the upcoming biennium. Stacy emailed the FHPAP budget, workplan, and application to HHAC members.
* FHPAP partners include St. Louis County, AEOA, Legal Aid of NE MN (North), Salvation Army, CHUM, Lifehouse, and Legal Aid in South St. Louis County. St. Louis County sends out a local RFP to solicit subgrantees. All subgrantees from the previous biennium were in good standing. Subgrantees experienced issues spending down their funding due to CHAP. St. Louis County FHPAP is allowing higher costs per household and is not requiring households to contribute to their expenses to help spend down funding.
* FHPAP activities include support services and direct assistance. Direct assistance is primarily used for rent assistance, deposits, and utility assistance in St. Louis County.
* FHPAP and Coordinated Entry leadership work closely with Metro 2-1-1 to address issues with clients connecting to FHPAP.
* There was recent announcement that the State of MN is looking into providing mortgage assistance for homeowners at risk of losing their housing.
* If HHAC members or community members have any questions or ideas for the FHPAP program, contact Stacy Radosevich. There will be opportunities for new subgrantees to apply to administer FHPAP in the next couple of years.

1. Committee Updates & Action Items -- (20 minutes)
   1. Affordable Housing Coalition – No updates this month.
   2. Rural Housing Coalition - No updates this month.
   3. Ad Hoc Veterans Committee – The Committee continues to meet monthly. Anyone who wants to participate can join. The Committee is still addressing the four USICH benchmarks to declare an end to Veterans homelessness. The biggest barrier to meeting the benchmarks is access to affordable housing. The most difficult benchmark to reach is housing Veterans within 90 days. MACV is looking at land to develop tiny homes to increase available housing stock for Veterans. The list of homeless Veterans in St. Louis County is at 12 and many of these individuals are in MACV programming and/or have VASH vouchers.
   4. Advocacy and Education Committee (Paused)
   5. Housing Response Committee – The Housing Response Committee had a retreat at Bois Forte this month that included presentations by Shirley Cain (DHS) and Pam Hughes (Bois Forte). There were 26 people in person and 14 people on Zoom.
   6. Evaluation and Planning Committee – The Committee has not met since the last board meeting. They met early last month to prepare for the NOFO.
   7. Youth Committee (Newly forming!): Friday – The Youth Committee isn’t a formal committee of the CoC yet. It includes area youth providers who are working together to address youth homelessness with a focus on a holistic approach. The next meeting is Friday, September 24th at Noon.
2. 2021 NOF0 Overview (30 minutes -Courtney)
   * + 1. 2021 NOFO Overview & Funding Priorities – Courtney provided an overview of the CoC NOFO. The Continuum of Care (CoC) Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) is a national grant competition through HUD for permanent housing, rapid rehousing, and transitional housing grants. This grant differs from other grants because HUD mandates that each CoC runs a local competition. HUD requires CoCs to create a Ranking & Review process, which is run by the Ranking Committee in St. Louis County. The Ranking Committee reviews all CoC NOFO project grant applications (approximately 32-40 applications) and scores each application on data-driven, non-biased criteria based on local and HUD priorities. Projects are ranked based on their scores and the ranking policy. The Evaluation and Planning Committee identified scoring and ranking criteria and incorporated community feedback, local priorities, and HUD priorities. HUD Priorities in 2021 include reducing unsheltered homelessness, healthcare collaboration, collaboration with housing authorities, involving persons with lived experience of homelessness, and keeping families together (not requiring families to separate to access shelter or housing). All projects are ranked into tiers (Tier 1 & Tier 2). Tier 1 includes 100% of the Annual Renewal Demand (ARD). Tier 2 includes bonus funds and new projects.
       2. Renewal Grant & Bonus Funds Overview – Courtney provided an overview of renewal grants and bonus funds. SLC CoC is eligible for up to $189,917 in CoC Bonus funds and up to $569,752 in Domestic Violence (DV) Bonus funds. There is no guarantee that these will get funded but the CoC may receive these funds if the application scores high enough. HUD determines how much funding is put into Tier 1 each year (100% this year). Projects in Tier 2 are more likely to be cut if the CoC scores low overall on the Consolidated Application. Courtney provided an overview of the Grant Inventory Worksheet (GIW) that lists all eligible renewal projects for 2021. Courtney will share the GIW with HHAC members. HHAC members discussed ideas for applying for Bonus Funds to support CE including navigation funds and partnering with hospitals or the Lake Superior Community Health Foundation on a CE navigation program.
3. Updates (20 minutes)
   1. State Updates (Pat Leary) – The LTHSSF RFP will be published on Monday 9/20/21.
   2. City of Duluth Updates (Phillis Webb) – No updates.
   3. HMIS Updates (Thom) – All HMIS users must complete the recertification training by October 1, 2021. ICA sent a news alert on Monday to all active users in HMIS. If any HMIS users did not receive this email, they should contact Thom or the Helpdesk to make sure they can access the training site.
   4. St. Louis County Updates
      1. HUD Racial Equity TA with CES Update (Courtney) – SLC CoC applied to HUD for technical assistance. A group of CoC members met with HUD to have a community conversation. SLC CoC should know by next month’s board meeting if they are selected for one year of technical assistance from HUD that is focused on racial equity in Coordinated Entry.
      2. New LTH Providers:1 new LTH provider (Synergy Housing) in Virginia (5 beds), 2 LTH expansions (Another Path & Grace Place) in Duluth (9 more beds)
      3. Racial Equity & Accountability Project (Courtney/Laura) – SLC CoC distributed applications for people to participate in REAP and received a lot of interest. SLC will send offers to REAP leadership team members and select 7-10 team members by October 1st.
   5. Any other updates? (Open to all) –

* MACV has expanded their SSVF program. The new program will be called a Shallow Subsidy program which includes 24 months subsidized housing assistance that is intended for Veterans with inconsistent income. MACV is developing internal processes to screen and identify eligibility. There are at least three new MACV positions being added statewide to operate the grant, including a half-time staff for outstate MN.

1. Adjourn

Salaam Witherspoon motioned to adjourn the meeting and Paul Pederson seconded. Approved.

Adjourned 2:24pm.

**Webex Details:**

Webex Meeting: <https://stlouiscountymn.webex.com/stlouiscountymn/j.php?MTID=md4cd4ad8399bb2f854c7c24fcc9a7f9a>

Join by phone:

+1-415-655-0001 US Toll

Access code: 927 818 091

**Next Meeting:**

Thursday, October 21st, 2021– 1-3PM

Via Webex