

Leadership Committee Minutes

Date and Time

Thursday, June 12th, 2013, 3:00pm-4:00pm

Location

Bridge Café, 1117 Elm Street, Manchester

Attendees

Cathy Kuhn Dominique Rust Elise Annunziata Mary Sliney Susan Howland Erik Wirkkala

May Minutes Approved

What will be the Process for Appointing Homeless or Formerly Homeless Individuals to Leadership Committee, Going Forward?

- After the Homeless Liaison Committee unanimously recommended Craig to be appointed to Leadership, Leadership Committee also unanimously approved his appointment.
- There was concern that the steps we just took do this were too complicated and unnecessary. We want the process to be simple and stress-free.
- There was some discussion of possible alternatives but nothing was decided definitively. We can discuss this further as needed.
 - We will, however, be voting at June's General Assembly to approve an amendment to the bylaws requiring a homeless or formerly homeless individual sit on MCoC Leadership.
- Some people were also concerned that the dialogue and topics discussed at many General Assembly meetings are too esoteric and many CoC members unfamiliar with HUD terminology and acronyms cannot follow along. Some members may not feel like they have opportunity to contribute to the conversation.
- We need to be more aware of this in the future and try to tailor topics discussed at General Assembly to a more general audience and perhaps make an effort to keep technical discussion at Leadership and Data Collection.
- Elise said she believes the MCoC should partake in more advocacy efforts than it is currently.

CoC Project Scoring Tool

- The tool used to score and rank CoC funded programs for the NOFA has been updated based on new criteria outlined in the 2013-2014 NOFA. Today we addressed some criteria, old and new, that remains of concern.
- First, some members were wondering why we require agencies to report how often they draw down HUD funds. Is this important to report, as long as the grant is spent by the end of the year?
- I (Erik) asked if it would be helpful for the Collaborative Applicant, during our quarterly APR monitoring, to start asking agencies if they are having any difficulty spending down their grant. Leadership said we should start doing this.
 - I have asked Mark if this measurement was from HUD or the MCoC and Mark said that HUD does want us to report how regularly agencies are drawing down funds. We did alter points values to only reward those drawing down monthly or quarterly.
 - Also, we will begin asking agencies to self-report whether or not they are having difficulty spending down their grant(s) so that they can be given assistance before the operating year is over.

- Susan wanted us to reword the question asking about the percentage of grant funds expended to only reward programs spending 100% of their funds and penalizing anyone who spends any less.
 - Mark and I will also rework this question accordingly.
- There was a question about the Cost Effectiveness measurement and whether or not we need this. It is somewhat arbitrary as some programs inherently need to spend more funds on fewer people, depending on their population served and specific programming. Also, matches and leveraging are not taken into account.
 - Mark indicated that we do not need to measure this. It was used by Peer Review before we had a tool, particularly when there were new bonus projects to be evaluated without any performance outcomes to measure. Also, the state had this measurement in their original drafts of scoring tools just to have something over and above HUD's requirements. We can decide to remove it though.
- Finally, we need to decide on what exactly constitutes Housing First, and whether or not we want to do a simple Y/N or have gradients, as HUD is flexible and definitions vary.
- We reviewed e-snaps and USICH guidance on Housing First, which were somewhat contradictory.
- I submitted a question to OneCPD asking if HUD would consider the ICH criteria valid. Once we hear back, we can finalize the criteria and point allocations for Housing First.
 - It will likely be a 1-5 point gradient.

Grace Episcopal

- Elise spoke with Rev. Marjorie A. Gerbracht-Stagnaro from Grace Episcopal Church and there is a desire in the faith community to better align efforts and communication with the non-profit and city services providers.
- She will work with the MCoC to schedule an informal meet-and-greet this fall to begin a dialogue and possibly bring these two communities together to collaborate.

The next Leadership Committee meeting will be Thursday, 7/10/14 at the Bridge Café.

Minutes Prepared By

Erik Wirkkala

Manchester Continuum of Care Coordinator, VISTA