

Ozarks Alliance to End Homelessness



Springfield/Greene, Christian and Webster Counties Continuum of Care

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

November 9, 2022

11:00 a.m. – noon

Zoom

Attendees

Voting Members

Sabrina Aronson
Bob Atchley
Jody Austin
Jennifer Cannon
Miskey Hayward
Holly Hunt
Wyatt Jenkins
Dr. Tim Knapp
Alyssa Spradlin
Maura Taylor
Katrena Wolfram

Interest Parties

Dandy Myles
Jackie Rehwald
Meleah Spencer

Support Staff

Roni Blanche
Adam Bodendieck
Emily Fessler
Michelle Garand

Welcome & Introductions – Jody Austin

Jody Austin called the meeting to order at 11:00 am and asked Emily Fessler to start with an introduction of the new CPO Administrative Assistant, Roni Blanche.

Emily introduced Roni to the group, and Roni announced she would be doing the Minutes of the meetings and appreciated everyone's patience if she asked questions. Roni thanked the group for having her.

Old Business

Approval of October Minutes (Vote Required) – Jody Austin

Jody stated that a vote would not be taken on the October Minutes. When the minutes are finalized and sent out, the group will review those and approve them as well as today's minutes at the next meeting.

New Business/Unfinished Business

Nominating Committee Recommendations: (Vote Required) – Emily Fessler

Emily started the discussion with a review of where everyone was with their terms on the Executive Board. Emily stated that Holly Hunt's term as a HUB recipient ended and asked if anyone wanted to speak a moment about

Holly's service. Compliments and gratitude were expressed for Holly Hunt's many and varied contributions during her terms of service on the Executive Board.

Emily stated that Elisa Coonrod's term on the Board has ended but Elisa was not able to attend the meeting today, so the group could send her thanks. Emily stated that the nominating committee has brought forth names for some different positions:

- For Holly Hunt's position, the nominating committee brought forth Meleah Spencer, with The Kitchen, Inc., to step into the HUD (Housing and Urban Development) role. Her term would then start in December.
- For Elisa Coonrod's position, the committee really wanted to retain some of the healthcare perspective, so one of the individuals brought forth was Brock Hughes, with MSU Cares, to the At-Large position. If voted in, his term would start in December.
- The last ending term is Dr. Tim Knapp's. Emily stated that we all appreciate and value Dr. Knapp's perspective on the Board and would hate to lose that. Discussion was made that Dr. Knapp could fill a kind of At-Large position, similar to Jim O'Neal's position on the Board, which would start in December as well. Emily mentioned that the Board would come back together to discuss possibly filling that open position with another sector.
- Lee Wiley's term is up for renewal as well. This would be his last term on the Board in the Lived Experience position if renewed. Emily stated that if voted in for renewal, since the Lived Experience Council was just developed, we could go ahead and have whoever chairs that Council then fulfill that position on the Executive Board. Therefore, there are four positions to be voted on.

Maura Taylor announced to the group that she is retiring from Catholic Charities on December 15, so she will be stepping down from the Board and as Chair of the Systems and Services Committee. Emily stated that Maura's term would technically be up in December, so that will be another item that will go forth to the nominating committee about Theresa Oglesby, so that will be a topic of conversation for January, not today. Many in the group expressed appreciation for Maura's service and sadness at her leaving. Maura stated that she would be taking time off to assess her future plans but still plans to be active in some role with serving the homeless community.

Jody Austin stated she would entertain a motion to vote on the nominating committee's suggestions since there didn't seem to be discussion needed.

- **ACTION: Bob Atchley** made a motion to vote based on the recommendations of the committee. **Alyssa Spradlin** seconded the motion. There was a slight issue with bringing up the Zoom poll, but eventually the vote was unanimous to approve the committee's nominations.

Michelle Garand extended congratulations to Meleah Spencer, Brock Hughes, Lee Wiley, and Dr. Knapp.

Updates:

Crisis Cold Weather Shelter – Michelle Garand

Michelle stated that the Crisis Cold Weather Shelter (CCWS) situation was stressful right now as the October sites were set and they were recruiting more volunteers, then the floor dropped on October 17 when the pick-up/meal site pulled out. Now they have no site for 250 people. She stated that Lisa Landrigan, the CCWS organizer, is doing a phenomenal job looking at every possible location but they don't have anything concrete yet and are getting desperate. She stated that they had November covered as much as possible as the meal sites are covered and pick-up will be made at the meal sites. Michelle stated they are looking for one centralized location as the pick-up site and is looking for ideas. There is no money to pay for a building, it needs to be near Vets Coming Home, which will stay open until 5:00 p.m but won't be a meal or pick-up site. So far the meal sites have been accommodating in moving up meal times if needed so people don't have to be out in the cold any longer than they need to because we have a 5-day stretch of cold weather starting Friday night. Meleah Spencer asked what to tell people that call

about shelter. Michelle stated that it doesn't matter if people are eating or not, the pick-up sites will be the meal sites through November. Emily mentioned there is an app available for Apple and Android users called Shelter SGF that can be downloaded for free that shows meal sites and shelter sites that are open each day. It was created by Christie Love from The Connecting Grounds.

