

## **CoC Planning Committee**

March 28, 2019

Meeting Notes

Present: Allison Krall, Coalition for the Homeless; Carla Cox, UAP; Angel Jones, Martha Are, Brian Postlewait, Brittney Behr, HSN; Carole Mason, Richard Wang, Wayne Densch; David Barnett, Osceola County; Dawn Haynes, Community Resource Network; Dewey Wooden, HCCH; Janna Souvorova, Susan Heiskell, Yetzenia Negron, Orange County; Lisa Portelli, City of Orlando; Tia Aery, Family Promise;

Phone: Carrie Longsworth, Seminole County; Babette Allen, Grand Avenue Economic CDC

### **I. Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP)**

The community has the opportunity to apply for youth homeless demonstration grant project. If awarded, the amount of funds is dependent on our regional poverty rate and FMR.

The Youth Committee has been working well together for the past year, in large part as a preparation for this application. The Youth Action Society (YAS) has had an expected amount of upheaval over the course of the year, but it is still viable and stabilizing. We will be asking for your assistance with documentation of how you work with youth, especially if you have unique activities or procedures related to youth. We will also be asking what resources you would be able to bring to the table if we received the funding.

We will likely have weekly meetings until the application is submitted.

Please contact Brian with any questions.

### **II. Dialogue on Racial Disparity in Housing & Homeless Services**

#### **A. Nationally**

This is a growing concern around the country and HUD has started including questions about this in the last NOFA – ranging from data to board representation. National data is that the greatest disparity in homeless is among Black persons, in comparison to the general population and even compared to persons in poverty. SPARC has some of the best resources. Regina Cannon is now working with this group.

#### **B. FL 507**

Regina Cannon led a great presentation here in January. As a result of that HSN is having internal conversations among staff about how we address racial equity issues as an organization.

The CoC provided data required by HUD in the 2018 NOFA. Our data is consistent with national trends in the significant variation of rates of homelessness by race, with the greatest equity issues facing our Black population. HUD has now provided a Racial Equity Analysis tool about a month ago. You can use it to look at individual CoCs. The group reviewed our CoC's analysis – which incorporates census data and poverty data (see ppt & HUD tool). The report is available to the general public on the HUD website.

USICH asks us to

- Assess scope of racial disparities (HMIS, Census)
- Assess whether program a service connection & outcomes are equitable
- Solicit feedback from staff and those with lived experience about barriers and disparities
- Share finding with leaders, partners & stakeholder to build system understanding

The group discussed the way the CoC has been addressing LGBTQ inclusion over the past year with assistance from regional partners, and explored whether there were similar partners who could assist with racial equity. There are multiple data questions and policy questions that HUD is asking us to explore.

The SPARC report also gives recommendations.

- CoC training
- Develop opportunities to invest in emerging leaders of color
- Create position responsible at this issue
- Create greater diversity on boards
- Develop/adapt behavioral health interventions, DV programs and other supportive services

There is also a question in the YHDP NOFA that asks what our community is doing to address disparities impacting youth homelessness.

The Committee then discussed recommendations for how the lead agency can explore and/or what the community can do in the next few months.

Can this committee bring forth a few recommendations for the lead agency to look into, or what can the community do in the next few months?

1. CoC connect members with policies, conferences, etc to learn more about disparities and how to address it.
2. Research what other communities are doing (SPARC can help with that)
3. Explore ways to support agencies is doing self-examinations of disparities in staffing, hiring practices, anti-discrimination policies
  - a. HSN could do surveys
4. Invite Executive Directors/CEOs to a meeting and ask them to engage
5. Have an external research partner create a report and recommendations
6. Explore ways to support Black leaders within agencies, including their participation on this committee.

### **III. Day Services Task Force**

In December the CoC created a task force on Day Services that Lisa Portelli agreed to chair with the recognition that it is a regional issue. She has asked a few people to help put together a process and hope to send out a draft of that document for everyone to look at.

We did have a UCF researcher look at several cities across the country, even though we may not go for a center. We're looking at day services, gaps, etc. We want to explore how we have existing providers provide more day services. Day Center may or may not be the right thing down the road.

Next we'll have a one or two day facilitated forum with local providers of day services – asking those providers to talk to us about what they've learned.

The next steps after that will be pulling together the TF and moving forward.

### **IV. CoC Membership Elected Board Position**

It's time to start the CoC Members Elected Board Member process. The CoC encourages self-nominations or the nomination of others. The CoC has a strong preference for persons with lived experience and people of color.

### **V. Training**

There are 3 sets of training sessions coming up for CoC members:

- Case manager training
- Suicide Prevention Training
- LGBTQ & Homelessness

In addition, on May 21 the CoC will host another LGBTQ Symposium for service providers looking at service and practices Southern Legal will come back.

The Committee suggested that the CoC coordinate an after-hours peer networking opportunity for case managers.

### **VI. ESG Standards**

The Committee received the Interim ESG Standards that were developed in collaboration with Orange, Orlando and Seminole County. A few items in the standards will be discussed in more detail in project-type committees. Following those discussions, the Standards will likely be brought back to this Committee before being recommended to the CoC Board for final approval.

### **VII. Rapid ReHousing**

The Committee received copies of a report on Rapid ReHousing outcomes. The group acknowledged that Rapid ReHousing is a somewhat "messy" program with significant challenges. Therefore, the Committee was very pleased with the outcomes to date (see handout).