

Meeting Minutes MC2

December 6, 2021

Attendance: Aidan Rich (MHDC), Amanda Stadler (Springfield), Amy Bickford (St. Louis City), Angela Webb (DMH), Anthony Smith (BOS), Cassie Sipos-Haas (MHDC), Dottie Kastigar (St. Charles), Jennifer Carter Dochler (MCADSV), Karen Abendroth (Iowa City VA), Kathryn Stefanowycz, Kelli Kemna (DMH), Kimberly Henderson (GKC), Maura Taylor (Catholic Charities Southern MO), Penny Williams (DHSS), Randy Sharp (St. Joseph), Robin Smith (Joplin), Sandy Wilson (ICA), Sonia Campbell (Catholic Charities of Kansas City-St. Joseph), Tammie Walker (Joplin), Teresa Gerard (Guardian Group)

Debrief of FY2021 CoC Competition

2021 Competition questions/comments: Challenges with measuring/addressing racial disparities was discussed. Because of the size of communities within the state trying to obtain information on equity and inclusion from organizational management, program operation, and consumers can be challenging.

Some applicants have struggled with on-going engagement with people with lived experience - people do not want to come to meetings or attend any classes if they are not going to get anything out of it – or knowing who in their CoC leadership has lived experience. A goal for next year could be identifying strategies to get more participation that would include incentives and other “out of the box” concepts to drive inclusive participation. One thing St. Joseph is going to try to do next year is homeless participant meetings, as a sub-committee of the CoC, to try to get more of their thoughts and insights. This will operate similar to a focus group vs “tokenism”.

Other CoCs have had a hard time getting new applicants for funding as communities are trying to respond to the level of folks in need and deal with COVID. Crisis response is challenging due to the world pandemic..

DV Bonus: Community Counseling (St. Charles) went after coordination dollars so coordinated entry staff could coordinate with DV providers to work together so that we can do better and serve that population. We ended up taking the majority of the match, to facilitate the budget requirements.

Joplin had one agency that applied for the DV Bonus in the NOFO.

BOS primarily had the same agencies that provide DV services apply for the bonus, no new agencies applied for DV Bonus in this funding competition.

Staffing capacity has a great impact on whether supportive services can be provided by DV providers.

2022 PIT Date – Proposed Jan 26th

Continuums have agreed Statewide as a consensus to the January 26th date as historically set.

Warming centers: Any luck? Progress? How are people doing winter sheltering?

St Joe is not at 100%; lot of agencies are not able to have shelters this year due to Covid, some agencies have put people in hotels for no longer than a week, but money is not always there so cannot do it all the time. Last year their warming center put people in motels and everyone from all over the region was calling to put them in motels because people knew that they had motel vouchers. They try to place

people in motels now only if we can indicate they really need it. St. Joe did get a church to agree to open a shelter, so we are about to divert people there, but plan to ask for additional funding.

ESG - CV funding through MHDC is still available for emergency shelter supports.

St. Joe is not dealing with the vaccine component of this funding, but have been using transportation, there is little staff and feel like it's another layer to have to manage. Have not really felt that the vaccine availability was a problem just people's willingness. Called a lot of clinics and they did not want to pay people \$50 to get the vaccine and then get drugs with that money. We have tried to vaccinate homeless populations, we are getting a lot of backlash from communities about vaccines so it makes it difficult for us to vaccinate the homeless population.

CDBG-CV funding is still available as well and can be used to target needs that are unlikely to be addressed by other sources. CoCs are juggling multiple funding streams to meet need and trying to identify what shelter sources are available other than motel stays, because the cost is extremely high and eventually those funds run out quickly.

Other Updates on funding: MHDC is wrapping up NOFO 2021 this week. ESG 2022 has started, still have not got a contract yet with DHS, hopefully we can get that by the end of the year. MOHIP 2022 approval has been approved and will begin January 21st. 2022 deadline is December 17. SAFHR was awarded rental and utility assistance, anticipating the homeowner's assistance funds will be launching soon.

There are conversations about ESG transferring from DSS to DED. If anything changes with the ESG contract at the state level it would be just a transfer of ownership – MHDC will be keeping the normal slow timeline of ESG, the 2023 application will still take off with normal timeline.

In regards to evictions, it seems like the burden is on the client when it comes to access to legal services. Some CoCs reported a lack of engagement with legal services; the MO-housing website lists what counties have legal aid.

Agencies report a lack of knowledge with SAFHR - feel like it's a black hole- don't know who all is getting helped or not, we don't have a way to close that loop to find out.

If anyone has any interest in additional funding reach out ESG (MHDC); funding needs to be exhausted by August.

One community had tax credit properties and have used that for housing homeless. We went from a 60% rate to a 30% rate. Finding units has become difficult.

General Updates:

- Springfield- Amanda Stadler will no longer be representing the Springfield CoC at MC2/MICH, due to change in employment. At this point, Michelle Garand will be the representative.
- DMH - Received funding for 47 Housing Liaisons throughout the state; approximately 29 are hired. DMH provides weekly training and each Housing Liaison will be SOAR certified. Out of 29 of them 5-6 of them have made contact with regions leads. Please feel free to email Kelli if you have any questions with the Liaisons.