

Ozarks Alliance to End Homelessness



Springfield/Greene, Christian and Webster Counties Continuum of Care

**Community Partnership of the Ozarks
OAEH Executive Board Meeting**

June 9, 2021

11:00 a.m. – noon via Zoom

Attendees

Voting Members

Sabrina Aronson
Bob Atchley
Jody Austin
Elisa Coonrod
Miskey Hayward
Holly Hunt
Wyatt Jenkins

Maura Taylor
John Walker
Katrena Wolfram
Alyssa Spadlin

Interested Parties

Meleah Spencer

Support Staff

Adam Bodendieck
Dandy Myles
Rebecca Sisk
Amanda Stadler

Welcome & Introductions – Jody Austin, Vice-Chair

Jody Austin called the meeting to order at 11:02 am and asked everyone to introduced themselves through the Zoom Chat, with their name and organization.

Please welcome Reverend Alyssa Spradlin. She is a new member to the Board from Webster County, and Associate Minister at the Central Christian Church on Division (between Washington and Benton). She lives in Wester County, and her family has had roots in Wester County for a long.

Old Business

Approval of May Minutes (Vote Required) – Jody Austin, Vice-Chair

Jody asked for any discussion, additions or corrections to the May minutes that were updated and provided to the group prior to the meeting.

ACTION: Bob Atchley made a motion to approve the May minutes. Wyatt Jenkins seconded the motion. A Zoom voting poll was done. Motion carried unanimously.

New Business

In-Person Meetings – Jody Austin

Jody opened up discussion on going to a hybrid model of Zoom and In-person meetings starting with the July meeting. Community Partnership of the Ozarks (CPO)'s policy regarding hybrid meetings was discussed. CPO has

updated the policy so in-person meetings are fine, but masks are still required - regardless of vaccination - if attendees cannot maintain a physical distance of six feet apart. It was suggested the meetings remain at Community Partnership's main office on Jefferson instead of moving them to the O'Reilly Center for Hope (ORCH). Several of the Alliance committees are starting to discuss moving back to in-person. Everyone in attendance agreed for supporting hybrid meetings.

Communication and Administrative Support

Amanda reported that Rebecca Sisk, who has been our Admin person for the last two years, is retiring. Please send all communications regarding the Alliance to the new email address at oaeh@cpozarks.org. Starting next week, all our meeting reminders and updates will come from that email address as well.

Housing Authority of Springfield (HAS)

Katrena was happy to announce we have 60 new vouchers through the American Rescue Plan for Emergency Housing. That is a total of \$268,000 for half-assistance which is payments to the landlords. Attached to that is \$3500.00 per voucher to help with various items such as down payment assistance or security deposits, utility connects, and utility bill payoffs. These items will be paid for out of those funds. The approval letter has been sent to HUD and implementation is moving forward locally. The vouchers require collaboration with the Coordinated Entry System (CES) to fill those 60 vouchers.

Katrena reported the housing study was expected in April and May but due to having so many respondents submitting surveys (both electronically and physically), they are working on finishing it right now. A copy should be available next week. When the final copy is received, HAS will pay out of the Covid-19 fund for the rest owed to Missouri State University (MSU). It is reported there are some useful and interesting results.

(Jody had to leave. Amanda Stadler replaced Jody as facilitator for the remainder of the meeting.)

Amanda reported that HAS is administering vouchers for Springfield. Ozarks Area Community Action Corporation (OACAC) has also accepted the allotment of vouchers for the counties that they serve which include the balance of Greene, and then Christian and Webster, so they will also be part of that process that is being developed.

Federal Funding Update – Amanda Stadler

HUD has released the application process for the Youth Homelessness Demonstration program (YHDP) grant. The city has applied for the last three years that it has been available. This has not yet been awarded but there is still hope that the grant will be awarded even if it is just by process of elimination. HUD has additional funding this year because grants were not awarded last year because of Covid-19 and will be awarding more communities. The Homeless Youth Task Force has been working on the application, which is a little different than other grants. If selected, the next step is to go through a six-month community planning process to develop a coordinated plan to end youth homelessness. At that point, applications for funding will be available. This is due at the end of July.

Announcements/Discussion

Strategic Planning – Amanda Stadler

The CoC began work on this in early 2020 but then Covid-19 hit, and everyone was in crisis response. The timeline for strategic planning includes getting community feedback, now through July, which includes this group, the Systems and Services group, Adam Bodendieck's case conferencing group, the Housing Collaborative, and different clients and stakeholders. This will then culminate with the SWOT analysis at the July General Membership meeting. Once feedback is received, the information will be compiled into a document so action planning can begin with each of our different groups.

Last March, this group identified a list of different needs seen within our community regarding our homeless service system overall, and then prioritizing those needs to determine focus areas. The group was asked to select their top three to five priorities from this list: to reflect current needs. This list will be updated if items need to be added, and then ranked to reprioritize them. The list is in the order that items were ranked from last year:

