

MC2- Missouri Continuums of Care

[MICH] Meeting Minutes

October 4, 2021

Present: Dottie Kastigar, Aidan Rich, Amanda Stadler, Anthony Smith, Angela Webb, Becky Poitras, Carly Schultze, Cassie Sipos, Dawna Fogarty, Elyssa Leubbering, Jodi Flurry, Linda Huntspon, Rebecca Simmons Suddith, Robin Smith, Teresa Gerard, Todd Miller

Next meeting: 12/06/2021

I. Announcements

2021 Competition NOFO is out, how are people doing on that application/updates? Obviously there was some new and interesting questions on the application, specifically related to equity, diverse membership and diverse populations, disparities to certain communities who have homeless minorities enrolling and being discharged in sheltered programs. Continuums indicated that we would like to have had a couple of meetings to discuss some finer details to new questions and how to address them more completely. Surprised to see in NOFO the DV bonus in this round and how much money was available, going through the rank and review process to see who is going to apply for those funding, looking for partnering agencies who would be willing to collaborate and apply for the bonus. Homepage who maintains the planning grant for some CoCs was helpful in developing a tool to assist with the application for bonus projects.

Warming shelter planning: Todd- has reached out to a lot of agencies to try to contact them and find out how it will work due to covid. Questions: Can an agency submit an application for warming shelter fundings without having to use all there ESGV funding. This winter we would like to move away from hotel motel winter weathering shelter because it is very expensive, we are doing a lot of outreaching to see if there are some agencies that we could utilize to have people reside, because the hotel/motel is very expensive and requires proof of I.D. and that is extremely hard for the homeless. Other agencies challenges would be having consistent staff to work the winter shelters, Todd's agency has funding to help people get funding for winter weather shelters rent/utilities/staff salaries, but not acquisition and renovations. Having an agency that would be willing to administer the federal funds would be beneficial because the majority of faith-based agencies would not want to administer the project but are willing to have the church rented for shelter stays. Zoning issues in some communities continue to be an issue, if the facility is not considered residential the zoning commission couldn't deem some of these properties appropriate for sheltered/warming center situations. Anyone served will have to be entered into HMIS. Having condense forms would be very helpful because a lot of winter shelters have a lot of volunteers so having condense forms would be great. In the last year there has not been a lot of an increase in the number of homeless encampments. What is allowed for communities to have a sanctioned encampment? Local municipalities would have to be involved with the scenario of homeless encampments. There are a lot of different procedures for clearing out an encampment, they are having meetings over that so within some time they will let us know how to handle that.

Updates on MHDC funding: MHDC's ERAP project has allocated roughly 60% of the funding to date. The application has reopened for ESGV prioritizing street outreach and rapid rehousing more so than homelessness prevention. MHDC is prioritizing shelters, and dv shelters and not much on homeless prevention. Direct services we prefer to go through SAFHR. Rapid Housing

our numbers are not that great. We are encouraging new agencies that are interested in street outreach and rapid housing to apply. The limit will remain for \$250,000 for non-entitlement areas. Once you fully spend you can request for more. Funding can also be used for vaccinations and transportation to clinics offer vaccines. Public comments for the Draft plan for NOFO and allocation has ended. The Missouri trust fund NOFA 2022 is open and will be accepted via grant will be accepted until October 29th. For current recipients, we are updating forms and trying to condense and make easier and better for everyone to use. Please have the correct staff on the annual training to know how to administer that funding appropriately. \$81 million has been used for SAFHR program for rent and utilities. MHDC will be transitioning into a new application software update. MHDC will be launching Home owners fund through SAFHR will be opening up in the next week (one-time assistance) mortgage assistance counseling program. Mo housing resources pages will have the money/numbers that has been spent in the SAFHR program. Eviction rates have gone down in the areas thanks to the SAFHR program.

Vaccine: \$50 cash for homeless people that have gotten the vaccine.

Open discussions: SAMSHA funds, grant was wrote and now we will be rolling out 27 housing liaisons in the state! Every COC has at least 1 housing outreach, will provide a spread sheet to see what counties has them. Jobs for the liaisons will be attending case conference committees and coordinated entry, they are to fill that gap for people that are not in a CPR or C-Star program, it will be a warm hand off to get someone stabilized. We really want each COC to bring these people in and help them because they are not experts at this, but the COC and the Coordinated entry system experts within those places will be helpful to the housing liaisons. The Missouri State Park Rangers have seen a big increase in the amount of homelessness in their parks. Trying to see how we can establish some connections between the continuum and the State Park Rangers.