**-SLC Heading Home Advisory Council Meeting**

**WebEX Meeting**

**May 21, 2020**

**I. Call to Order, Roll Call and Introductions:**

**Attending**: Cynthia Finley, Deb Holleman, Heather Lindula, David O’Leary, Katy O’Sullivan.

**Staff**: Laura Birnbaum, Kate Bradley, Suzanne Kelley, Drew Klinkert, Pat Leary, Stacy Radosevich, JoAnn Solin,

and Will Wilson

**II. Approval of Agenda and Meeting Summary:**  No Quorum, tabled Minutes.

**III. Board Development:**

1. **Grant funding meeting:** A strategic planning meeting was held on April 30th to discuss COVID funding. This was a very helpful meeting, which covered questions like: What is the role of the CoC? What can the CoC do? What are the priorities of the CoC? What strategic issues are needed to meet the COVID19 challenges?
2. **Bylaws**: Bylaws are done and approved. Will to post on SLC website.
3. **Coordinated Entry cost information:** Will shared this with other CoC Coordinators, who found it very helpful. This too is posted on the SLC website.
4. **Tax Credit Proposals:** All 5 tax credit proposals are signed. The service provider for the Harbor Highlands was changed from HDC to Salvation Army.

**IV. Updates:**

1. **State updates**: State is urging communities to get isolation beds in place for COVID. Although the FHPAP bill didn’t make it through the Legislature before they adjourned, it will be taken up at a special session in mid-June. State would also encourage communities to communicate that people should pay something toward rents.

1. **St Louis County updates:**  For COVID isolation sites, a Duluth hotel has 74 room. The tourist season is impacting isolation beds. Previously we had three sites: Virginia, Ely and Eveleth. We still have a site in Virginia with 43 rooms; and Bois Forte with 9 rooms.

**Blue Cross Blue Shield General Assistant Grant** – The application for $100 K has been submitted.

**Housing Support Specialist** will be having second round of interviews next week.

**Will gave an overview of the PIT Data.** Here is the PIT data for 2019 and 2020.

**PIT Data: Emergency S. Trans.H. Unsheltered Total**

2019 – 172 164 183 519

2020 – 192 136 284 612

\*This is a Preliminary report, which has not been submitted to HUD. Thanks so much to ICA for all their help.

\*The total numbers have increased by 17.9% from 2019 to 2020.

\*Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing are within the normal standard range.

\*The Unsheltered count is more than in the last 10 years. The Emergency Services numbers include people in the warming centers. The ES numbers have increased from 2019 to 2020. One reason the TH numbers went down is because Lifehouse has dropped a program.

\*The number in the Unsheltered group has increased dramatically. The number is the highest in the last 10 years. Other CoC unsheltered numbers are going up but not at this rate. “It’s as bad as it’s ever been. This is our reality now.” Nothing to do with COVID. Some explanations could be that there are more people are experience homelessness; there was a more robust effort to reach the unsheltered; it was the second year of having warming centers with more sites; now we are reaching people who hadn’t been reached in 10 years; there is a backlog of vouchers, low availability of affordable housing and doubled up numbers may have an impact.

C. City of Duluth updates: Focus is on the COVID funds. The City has submitted an amended Action Plan to HUD for the additional  $719,669 ESG CV and $1,427,448 in  CDGB CV funds.  The City plans to send a RFP to agencies in early June.

D. HMIS updates: HMIS has received 2% funding from ESG and NOFA. They would like to be considered for 2% funding with COVID funds.

