

Ozarks Alliance to End Homelessness



Springfield/Greene, Christian and Webster Counties Continuum of Care

Community Partnership of the Ozarks
OAEH Executive Board Meeting

March 10, 2021

11:00 a.m. – noon via Zoom

Attendees

Voting Members

Sabrina Aronson
Bob Atchley
Jennifer Cannon
Kelly Harris
Missy Hayward
Holly Hunt
Wyatt Jenkins
Mike Lucas

Jim O’Neal
Maura Taylor
John Walker
Katrena Wolfram

Interested Parties

Jackie Rehwald
Meleah Spencer
Nate Schlueter

Support Staff

Adam Bodendieck
Dandy Myles
Rebecca Sisk

Welcome & Introductions – Kelly Harris

Kelly Harris called the meeting to order at 11:01 am and ask everyone to introduced themselves through the Zoom Chat, with their name and organization. Amanda Stadler is at a conference and will not be joining the meeting today.

Old Business

Approval of February Minutes (Vote Required) – Kelly Harris, Chair

Kelly asked for any discussion, additions or corrections to the February minutes that were provided to the group prior to the meeting.

ACTION: Jennifer Cannon made a motion to accept the February minutes. John Walker seconded the motion. A Zoom voting poll was done. Katrena Wolfram was on via phone only and verbally approved the minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

System Performance Measure Submission – Dandy Myles

The CoC elected to resubmit FY2019 and FY2020. HUD gave the CoC’s the option to resubmit if they choose to this year. Most of the Board should have seen the report since it was sent out for a vote to resubmit.

Housing Study – Katrena Wolfram

The City did get permission to give MSU all the addresses throughout the city. They will send out surveys to some addresses, but also do an online version. Katrina said that in her experience with the Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) transition, that survey responses are not always returned, so they are trying to not make the

survey too overbearing. Their hope is that the return to MSU is more likely, so the study can be finalized quickly. She has not seen an invoice yet and the discussion was that the Housing Authority would pay half of the money up front to MSU, then the remainder when it is completed. The goal is to have it completed by early spring, either late March or early April. She will confirm the timeline with MSU and then pass that and any other relevant updates to Amanda Stadler so she can send it out to the group. Kelly thanked Katrina for taking the lead on the project since it is very much needed.

New Business

All Available

There were no updates from agencies.

Federal Funding Updates

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) – Bob Atchley

The City has allocated funding for the CDBG-CV funding, which will go to public service, homeless services and agencies providing affordable housing assistance in the form of mortgage, rent or utility assistance. The contracts should be out to the subgrantees either late this week or early next week. The contracts will run through the end of December 2021.

They are also working on the FY2021 CDGB funding. Subgrantees have been presented with their initial award letters, and the City has already received its allocation for this year. They did receive a very slight increase, so the staff is proposing that all the agencies that were awarded funding, share in the increase. The annual allocation will go before the City Council on 3/22 for the first reading and public hearing, with a second reading and final vote on 4/5. After City Council approval, they will reach out to all sub-grantees to provide final allocation numbers.

Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Continuum of Care (CoC) – Bob Atchley

HUD has automatically renewed the annual CoC program grants. There will be a competitive process for the bonus projects, with HUD indicating that should happen quickly, but no date has been provided.

Greene County Funds (Addendum) – Maura Taylor

The state received over \$420 million through the US Treasury funding for rent and utility assistance. Greene Co, because the population is over 200,000, chose to distribute those funds directly to residents in Greene Co. They approached several non-profit partners to see if they could get the money out quickly and effectively to the residents in need of stable housing. The six partners are Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri, Consumer Credit Counseling, Community Partnership of the Ozarks (CPO), Ozarks Area Community Action Corporation (OACAC), Council of Churches One Stop, and Salvation Army. The agencies should start this week providing rent and utility assistance and the funding is approximately \$8.8 million. It is a little different from funding we have received in the past in that it will provide 12 months of arrears plus 3 months forward (15 months total). The Greene Co. effort is being led by Jeff Scott in the budget office and the county treasurer. The six non-profits are meeting weekly to put together all the requirements needed to execute the program. The money must be spent by 9/20/21. They are working to get the money quickly, because if they do, there is additional funding that can come directly from the state through the Missouri Housing Development Commission (MHDC). The additional funding will not do one-on-one assistance the way it is currently set up. Christian and Webster Counties are receiving state funding and will be required to use the state portal. Anyone seeking assistance must go through the state portal, like the landlord portal. We know, as service providers, that it will be difficult for many of our clients to get the required documents and submit them through the portal, so the additional funding could be used for application assistance that would be a flat fee, based on level of service. Anyone on the call today can have people referred to any one of the six agencies that received funding. Maura urges that referrals are only given the number to one of the agencies, so that clients do not end up booking an appointment with all six agencies, because it fills up slots and limits the

