

Housing Support Program Advisory Committee

MINUTES

July 17, 2019 | 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. | Cotton Community Center

ATTENDEES: Bill Unger, Kate Bradley, Brad Gustason, Heather Lindula, Natalie Smolich, Adam Venne, Lori Reilly, Jensina Rosen

Not present: *October Allen*

AGENDA ITEMS: Review of 03/27/19 Meeting Minutes and Agency Updates

- There were no comments or concerns regarding the 03/27/19 meeting minutes. Jensina noted that due to reduction in funding through the CLI Grant, there is no longer capacity to complete the training/outreach work discussed at the last meeting.
- Lori Reilly provided an update regarding the Garfield Square project and that Center City hopes to take ownership of this project in October. Adam Venne shared that Range Transitional Housing is in the process of moving into a new building, and Jensina shared that Laura Birnbaum is the new supervisor for the Homeless Programs Unit at St. Louis County.

AGENDA ITEM: CLI Grant Award and Updates to Work Plan

- Jensina explained that St. Louis County received ongoing award dollars for Administration/Monitoring and housing navigation, but funding was greatly reduced and can no longer support application fees, training, outreach, or mileage. Jensina updated Adam and Brad, noting that two-year contracts should be sent out very soon.
- Jensina clarified that St. Louis County has been working to create and expand training opportunities for housing providers. It was explained that we have to work creatively to offer trainings, especially since there are no funds available through the CLI grant.
- The Committee reviewed the housing navigator position description as per the CLI Grant work plan. The Committee provided a few minor edits, but otherwise the description remains the same.
- Jensina shared data submitted by sub-grantees for FY19. Heather asked how this data is being tracked and it was explained this was not by HMIS but on separate worksheets. Heather suggested reaching out to Drew Klinkert via ICA to see if navigators could track their data and housing outcomes via HMIS. Jensina said she would follow-up.

AGENDA ITEM: LTH Supportive Housing Program

- Jensina shared that the Provider Manual is now in effect and the first site visits for LTH Providers occur starting next week. Jensina also shared some of the legislative updates and minor changes that need to occur with the Manual. The Committee unanimously agreed that they do not need to see the Manual's changes before issuance.

- Jensina shared concerns about how we can better serve individuals residing at board and lodges on an interim basis who might be eligible for LTH Supportive Housing. Several options were explored, but the consensus was that before looking at any processes, a funding stream must be identified to help pay rent and deposit for people moving out of board and lodges. Under current County policy, emergency general assistance does not allow it to be used this way. Heather recommended that a letter recommending this come through the Heading Home St. Louis County Governance Board as a next step. Jensina will make this request at the next Housing Response Committee in August for support and then the next Governance Board Meeting in August as well.
- Jensina shared DHS' suggestion to develop a collaborative agency model. The Committee discussed concerned about the myriad ways a "reserve pool" must be used, and it could be depleted quickly. Pursuing this option was not supported at this time.
- The Committee also received updates related to the piloting of a Landlord Incentive Program + Scattered-Site Housing Support Program Project. This pilot would work with HDC and the Salvation Army in the south and AEOA and RTH in the north. Jensina reiterated that any determination on VI-SPDAT scores to be used for this pilot would need to come from Stacy Radosevich, the Grant Manager and noted that approval to move forward on this partnership needs to come from the Governance Board. Heather requested that Jensina explain this at the Governance Board meeting on July 18, 2019 for approval.
- Jensina shared that the definition of Supportive Housing changed and expands the ways it can be used in St. Louis County. Jensina noted that outside of LTH Supportive Housing and Board and Lodges, "supportive housing" and other ways Housing Support can be used would be addressed during Phase III of this project (2020-2021). The Committee discussed the need to develop policy and protocol around non-LTH Supportive Housing Projects, and will assist in its development.
- Drew Shaine, LLC requested the Advisory Committee consider a multi-site proposal so as to not use one of their two annual expansions on a one-bedroom project. Jensina explained they plan to add two bedrooms at one location and buy a duplex. The Advisory Committee supported the request to submit a proposal, but said it was supported so long as Drew Shaine plans to hire another case manager. Jensina will let Drew Shaine, LLC know they can move forward with preparing a proposal.
- The Advisory Committee reviewed and discussed New Opportunities' proposal for expansion. Following extensive discussion, the Committee supported it and recommended it be considered by PHHS Leadership. As the review was discussion based, there was no score assigned per the rubric.

AGENDA ITEM: Board and Lodge Program

- Jensina shared that she is now working on Board and Lodge Program Development and policies/procedures. The Advisory Committee discussed various quality control-related concerns throughout the county, and identified the following areas where policy or protocol would be helpful:
 - Concerns about clients working for providers
 - Staff treatment of residents
 - Requirement of background studies and drug testing
 - Boundaries training
 - Bedbugs and the requirement that all providers buy a hot box
 - Food quality, and requiring receipts, menus, and SNAP requirements be met
 - Require working with a nutritionist or SNAP educator when preparing menus
 - MDH Capacity
 - Addressing substantiated maltreatment following Office of Facility Health Complaint investigation
- The Committee expressed concern that some current providers may choose to close their programs rather than follow any new policies/procedures. Discussion centered on concerns for individuals currently living in board and lodges and the need to consider a plan should this happen.

AGENDA ITEM: Cost Neutral Transfer Project

- Jensina shared a high-level overview of the cost neutral transfer project to fund emergency shelter through Housing Support. Jensina said a draft of the proposal is with DHS at this time and that we continue to wait for a final dollar amount as identified by DHS.

NEXT STEPS

- Jensina noted the next meeting would likely be in October. The Committee agreed they would like to review proposals for new projects or expansions in person, as it allows for more robust discussion on projects.

Next Meeting:

October. Date and location TBD.