**VI. Committee Action Items:**

1. **Housing Response Committee** –
2. FHPAP $22,350 increase was split 50/50 between AEOA (Range) & TSA & Lifehouse (Duluth).
3. Kelly Looby is no longer our MICH rep.
4. When anyone has Issues with prescreens, please let Kate and Heather know as soon as possible.
5. **CE Assessment Tool discussion and process**-CPAT Workgroup has been working on the assessment tool for a year and a half. The process has stalled because the State, CoC, and Tribal will need to create a framework of how to make decisions with the 3 entities. This is a step back to reboot the process. State wants us to make a motion to say that we will continue to work with them in this statewide process of reviewing the tool. We need to determine if MN VISPDAT is a tool we that want to continue to use. Tribal has used VISPADAT when the Tribal member wants to live off the reservation or to get on the priority list. The Tribal members want to be team players. They had set a time limit at a year which they have expanded another year. Bois Forte and Hearth are both using the MN VISPDAT. Or do we want to look for a different tool? CoCs are using different tools. Rural and urban tools? Scoring or no scoring? There are many complex questions with this issue. State would like to see some common data points between different tools. Multiple tools can be problematic. Hennepin has been reaching out to a vendor to evaluate a new tool. Would SLC want to see what they have? We would have to evaluate this. In June, the Housing Response Committee will decide on the motion and make a recommendation to this board.
6. Evaluation and Planning Committee meet next week. Digging into NOFA scores and looking at performance measures.
7. Advocacy and Education Committee -2nd week of Jun start up.
8. Rural Housing Coalition – set up a WebEx in June.
9. Affordable Housing Coalition – AHC had 3 work subgroups: Landlords/background checks; Coordinated Entry; Homes for All. Stacy reported on Landlord group and Kate reported on the CE group. There are about 1,200 people on the Duluth CE list. Some issues CE group discussed were 1) Creating a sub-tier in Permanent Supportive Housing. 2) Onboarding program into housing scattered site voucher program. Case managers are interested in starting a ready to rent program. 3) Aftercare program. The CE group will be meeting again in 2 weeks.

**VIII. Funding Updates:**

1. Continuum of Care (CoC) – Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA)

Review of 2019 NOFA scores summary – This feedback from HUD evaluates our CoC. Our focus today is on the High Priority application questions, which have actionable opportunities to be able to improve.. SLC CoC rated about 7 of 10 on the scoring. Scores ranged from about 110 to 170. Patty Beech, who is working with the Evaluation Committee, will be helping us to see how we can improve our score.

\*CoC Project Review, Ranking and Selection: Our score was 15 out of 18 points - Because HUD was making adjustments to their tool, we lost points for using their tool.

\* System Performance – Length-of-Time Homeless as reported in HDX. Our score was 8 out of 14 points.

Discussed the System Performance data and our strategy to deal with these issues. Does Transitional Housing impact the Length-of-Time Homeless? . Sub tiers – could this help with the strategy? The lack of Affordable Housing in our area and how do we take this forward as an action item? We need more housing navigators. PSH… mainstream to mainstream housing. How we use housing navigators. Housing sustainability coming on line. HSASMI Hearth and our use of navigator funds. Hearth could maybe able to develop reporting data.

\*Job and Income – Our score was 7 out of 15 points. These points are divided: 5 points from data and 10 points for our strategy. Heather mentioned that we use a collaborative approach. Growth/employment counselors come to housing meetings. Connections to benefits. SOAR shelter meetings to get GA clients help with SSA. MacV data could be used too. CBDG funds help with employment as well.

\*Returns to homelessness as reported in HDX 4 Our score is 4 out of 8 points. Employment is hard with barriers… None of the unemployment track the housing component.

1. Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) City- Contracts 2020 and aware of HMIS asking for 2%
2. Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) County – working on applications.
3. Family Homeless Prevention and Assistance Program (FHPAP) – none.
4. Landlord Incentive Program – none.
5. Substance Use Disorder Grant (SUD) – Have verbal approval of new budget for next 2 years. Increased amount for emergency from $29,000 to $43,000.

G. Housing Supports for Adults with Serious Mental Illness (HSASMI) – Lotus transferred business to Acra. Will is working on a contract with them.

H. Housing Supports – Reported under SLC Updates.

I. Other Grants - Pat discussed the Housing Support Services “conflict of interest issue” where the same provider who does the assessment can’t provide the services. This can drive providers from doing assessments. There is a temporary waiver for this during the COVID. Pat will get us more information on this. He will check on a regional waiver for our CoC.

Adjourned ☺

**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: June 18, 1- 3 pm. WebEX**