

Ozarks Alliance to End Homelessness



Springfield/Greene, Christian and Webster Counties Continuum of Care

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

February 8, 2023

11:00 a.m. – noon

Board Room – Community Partnership of the Ozarks

Attendees

Voting Members

Bob Atchley
Jody Austin
Kelly Harris
Miskey Hayward
Brock Hughes
Dr. Tim Knapp

Voting Members

Darline Mabins
Theresa Oglesby
Tonya Price
Meleah Spencer

Interested Parties

Taylor Cummins
Dandy Myles

Support Staff

Roni Blanche
Emily Fessler
Michelle Garand
JoJo Nichting

Welcome & Introductions – Jody Austin

Jody Austin called the meeting to order at 11:02 a.m. and had the group introduce themselves. **Emily Fessler** announced that JoJo Nichting is a new intern with OAEH. **JoJo Nichting** stated that she is a Social Work Practicum student from MSU that will be working under Emily’s supervision until May.

Old Business

Approval of January Minutes (Vote Required) – Jody Austin

- **ACTION:** **Kelly Harris** made a motion to approve the January minutes. **Theresa Oglesby** seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

Brief Updates

Rank and Review Tool – Emily Fessler

Emily shared that the NOFO (Notice of Funding Opportunity) team from the Board and the Systems and Services leadership looked at tools used by other organizations to possibly revamp our Rank and Review tool and connected most with a tool out of Oregon. We are looking at using that as the format for our rank and review tool and are asking the committee for feedback on content about anything missing or not applicable or unique to our Continuum of Care (CoC) that needs to be added. We are meeting again on February 24, 2023, and will compile all that information and then start looking at thresholds. We will be looking at data from HMIS (Homeless Management Information System) and our system performance measures to see what it looks like for permanent

supportive housing versus rapid re-housing. We hope to make the tool transparent and to put it out before the NOFO actually drops so agencies can be working on this throughout the year as opposed to scrambling when the NOFO comes out.

Michelle Garand added that they are working on tools for new as well as renewal projects, as renewal projects are the ones that give the most grief.

CCWS (Crisis Cold Weather Shelters) – Michelle Garand

Michelle stated that the CCWS is going great and has been open 42 or 43 days out of the 90 days since November 1, 2022, so nearly 50% of the time. From seeing media exposure, Community Foundation of the Ozarks (CFO) reached out to CPO with funding that has been paying volunteers hired through Penmac and working as needed to fill gaps in overnight positions, plus two people were hired to provide extra assistance at Grace United Methodist Church, which is the meal site seven days per week and pick-up site when shelters are open. Supplementary funds were also provided to the meal service providers because they have seen an increase in individuals to feed.

Michelle announced that a mid-season volunteer booster training will be held next Monday night covering Trauma Informed Care provided by Burrell, plus Narcan training and de-escalation training. Formalized procedures have also been created for handling individuals that need to be exited from shelters, and she gave an example that if the police are called the volunteers are asked to request a CIT (Crisis Intervention Team) officer or Co-Responder Unit so that people can get the help they need and the individuals asked to exit aren't just discharged into the shelter's neighborhood. Several asked questions about possible scenarios, and Michelle described the different types of responses that might be utilized. She also stated that there is a barred-person list that is shared at the shelters describing who the person is and why they are barred, and that individuals may be barred from one site and not all sites.

Point-In-Time (PIT) – Emily Fessler

Emily shared that the PIT count went well, with many volunteers returning which made things go more smoothly. Even though we didn't have a magnet event this year, between The Connecting Grounds Outreach Center being open for 24 hours and the Outreach Team and the Burrell Outreach team going out, this allowed more people to be captured in the data this year than ever before. This means that our numbers may look a little rough this year because we were able to survey more people than in the past. The outreach bags were well received, but we do have extras at the O'Reilly Center for Hope (OCH) that we will distribute as complete bags or break down into individual items and have available in the commissary.

Federal Funding Updates – Bob Atchley

CDBG (Community Development Block Grant)

Bob stated that every year the City of Springfield allocates approximately \$206,000 in grants to public services, which is the 15% of the CDBG that is allowed to be allocated to public services. The City received a total of 16 great requests this year but will only be able to fund 10 or 11 of them, so the staff rank and review committee has a hard job in reviewing and scoring the proposals. The recommendations were supposed to be presented to the Citizens Advisory Committee for Community Development (CACCD) last night but due to technical reasons it will have to be rescheduled. From there, we will make recommendations to City Council. We do not have the actual allocation yet, only an estimate, but we always share with the applicants that they will share in either the increase or decrease in what is allocated versus what was estimated. We always emphasize programs that assist with housing or the homeless, and those programs get extra points in the scoring.