Someone asked what the requirements are for a pick-up location. Michelle stated that space is needed for 200 to 250 individuals to get a meal and we would need access to the building 7 days/week, from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m, within a ½-mile radius of Veterans Coming Home. CPO has said that we would provide an insurance rider for the location if needed, and we would have an MOU (memorandum of understanding) with the site about the specific individuals that would need to have access. Jennifer Cannon mentioned that a working kitchen is not needed. Michelle stated that even a warehouse would do, just a place to get warm plus a collection point to get people to the shelters.

Day of Hope – Michelle Garand

The Day of Hope is November 30th, a health-directed services event at the O'Reilly Center for Hope (OCH), and new this year they will be offering eye exams. Dr. Treadway of Jordan Valley will be doing the eye exams, Jordan Valley will fill the prescriptions, MSU Cares will do a pre-screen for everyone that wants to participate, and the social work team will connect people with resources. Alps Pharmacy will also be participating this year, she is not sure in what capacity. Michelle gave thanks to Jody for linking them up and said Alps may be a presence at OCH as well. The Health Department will also be giving vaccinations, we are working with Convoy of Hope for groceries, and the Office on Aging will be there to help people with open enrollment. The flyer for the event is in approval status, and hopefully will be ready to distribute tomorrow.

HB 1606 (Missouri House Bill 1606 bans unauthorized camping on state-owned lands) – Emily Fessler

Emily stated she believes there may be a third lawsuit in Howell County against HB 1606. The other two lawsuits have merged. The Bill goes into effect January 1, 2023, so we need to keep up on it. Maura Taylor mentioned that representatives from HUD and HHS (Health and Human Services) were here and are looking into HB 1606 but they could not comment, although they are observing the situation on a national level and strategizing. Bob Atchley stated that Representative Quade did a briefing on the financial implications of HB 1606, but the Governor's office has made no response.

Hot Soup Cold Nights – Emily Fessler

The Christian County Homeless Alliance (CCHA) puts the event on at a church in Nixa, more a fundraiser than to feed our unsheltered friends. Hot soups are donated by the CCH Alliance and individuals, it is from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The CCH Alliance also does presentations to raise community awareness, there is a table for resources and a silent auction from donated items. The tentative date is February 3, 2023, with no location locked in yet.

Announcements/Discussion

December Executive Board Meeting – Emily Fessler

Emily stated that since the Board just voted in all these wonderful, incredible new people to the Board, we were considering using the December meeting as an onboarding orientation and cancelling the full Board meeting. Anything pressing can be covered through email and then reconvene the full Board on January 11, 2023. Jody Austin stated that the January 11 meeting might be an in-person meeting or social event to get the new Board members acquainted with the rest of the Board, but it would depend on illness numbers at the time.

Jody then opened the floor for other announcements. Bob Atchley stated that the Springfield City Council on Monday night will be considering a bill that would allocate \$7 million of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds from the U.S. Treasury to homeless and housing services. Once that takes place, some of the funding will actually be allocated and Requests for Proposals (RFPs) will be put out for the development of affordable rental housing,

non-congregate shelter, supportive services, and so forth, maybe the first one will be out in late November. The non-congregate shelter RFP will likely come out in early January 2023. The City is also putting out the annual Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding, and the solicitation should go out today.

Katrena Wolfram, from Housing Authority of Springfield, mentioned that in the meeting her organization had with HUD/HHS they were talking about the market rate rents in Springfield and how high they've gotten. She asked if there might be a collaborative effort to work with landlords about coming down on their rent, that even with housing vouchers people are having a hard time finding housing due to the high cost. Maura Taylor asked if waivers are still available to help bridge the cost. Katrena stated that they can do it and go up to 120% of fair market, but by paying more for each waiver they can help less people. It was also mentioned that some landlords are doing 6-month leases so they can raise rents sooner and not renewing leases for tenants so that they can raise the rent. Meleah Spencer mentioned the comprehensive study done last summer showing there is some opportunity coming and rents coming down, but it won't happen overnight and a landlord engagement committee is needed. She also mentioned that members of the Board should participate in the committee to help find a solution.

Adjourn

Jody Austin asked if there were any more announcements and ended the meeting at 11:58 a.m. when there were none.

Upcoming Meetings

New Board Member Orientation: December 14, 2022 (Burriss Training Center)

Next Meeting: January 11, 2023 (Zoom)