

## Meeting of the Metro Dallas Homeless Alliance Board of Directors

### MINUTES

Friday, January 20, 2017, 9:00 am  
Vogel Alcove, 1738 Gano Street, Dallas, TX 75215

#### **Board Members in Attendance:**

John Castañeda, Chair, Edd Eason, Vice Chair, Karen Hughes, Treasurer; Britton Banowsky, Dr. Theresa Daniel, Jay Dunn, Vicki Ebner, Regina Levine, Traswell Livingston, Bernadette Mitchell, Dustin Perkins, Mark Pierce, Ricky Redd, Daniel Roby, Dr. Susan Spalding, Molly Van Ort and Bob Wright

#### **Staff & Guests in Attendance:**

Cindy Crain, Lynette Austin, Lester Collins, Freda Coleman, D'Arcy Drescher, Rebecca Cox, Alexandra Espinosa, James McClinton, Shavon Moore, Amber Puga and Germaine White

#### **Approval of Minutes**

The meeting was called to order at 9:07 am by John Castañeda, Chair, followed by self-introductions of those present.

A motion to approve the minutes from the MDHA Board of Directors meeting of December 6, 2016 was made and seconded. Motion passed.

#### **Executive Committee Report**

John and Cindy listed the standing Committees of the Board: Nominating, Executive, Governance, HMIS, PRAC and Public Policy. They noted that volunteers are needed. Cindy shared that the PRAC does the hard work on the CoC applications and makes all decisions on the state TDHCA ESG grant. She noted that this RFP is anticipated to be going out next week, will be due in February to MDHA and to the TDHCA in March. Approximately \$1,213,325 in funds available this year.

About one-half of the PRAC is comprised of MDHA members, with Karen Hughes, Daniel Roby, Susan Spalding and Ricky Redd currently serving. The Committee needs more members and the Board needs to elect them. Karen volunteered to continue to serve as Chair. Cindy will request nominations and the election will be conducted by an online vote.

As previously noted, there is a lot of work involved with this application review and approval process. Ricky Redd will continue to serve and requested feedback on Board policies of those receiving funding serving on the PRAC. Cindy explained that the PRAC also reviews evaluation materials and even those that are grant recipients should have input, but, during a competition, they would not participate in any funding decisions for which they are an applicant. The rankings of the applicants result in those that are funded and is the outcome of the process. Conflict of interest policies are in place.

A discussion of those who could serve as members of this year's PRAC, beginning with MDHA Board members who do not receive funding and then outside of the organization persons, resulted in the following list of people for consideration: Karen Hughes, Chair, Susan Spalding, Shanetta Brown (City of Plano), Ashley Brundage (United Way), Connie Wilson, Ricky Redd, Mark Pierce, Dr. Theresa Daniel, Bob Wright, Kyla Rankin (Parkland Homes), Rachael Tryska (Deep Ellum Foundation) and Will McCall. Cindy will compile a list with brief biographies and send to Board members for a vote next week.

John presented and explained the Balance Sheet as of November 30, 2016; no questions were asked.

### **HMIS Governance Committee Report**

Daniel Roby reported that the Committee has a lot of work to do with the new system. Committee Members are: David Woody from The Bridge, Charletra Sharp from the City of Dallas, Anthony Collins from Housing Crisis Center, Jim Malatich of Hope's Door, and Ashley Lind from Promise House. The HMIS Committee will be meeting every other month.

The Committee has 4 goals/items to accomplish this year: 1) Review performance of MDHA as an HMIS Administrator through a user survey process. This will also include quarterly feedback sessions following CoC Assembly meetings to broaden user input. 2) Review proposed 2017/18 HMIS fee schedule to decrease cost and increase participation; 3) 2017 MOA's review and 4) Review and update Policies and Procedures.

Daniel Roby requested a copy of the HMIS Policies and Procedures.

