

# CONTINUUM OF CARE (CoC) BOARD

MAY 20, 2020 | 3:00 – 5:00PM

ZOOM MEETING (LINK WILL BE SHARED VIA EMAIL)

Board Members Present: R. Smith, A. Seipelt, A. Carlisle, H. Linky, J. Little, J. Carlberg, K. Wyatt, J. Mogensen, K. Girty, M. Conkin, J. Hall, N. Adelman, R. Kraut, T. Gillotti, J. Rosen, S. Dowling, R. Weathers, J. Hieftje, Z. Fosler, K. D’Alessio [for D. Kelly], D. Heidt, L. Rama.

OCED Staff: M. Boydston, A. Kraemer, A. Al-Qadi, A. O’Toole

Members of the Public: A. Payne, A. Sobocinski, B. Neiss-May, E. Change, L. Weir, S. Collins, S. Beckett, T. Lee

TIME	AGENDA ITEM
3:00pm	1. Call to Order
3:01pm	Meeting started at 3:05pm
3:05pm	2. Welcome/Introductions
3:06pm	3. Approval of Agenda (ACTION)
3:08pm	J. Hieftje noted a proposed addition of a public health update from R. Kraut.
3:40pm	R. Smith moved to approve. A. Carlisle seconded. There was no further discussion and the motion carried with no opposition.
3:55pm	4. Approval of Minutes (ACTION)
4:00pm	Z. Fosler moved to approve. R. Smith seconded. There was no further discussion and the motion carried with no opposition.
4:10pm	5. Public Health Update – <i>Ruth Kraut, Washtenaw County Department of Public Health</i>
4:20pm	R. Kraut has sent out links for business reopening & housing isolation coordination.
4:35pm	Pop up Testing Sites locations
4:40pm	o Bethlehem AA testing site operated by Michigan Medicine; hours are 11am-7pm
4:55pm	o Ypsilanti Civic Center testing site opening this Sunday; hours are 11am-7pm
5:00pm	o Perry Elementary (Ypsilanti) testing site operated by Packard Health; hours are M-F 9am-5pm
	o Ford Elementary (Ypsilanti) operated by Kroger; open M-F, will test essential workers with or without symptoms.
	Washtenaw County’s COVID Test positivity rate is 2%; this includes cases with mild symptoms. Statewide positivity rate is 7.5%. With businesses and society starting to reopen, cases could rise with higher public traffic. It can take up to two weeks for COVID symptoms to become apparent, but the virus can be asymptotically transmitted during that time.

Return to work safety procedures include:

- 1) Temperature Checks
- 2) Symptoms disclosure/questionnaire
- 3) Social Distancing measures in workspaces
- 4) PPE worn when necessary
- 5) Consistent/Proper Handwashing

The Health Department completed testing of all nursing skilled facilities and the Delonis Center.

Washtenaw.org/covid-19 or Washtenaw.org/coronavirus are the county's online resources on COVID-19. COVID testing system is much improved from the beginning of the pandemic where even people with severe symptoms struggled to get tested. Currently, if you feel ANY mild symptoms, you can get a test and should.

5. CoC Response to Coronavirus – *Morghan Williams Boydston, Office of Community and Economic Development (OCED) & Amanda Carlisle, Washtenaw Housing Alliance (WHA)*

Barrier Busters has been expanded with CSBG funding, including \$45,000 for eviction prevention assistance. Barrier Busters (BB) is taking over these HAWC services to expedite assistance and avoid a potential bottleneck for clients. Various providers, congregation organizations and other agencies not normally able to request BB funds now have the capacity to do so.

The CoC has partnered with the Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH) to determine best uses of an additional \$2 million in funding to combat homelessness due to the pandemic. The CoC will continue to support SAWC and emergency shelters but would like to expand rapid re-housing programs and provide more funding for providers of permanent housing services. The CoC is also looking to expand rental assistance and system capacity to provide these services and are actively collecting data from providers and the system as a whole to determine how these services can be expanded now.

