

**SLC Heading Home Advisory Council Meeting**

**Via Webex only**

**Thursday, March. 18, 2021 – 1-3 PM**

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

1. Call to Order and Roll Call : Members – Theresa Drift, Kristy Eckart, Cynthia Finley,

Heather Lindula, Victoria Newgent, David O’Leary, Katy Sullivan, Biz Sorenson,

Nathan Thompson, and Salaam Witherspoon

Staff – Laura Birnbaum, Kate Bradley, Courtney Cochran, Suzanne Kelley, Pat Leary,

Cara Lundquist, Stacy Radosevich, JoAnn Solin, and Kevin Radzak

1. Review and Approval of Agenda and Meeting Summary –

Heather moved and Katy seconded to approve agenda. Approved.

Cynthia moved and Kristy seconded to approve February minutes – approved.

1. Board Business-

Open Seats:

* 1. Angie Neal is stepping in as Rural Housing Coalition Rep in April.
  2. Suzanne explained the City of Duluth application process, which they are trying to make easier for applicants. Kassie Halgerson will be the next new HHAC member. She will be formally appointed on March 22nd.We will vote on accepting her at the next meeting. The next recommendation for membership is Paul Pederson as Veteran’s Rep. At-Large is advertised no applications at this time.
  3. Nathan thanked Heather for all her years of work on this HHAC. She has been a very valuable member to our group.

1. Committee Updates & Action Items --
   1. Ad Hoc Veterans Committee
      1. Courtney gave a MACV overview of Measures to End veteran’s Homelessness. Since Transitional Housing is considered Homeless, it is difficult to reach this goal. SLC considers TH as housed.
   2. Evaluation and Planning Committee
      1. 2020 System Performance Measures. More information will be coming at next month’s meeting.
      2. Courtney presented a power point presentation on Systems Performance Measures. Returns to Homelessness show some increase but it would be expected after a year of Pandemic. Laura told of a HUD story on the Growth of Homelessness in 2020. Here is the link:

<https://www.npr.org/2021/03/18/978244891/hud-growth-of-homelessness-during-2020-was-devastating-even-before-the-pandemic>

Courtney covered several slides that captured statistics on Returns to Homelessness. Data on Returns to Homelessness exited to a permanent destination and returned to homelessness. They are looking at disparities in Return to Homelessness within 12 months. This is looking at a 2 year snap-shot.

Maintaining or increasing total income. We are doing very well in this area.

Exits to Permanent Housing – high Rapid Rehousing exits are because that is the nature of what they do. We have not had a lot of exits. The percentage are staying pretty consistent (2019 was 32% and 2020 is 37%). They are also looking at racial disparities in Exits to Permanent Housing.

* 1. Advocacy and Education Committee

1. Courtney asked if anyone was interested in joining this group. The purpose and goal of the group will be discussed in the next section.
2. N. SLC is not meeting due to COVID, mental health, access to services, Housing Summit, Homeless Day on the Hill. It is chaired by Jen and meets at Bill’s House.
   1. Housing Response Committee – Kate is on vacation. Heather gave a short report.
   2. Rural Housing Coalition – Issues dealing with ESG applications due and COVID ESG.
   3. Affordable Housing Coalition – major issues to address include COVID funding, how to distribute it, and the need for more navigators in SLC.
3. Visioning/Strategic Planning (Courtney)
   1. Quick review of last month’s discussion
      1. Current work of Heading Home:
         1. Accountability on Funding Streams
         2. Coordinated Entry System
         3. Advocacy & Education
         4. Facilitate Community Connections (North & South, providers, broader community input)
      2. Future work of Heading Home:
         1. Build a sustainable & informed HHAC
         2. Ensure a Strategic Outlook on Homelessness issues
         3. Increase infrastructure for advocacy & education
   2. What are the roles of our current committees? What are we missing and how can we best use our energy?
      1. Ad Hoc Veterans Committee
      2. Evaluation and Planning Committee
         1. Individual Orgs Support
         2. Review Annual Reports & Data
         3. CoC Coordinator will be looking at communicating what the CoC Coordinators are learning from HMIS
      3. Advocacy and Education Committee
         1. Active board members can consider state/local policies for Heading Home to support.
         2. City and County staff can’t actually lobby, but there is a role to educate.
         3. Housing Summit
         4. North and South Committees
            1. Could combine North and South with certain issues
            2. Quarterly combined meetings?
      4. Housing Response Committee
         1. FHPAP, RRH, Coordinated Entry input/Monitoring
         2. Brings recommendations to HHAC
      5. Rural Housing Coalition
         1. Partner with Heading Home
         2. County ESG Funds Advisory Committee
         3. Recommendations and information brought to HHAC
      6. Affordable Housing Coalition
         1. Partner with Heading Home
         2. Recommendations and information brought to HHAC

Anything missing from Committees:

* Bringing in more funds to the CoC
* Resource Development
* Needs and Gaps analysis (Summit Data)
* New program/funding onboarding support

1. Updates
   1. State Updates – Pat reported that the State Opioids grant RFP will be getting awards out next week. Americore funding navigator overview. Serve MN has this new initiative. They propose to bring on a lot of navigators. They would pay a stipend ($750) to the navigator every two weeks. Could get funding to pay off student loans. Agency would provide supervision of the navigator. The navigators would have motivational interviewing training.
   2. St. Louis County Updates
      1. CERA Funds Update (Laura) – RFPs have gone out and been awarded for field partners (AICHO and One Roof). The roles for 211 will be screening for eligibility, help with applications, trouble shooting, and tracking applications. Central payment processor will run in the background. 211 will have a CERA team working Monday through Saturday. Landlords can apply on behalf of tenants.
      2. Letter of Support Request (Kevin) – Kevin wants to get a letter of support for the Community Infrastructure Grant from HHAC. HDC and RTH are partners in this grant. This grant funds Kevin’s position. Heather said that this grant provided much needed support and she is willing to help Nathan draft the letter.
         1. HeHeather moved and Cynthia seconded to write a letter of support for the Community Infrastructure Grant. Approved.
      3. FHPAP 2021 RFP (Stacy) –FHPAP Fact sheet went out and gives an overview. Two year cycle extended to 27 month. RFP will be released within the next month. Stacy will be sending out Letter of Intent. She wants to get the word out so others can apply. What should our new focus be for the upcoming grant? Will be updating the Planning and Evaluation committee with the FHPAP data.
      4. Minnesota Tribal Collaborative CoC Update (Courtney) MTC has hired their first CoC Coordinator, Mary Reigert. Mary is starting her new position this week.
      5. Duluth HRA administrates Shelter Plus Care. Their role is to administrate Shelter Plus Care, provide rentals, and handle all HUD compliance. HRA is stepping back from the Administrator role.

To replace HRA, we need to go through a mini NOFA process. Applications need to be open to the public. CHUM is looking at applying for the administration role. Courtney would like to get 3 HHCA members to review this NOFA. Cynthia, David, and Theresa have volunteered to help review this NOFA.

* 1. City of Duluth Updates - City update is that the latest round of ESG-CV projects has been recommended for funding and will be going to City Council on

March 22.

1. Adjourn

**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:**

HHAC - Thursday, April 15 – 1-3PM

Ad Hoc Veterans –

Planning and Evaluation –

Advocacy and Education –

Housing Response Committee – 2nd Wednesday - 9-11AM

Rural Housing Coalition – 1st Thursday – 1-3 PM

Affordable Housing Coalition- 3rd Tuesday – 10-12 NOON

Via Webex