Ricky Redd asked how expansion is going and has the system been crafted that will make it attractive for users—is it a collaborative system? Cindy responded that there have been meeting with UGM, the Salvation Army and the Veterans Administration and all have verbally committed to being in the system. She further explained that as a part of our score, the ES data is unusable; and all agencies within the system of care are welcome to participate. The first and second quarter of the performance year in HMIS (October through September) again will not include over 50% of the ES beds covered in the HMIS meaning that it is very likely that the 2017 AHAR report will again be reviewed as unusable. This will lead to continue inability to provide system performance measures through 2019 because of now viable base line year or comparative year.

Ricky Redd wanted to know if that affects our HUD funding. Cindy responded that is certainly does. Traswell Livingston asked are there any non-CoC funded agencies on the Committee and new HOPWA funded agencies using HMIS that can maybe participate? Another question asked Cindy to explain how HMIS and new system integrates. Cindy referred them to the handout and noted the challenges for 3/1/17: 1) Caseworthy ends 3/31, can renew for 6 months; 2) Call will be made by 3/1 if there is any further delay. Data migration of CaseWorthy and The Bridge dataset from Client Track are being mapped.

### **CEO Report**

Cindy reported on the electronic records loss due to the server failing. The Company, Convergence is claiming there is no back out because MDHA never paid for one. The catastrophic crash of the survey coincidentally happened on the weekend that MDHA was beginning the transfer to a new in house IT and service system. MDHA has had a contract for complete server management and colocation since October 2012. With financial records gone, we are assuming a total loss of just MDHA internal data. We will be getting a new server that will be updated daily. Working with our insurance company, we are pursuing legal action. To date, our auditor from last year has uploaded all of their files to us and HUD has requested a letter regarding the loss of data due to the server. Cindy and John reminded everyone to check your data backup systems.

Edd Eason provided an update on the CoC Assembly that meets the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month. The next meeting will be on January 24<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am at the United Way. The Assembly is working on

rearranging Committee structure, for existing and new, around functions that need to occur to serve homeless and align with the strategic plan.

Cindy referred everyone to the handout describing the Community Dashboard. It will be a quarterly report to the community based on 10 measures related to the demand and supply of available housing for the homeless. Cindy pointed out that for measure #10, we will be working with Dallas Housing Authority (DHA) for information on Section 8 vouchers for Homeless Preference. It won't be reported on until the third quarter of 2017.

Cindy reported that we were not selected to receive one of the 10 youth Homeless Youth Demonstration Project grants; however, Austin got selected. Rebecca Cox shared the next steps that MDHA is taking in this area: 1) System Map – strengthening youth services because of buy-in by other parties such as child welfare and juvenile justice. 2) Plan will still be worked on with volunteers; 3) More organization, with future funding for this effort locally, including youth in homeless counts.

In reviewing the handout, Cindy shared that the top users of the Flex Fund are shelters. With grants totaling over \$100,000, most of the funds are going to housing. Dustin Perkins shared that this fund has been a huge support for Case Managers and MDHA's role is to provide this direct service to them. Daniel Roby inquired about when flex funds are used for rental assistance and was informed that only for prorated rent and rental arrears, and not used for homeless prevention. Due to the need, the maximum amount of support was raised from \$800 to \$1,200.

The 2017 PIT Count will be conducted on Thursday, January 26<sup>th</sup>. To date, 980 volunteers have registered to assist. With the cut off approaching on Monday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>, MDHA should easily reach its goal of 1,000 for this year. Cindy announced that we are on track for 15% police coverage on that evening.

Other announcements included the State of Homeless Address (SOHA), this year on March 9<sup>th</sup> and SPARC in Dallas the week of February 28<sup>th</sup>, with a breakfast for Pastor's at the Federal Reserve Bank.

Bernadette Mitchell provided an update on housing-related activity at the City of Dallas---lots of changes with the new City Manager anticipated.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:35 am by the Chair, John Castaneda.