number of people that can be helped expeditiously. City Utilities sent out a flyer with the bill to those who are in arrears on utilities and a press release was also sent out through Greene Co. There will continue to be more press releases to get the word out. Catholic Charities has already done about 200 pre-screenings. Prevention qualifies as one of the criteria for COVID-19 which included eviction. The website information was shared in the Zoom Chat and here: <https://www.greencountymo.gov/era/>. The ERA flyer was included in the Zoom Chat and is attached as an addendum to the minutes.

Committee Updates

Systems & Services Committee (S&SC) – Maura Taylor

Dandy Myles gave an overview of the FY2019 Resubmission – Performance Measurement Module (Sys PM). It was very informative and provided some areas, like training on income and SOAR, that might help our reporting measures. They also reviewed the different grants and an update on Connect Springfield project.

Connect Springfield – Adam Bodendieck

Connect Springfield was a 3-year Missouri Foundation of Health grant funded project that is currently getting ready to exit its pilot phase. It was designed to start connecting case management, not just in the homeless world, to reduce overall poverty rates, and create and track referral paths to ensure that case management was working together to serve folks seeking services and be able to follow their progress. It is going to incorporate a couple of new programs into the CoC – the Drew Lewis Foundation and some of CPO's Caring Communities and Financial Literacy programs.

Christian County Homeless Alliance (CCHA) – John Walker

They had their monthly meeting yesterday. They reelected their President, John Herring and Treasurer, Darla Boice, to another 3-year term. Their recent fundraiser, Hot Soup, Cold Nights, was very successful. The event is normally in-person but due to the pandemic, they did a silent auction, along with donation jars at restaurants. They also discussed an issue they have in Christian Co., which is homeless high school youth, who are alone and recommended by the high school teacher, that they cannot put up in temporary housing because they are under the age of 18. Holly Hunt with Great Circle, said that it is understandable that the schools in Christian Co. want to keep the homeless kids that do not have any place to go in Christian Co., but Great Circle does have a shelter in Springfield. Great Circle is currently working with a student in Willard, and the school system transports the student, since they are required to through the McKinney Vento Homeless Assistance Act. Great Circle has also worked it out where they will meet the transportation closest to the county line. They have done something similar with the Nixa schools before as well meeting them at the Greene Co. Library, where the attendance officer picked up the student. John will pass this information on to the group.

Emergency Shelter Work Group (ESWG) – Wyatt Jenkins

They are in the middle of looking at some things that have good potential. They are working with agencies to explore the option of using Emergency Solutions Grant Covid (ESG-CV) funding to possibly expand a couple of Emergency Shelter (ES) options. Nate Schlueter said that the Gathering Tree has put the Redwood Motel on West Chestnut under contract for partner agencies to be able to use for ES. The motel is adjacent to the Revive 66 Campground. They just got off a Zoom call with the City of Springfield and are excited about the potential for the property. Meleah Spencer, with The Kitchen Inc., said they are working on some necessary things they need to complete before they can expand their ES.

Crisis Cold Weather Shelter Committee (CCWS) Planning Committee – Adam Bodendieck

At the last planning committee meeting all the groups did go ahead and finalize that the cold weather season will end on March 31. The committee is currently collecting feedback from surveys and discussions with agencies, guests, host sites, volunteers, etc. to begin planning for the next CCWS season. Amanda Stadler will be able to give a report with data at the next Executive Board meeting in April.