Analysis of current clients being served includes those presently in shelter and currently being housed and involves those who are being served by SAWC, including at hotels and congregation sites. Analysis results showed over 50 clients require rapid re-housing (RRH), 30 for permanent supportive housing (PSH), and 30 require financial assistance, such as moving costs to secure permanent housing.

The next phase of the system response is to prevent people from entering the system as the eviction moratorium is lifted. This analysis is being informed by CHP and family shelters providing data on current client needs. We are coordinating with providers on what assistance their clients require and compiling provider costs for case management and financial assistance.

With less movement of people during the lockdown there has been a noticeable decrease in people going through the system. Built for Zero (BFZ)

anticipates a 40% increase in homelessness nationwide over the next year. The ultimate goal of the system's pandemic response is to assist people to move quickly through the system into permanent housing.

Pages 9-10 of the Board Packet highlights guidance from HUD on prioritizing assistance for clients that are at high risk of being severely impacted by COVID-19. This includes those with underlying medical conditions and people of color. Rather than prioritizing services based on race alone (which is not permitted), we can prioritize criminal history, health conditions/poor health, and/or eviction history, all of which are more prevalent among people of color. Persons age 65 & older are most susceptible to COVID; however, those experiencing homelessness have been found to age 10 years faster than their actual age. The CoC is working to determine how we can build these various factors into our prioritization policy.

At one point SAWC was running 5 different shelter sites. Overall, very few positive cases were detected. Isolation & screening efforts by SAWC were done excellently. At present, SAWC has 3 shelter sites operating, and multiple shelter sites will continue for the foreseeable future. The System will work closely with the county and city to ensure sustainability of these practices.

#### 6. COVID-19 Barrier Assessment Report – *Kate D'Alessio, Shelter Association of Washtenaw County (SAWC)*

SAWC completed this assessment to help identify what clients' needs are and what programs we need to expand locally in response. Clients being served were analyzed by:

- VISPDAT score
- Monthly rental amount
- Frequency of homelessness
- Disabilities
- Client's housing plan/financial assistance plan

So far 136 clients have been assessed, and 121 clients were able to be categorized. Some did not have enough information/hadn't been served by SAWC previously and those 15 could not be categorized. Forty three percent had monthly income (SSI, disability for ex). Ten months was the average time spent homelessness. Eight was the average VISPDAT score. 73% had a chronic health condition or disability (unusually high percent - normally 50-60%); 24% require Debt Assistance; 36 clients require PSH; 56 clients require RRH

These clients are being serviced by 7 case managers each with 25 client caseloads. SAWC is coordinating with CHP to find housing resources for these clients as soon as possible.

#### 7. Delegate Authority to the Executive Committee to Approve ESG-CV Funding Awards (ACTION) – *Anna O'Toole, OCED*

R. Kraut moved. A. Seipelt seconded.

Washtenaw County is receiving additional ESG funds with the potential to receive more. Currently, we have been allocated \$650,000 from HUD and

\$850,000 from MSHDA. We are undertaking discussions with providers and the community to determine where the most need is and where funding is needed quickly. Delegating authority to the Executive Committee to approve ESG-CV funding recommendations would allow for funds to be quickly made available to providers should the CoC Board be unable to approve funding recommendations under the necessary timeline.

A. Carlisle recommends a friendly amendment to the ACTION item: add “should the CoC board be unable to approve funding recommendations under the necessary timeline.”

There was no further discussion and the motion carried with no opposition.

#### 8. 2020 Continuum of Care Renewal Project Rubric (ACTION) – *Andrew Kraemer, OCED*

A. Seipelt moved. J. Little seconded.

In February, OCED held a Rubric Review meeting with CoC-funded providers and extended an invitation to our Board members as well. At this meeting, OCED proposed several changes to the rubric that were intended to ensure we are better differentiating project performance and earning all possible points in HUD’s CoC competition. The changes were discussed in detail with attendees, who then had a chance to provide final feedback through an online survey. The rubric presented to the Board is a result of this project.

One of the main changes proposed is the points breakdown for each measure. The old review process resulted in many ties among providers/projects, failing to differentiate between projects. Additional scoring buckets have been added to lessen the number of ties and create more disparity.