HOME-ARP (Home Investment Partnerships American Rescue Plan)

Bob stated that the City's gets HOME funds to construct affordable rental housing, and HUD, through the ARP, decided to allocate funds specifically for the homeless, domestic violence survivors, and those at imminent risk of homelessness or housing instability. The City of Springfield was the first entity in the state of Missouri to receive a HUD approved HOME-ARP allocation plan, thanks to data-driven coordination with the CoC and ICA (Institute of Community Alliances). The first NOFA (Notice of Funding Availability) for affordable rental housing has a deadline for proposals of February 10, 2023, at 4:00 p.m. This NOFA includes \$1 million in HOME-ARP funds and \$1.5 million in regular HOME funding for housing, with 70% of the units required to be for one of the four qualifying populations and the tenants will have to come through the coordinated entry process. The City's scoring committee will review and score the proposals. So far we have received Letters of Intent (LOI) for everything from a large-scale 72-unit project to single family housing. The second NOFA for non-congregate shelter was sent out, with LOIs due at noon on February 21, 2023, and final proposals due at noon on March 23, 2023. The City allocated a little over \$2.2 million of HOME-ARP funding and Council allocated additional Treasury Department ARPA funds, totalling \$5,001,000 for the construction, acquisition and/or rehab of non-congregate shelters. HUD has made it challenging in requiring separate rooms and bathrooms for each non-related individual. We have had a lot of interest from non-profits and the development community, and we've emphasized to the developers that they must work with a homeless service provider because the funds cannot be used for operations, that they are required to work with the CoC, they must be a member and partner in meetings, and they must use the Coordinated Entry system for both the affordable housing and the shelter.

New Business/Unfinished Business

HMIS Data Presentation – Dandy Myles

Dandy stated that the software vendor is still working on Measure 4, and once it is complete then she can rerun the data. She will then get the information to Emily and the Board can vote on whether they want to resubmit the Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 data. The data is based on HUD's FY, so FY 2021 runs from 10/1/20 to 9/30/21. Dandy stated that the performance measures are used by HUD to compare the CoC performance from year to year, it impacts funding as well as local and national planning efforts, and HUD gives the CoC the option to resubmit the data from the last fiscal year. The seven measures are:

1. Length of time being homeless
2. Returns to homelessness (exiting to housing and returning to homelessness)
3. Number of persons experiencing homelessness
4. Employment and income growth
5. Number of first-time homeless
6. Is not used
7. Successful exit from outreach to positive destinations

Dandy described the process as: once the data has been processed and the CoC has approved the final numbers, the ICA (Institute for Community Alliances) will enter the data and then the CoC submits the FY report to HUD. Questions were asked about the required timing of the submission. **Emily Fessler** stated that Dandy would get the data to her once the final processing was done, then she would send it to the group in an email along with an electronic vote on whether to submit the revised date for FY 2021 because it has to be done before the end of the month.

Strategic Action Planning – Emily Fessler

Emily gave a brief update (due to limited time) that there would be calls made in March to schedule community listening sessions for April. She asked for input from the group in the next week or two on community sectors that need to be addressed in the planning process as well as specific agencies to include in the sessions and questions to ask. She said we are trying to find gaps in what we do as well as find out what partner agencies do and need and put them into the action plan, with a focus on the unsheltered population. She asked the group email ideas to her which she will combine with ideas from all the OAEH committees.

Announcements/Discussion

Michelle Garand stated that CPO, through the ARP funds, received \$3 million for a purpose-driven day center and is putting together a request for proposal to entities that would be able to provide a spot for a day center that would be safe and have access to showers, laundry, lockers, and hygiene facilities as well as medical and mental health services. The requests will be going out very soon.

Michelle stated that **Emily Fessler** started a transportation task force, due to concerns about pedestrian accidents from increased foot traffic, to work on a plan to keep people safer and get people to their destination points in a different way.

Adjourn

- **ACTION: Kelly Harris** made the motion to adjourn the meeting. **Bob Atchley** seconded the motion. The motion passed. Jody Austin adjourned the meeting at 12:12 p.m.

Upcoming Meeting

March 8, 2023 (Board Room-CPO)