Announcements/Discussion

Eden Village Update – Nate Schlueter/Jim O’Neal

They have been operating the Revive 66 Campground as a CCWS as they wait for axel’s that were backordered to get to their manufacturer. They will open the campground next Monday five days a week (Monday-Friday) from 8 pm to 8 am. You get a bus pass in the morning, snacks, coffee, and a breakfast taco and then they can go to the bus stop. They have 10 trailers on site, 3 of them are handicap accessible. The handicap trailers are 8x8 and are free standing (not on wheels). They have had couples stay in the smaller trailers but have plans to add larger ones that are 5x10. A family could stay in a couple of trailers next to each other. They have handicap accessible bathroom, laundry, and shower facilities. Pets are allowed, but there is no smoking in the trailers. Alcohol is allowed and they are free to go to the convenience store. They agree to no crimes, drugs, or public intoxication. By the of the year, they should have 52 trailers and be open 7 nights a week, 365 days a year. When someone arrives, they will have access to toiletries and towels for a shower and the laundry facilities. There is a tornado shelter on site and all the teardrop trailers are solar powered. They believe this will be an awesome alternative during the spring and summer versus sleeping outside and would adjoin the Redwood Motel if the purchase is finalized.

Their cost to operate Revive 66 Campground is expressed through the idea of a gift card, since it is a legal campground with a business license operating as an ES. Campers can pay \$10 a night or use a voucher. They already have about 300 nights paid for through generous donations from the community. They also have plastic gift cards available if an agency would want to use for outreach programs. Agencies can reserve a block of cards but would only be charged if the person used the gift card. There currently is not a limit on the number of nights a person can stay. The Revive 66 Campground will be the Transitional Housing (TH) shelter model for The Gathering Tree, while Eden Village will be the Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) branch.

Both properties are designed to be low barrier for anyone who needs the services. Much like the campground, the plan is to own and operate the Redwood Motel, with partner organizations essentially being able to rent a room from them for \$150 a week, which is the rate that CPO worked out with existing hotels to utilize those rooms as an ES. They would have offices with case managers and housing navigators on site to help move them to Eden Village or other PSH once they leave the motel. An example would be that a hospital could call and say we need 4 rooms for homeless who are recovering from surgery, and they could stay for a specific amount of time, helping to manage and get them into something more permanent. While the motel may look old from the outside, it has been completely redone on the inside in 2019. The roof is new, and the rooms were remodeled, so at the price per room, it became an amazing opportunity based on some other things that Community Foundation of the Ozarks (CFO), CPO and the City of Springfield had looked at for this model. There are also extensive expansion opportunities for the motel and the Revive 66 Campground. Essentially it is a 4-acre campus, with the potential to house 102 a night. The motel sits on 1.5 acres and can be expanded to up to 50 rooms. Also, the property across the street right next door to the motel, is owned by the City and is slated for Fire Station #13, so medical access and emergency response will not be an issue. A motel is not a good permanent solution, and they will not deny a family a room at the motel if they have the money to pay, but the goal is to work with partner agencies to find PSH for the motel guests.

They are hoping that going forward everything with The Gathering Tree gets coordinated through the CoC, and they are working with One Door so that applicants are entered through HMIS. They currently have 180 applicants for 24 homes in Eden Village 2 and will then start construction on Eden Village 3 with 44 homes to be completed in 2022. Those 180 applicants may be people that no one knows about, or The Gathering Tree may get calls from families, so it makes sense that they are connected to the other agencies for referrals and resources as well. Adam Bodendieck said it goes back to what Wyatt was talking about with the ESWG, they will look at all the specific needs and then build up inventory to address options for singles, couples, families, etc., making sure that everyone is

coming in and being a part of the coordinate entry system, so everyone's needs can be addressed through all the agency programs for that system level connectivity.

Alternative Shelter Update – Adam Bodendieck

To date they have provided hotel sheltering since the first COVID-19 case for about a 1,040 people in over 530 hotel rooms. Currently with the ESG-CV funding they have about 160 people in 92 rooms. They are maintaining that sheltering and providing some alternative sheltering related to isolation needs due to COVID-19.

Motion to Adjourn – Kelly Harris, Chair

Kelly Harris asked for a motion to adjourn.

ACTION: Jim O'Neal made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jennifer Cannon seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 11:56 pm.

Addendum

- ERA Flyer

Upcoming Meetings

Next Meeting is April 14, 11:00 am – 12:00 pm via Zoom

Second Quarter General Membership Meeting is April 22, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm via Zoom