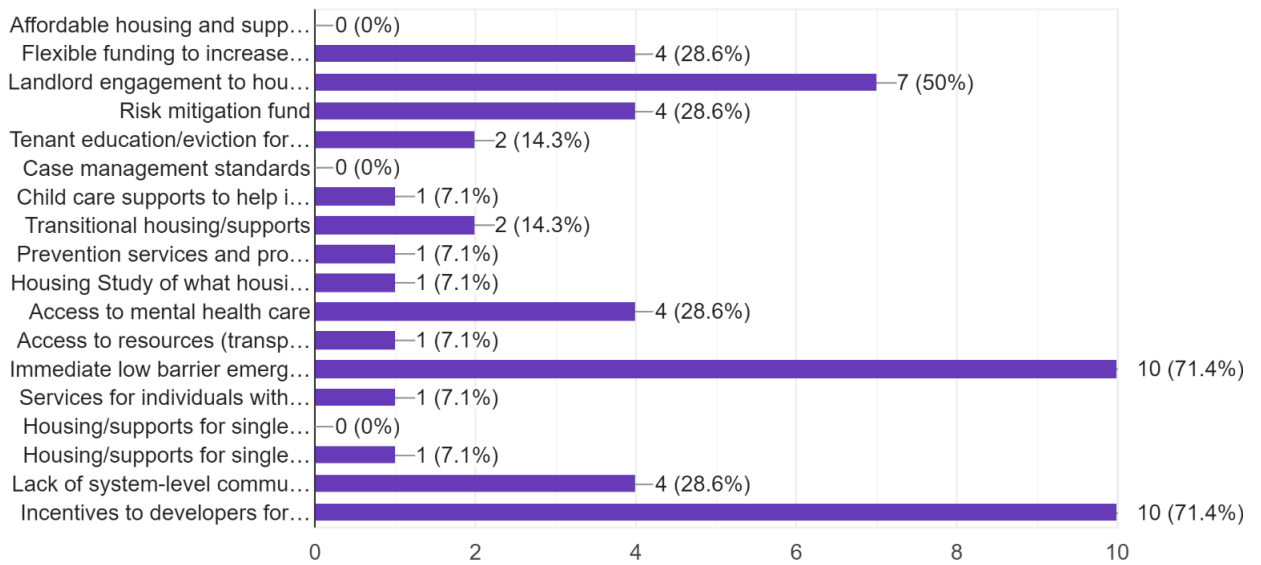
- Incentives for developers for affordable housing
- Flexible spending to increase diversion and prevention programming
- Landlord engagement to house high-barrier tenants
- Risk mitigation fund – flexible funding to support landlord engagement to help pay for tenant damage, etc.
- Tenant education
- Eviction forgiveness
- Case management standards – a system-level standards across all our programs and agencies
- Childcare support to help increase employment
- Transitional housing and support
- Prevention services
- Programming for youth
- A housing study for what housing is actually available.
- Access to mental health care
- Access to resources – specifically around transportation
- Immediate emergency shelter placement for families
- Services for individuals with disabilities - whether that was physical or developmental
- Housing and support for single adults
- Housing and supports for single parents

Comments/Questions

- A lack of system-level communication was discussed. The Systems and Services group changed the Emergency Shelter piece on their list, taking away the population focus. Emergency Shelter for everybody including the LGBTQ and those with pets was agreed upon.
- Everyone is welcome to vote, including non-voting members, on the top three to five priorities.
- The difference between Incentives to Developers versus a lack of affordable housing was discussed, and the group decided to change Incentives to Developers to Lack of Affordable Housing to truly capture the issue
- Maura brought up that when the list was first created, access to Missouri tax credits was not available. Access is available now. Meleah agreed with this point and added that COVID has created additional incentives for developers, including LIHEAP dollars through MHDC.
- The next steps are to keep doing this feedback with different groups that touch the homeless service system and then present a broad summary and final input piece at the July General Membership meeting which includes a very broad group of service providers. All meetings are open to the public. There is also a need to gain feedback from clients, gathering perspectives of people with lived experience, and then probably later this summer (around August), there will be action planning with each of our groups based on these priorities.
- Top identified issues are:
 - Tied for top priority were lack of affordable housing and need for emergency shelter
 - The second priority was landlord engagement
 - Tied for the third priority were flexible funding for prevention/diversion, risk mitigation fund, access to mental healthcare, and lack of system level communication

The following needs were identified in 2020. Please select your top three priority needs that the OAEH should focus on over the next 3-5 years.

14 responses



Point in Time (PIT) - Amanda

Dandy presented PIT results at our last meeting, which was officially submitted to HUD. Additionally, the ICA has their fantastic dashboards updated. The link was in the Zoom chat (<https://icaliances.org/mo-pit-dashboard>). It is a great resource for anyone that needs numbers for grants or reports, or is just curious. This resource is also linked on the Alliance page on CPO's website

Additional Discussion on Emergency Housing Vouchers

Amanda shared that the funding for the Emergency Housing Vouchers only covers rental assistance, not long term case management supports, which we know that some households need to stabilize. The CoC has a meeting this afternoon with partner agencies to brainstorm options for case management to pair with the Emergency Housing Vouchers. Adam updated that the group will also be finalizing targeting and prioritization for populations served by these vouchers. Currently, single adults and couples with low barriers to housing are not served through our existing Rapid Rehousing Programs. Amanda is waiting to hear back from MHDC if case management for this would be an eligible use for ESG dollars. CDBG could possibly be a long-term option with some of the CV funds. Another concern with the vouchers is being able to locate available affordable housing units.

Revive 66

Revive was discussed regarding when they will be getting more little trailers. There has not been an update but there will be an attempt for feedback soon.

Covid-19 Vaccine Clinic

The O'Reilly Center for Hope (ORCH) will be having another Covid-19 vaccine clinic tomorrow from 9am to 11am. This includes walk-in, no appointments needed, and they should have two versions available - Johnson & Johnson and one of the two-dose options.

Motion to Adjourn – Amanda Stadler, acting-Chair

Amanda Stadler asked for a motion to adjourn

ACTION: Maura Taylor motioned to adjourn the meeting. Elisa Coonrod seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 11:45 pm.

Upcoming Meetings: Next Meeting is July 14, 11:00 am – 12:00 pm