In addition, the proposed rubric also includes a cost effectiveness measure. OCED believes that we have been missing points in HUD’s CoC competition because we have failed to include a cost effectiveness measure. With this year being the first year of this metric, it will not be scored. We will begin to collect this data and analyze the results further review

Overall changes to rubric review process are minimal. This will not drastically change how projects fall in our local ranking.

There was no further discussion and the motion carried with no opposition.

#### 9. CoC Project Reallocation Policy (ACTION) – *Anna O’Toole, OCED*

R. Smith moved. M. Conkin seconded.

The CoC Board voted at its September 2019 meeting to adopt a Project Reallocation Policy for the 2019 CoC Competition. That policy expired at the end of March 2020. OCED had intended to hold several community conversations to develop a new CoC Project Reallocation Policy for the 2020 competition, informed by the system modeling report, but the pandemic stalled those plans. OCED is seeking re-approval of the same policy approved in September 2019. OCED still intends to hold community conversations around reallocation once it is safe to do so.

There was no further discussion and the motion carried with no opposition.

**10. CoC Pregnant Individuals Policy (ACTION) – *Morghan Williams Boydston & Anna O'Toole, OCED***

A. Carlisle moved. T. Gillotti seconded.

The Ending Family Homelessness Leadership Team has outlined a need for a policy on serving pregnant individuals within the system. The policy contains some existing practices but includes a few changes as well

Under the policy, SAWC would continue to provide assessments for pregnant individuals; following birth, a family assessment would be conducted by HAWC or a family provider, if the client is already connected to one.

Pregnant individuals in their first or second trimester will be placed on Individuals by-name list and be eligible for individuals' housing resources; when the client reaches their third trimester, they would be moved to the Families by-name list and eligible for families' housing resources. Pregnant individuals will not be required to get a pregnancy test prior to referral.

Providers also noted a need for a transfer procedure. If a client becomes pregnant while in the Individual RRH program, they will be eligible for referral to the Family RRH program in their third trimester. If a pregnant individual loses the baby/loses custody of the baby while in the Family RRH program, they would be eligible for referral to the Individual RRH program.

There was no further discussion and the motion carried with no opposition.

**11. CoC Meeting Schedule (ACTION) – *Anna O'Toole, OCED***

R. Smith moved. T. Gillioti seconded.

OCED is request that CoC Board meetings be moved to a monthly schedule for the time being so that the Board can be more responsive compared to current bimonthly structure. Alternative meting day/time may be needed due to schedule conflict with WHA OC board meetings on Wednesday afternoons. These additional meetings can be shorted and address only critical action items.

There was no further discussion and the motion carried with no opposition.

## 12. Board Member Updates/Issues

M. Conklin notes that Shana Collins is the new HAWC Coordinator. HAWC has had discussions with OCED and WHA around eviction prevention and what that will look like once the moratorium is lifted. S. Collins is working with Legal Services to prep for court sessions to resume. CSH is assisting with system capacity, and HAWC will expand capacity by continuing to practice diversion and providing assessments. 3020 Packard in Ypsilanti is the new Salvation Army location; it is now open to provide utility assistance services.

J. Mogensen notes that RAAH has raised enough funds to fulfill its Fall funding campaign with \$5,000 being sent to WHA. RAAH is beginning a COVID campaign with funds going to SAWC and SOS.

J. Hall states AAHC received 41 extra NED vouchers from HUD and must be leased up by October. They are still leasing the ninety 2019 vouchers. There is no funding for services or admin fees, just the vouchers. AA City Council budget meeting maintained a share of 2017 Mental Health millage funding for affordable housing despite a proposal that it all be used for General Fund; a minimum of \$887,000 of millage funds to remain used for affordable housing.

J. Mogensen notes AATA wasn't given the ability to bill against \$20 million as believed; AATA is proposing changes to routes and fare structure.

K. Dalessio notes that starting April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 50 clients were housed at a local hotel. The majority of clients there are over 50 years old and have health conditions. Additional hotel space has been secured, and clients from two congregation sites were moved there. Delonis Center capacity with social distancing is a max of 36 clients.

## 13. Public Comment

No public comment

## 14. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 4:29pm.