

# MDHA/CONTINUUM OF CARE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

## MINUTES

Friday, July 21, 2017, 9:00 am – 11:00 am  
United Way of Dallas  
1801 North Lamar Street, Dallas, TX 75201

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

John Castaneda – Chair, Edd Eason – Vice Chair, Karen Hughes – Treasurer, Jennifer Dominguez, Vicki Ebner, Shanette Eaden, Brook Etie, Regina Levine, Traswell Livingston, Jim Malatich, Ikenna Mogbo, Dustin Perkins, Ricky Redd, Molly Van Ort and Robert Wright.

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

Cindy Crain, Lynette Austin, Lester Collins, Rebecca Cox, D’Arcy Drescher, Alexandra Espinosa, Victoria Jackson, James McClinton, and Eryca Peters; Kenn Webb, City of Dallas Citizen’s Advisory Committee on Homelessness, Charlene Randolph – Dallas County, Jerrell Suttles – Verizon Wireless and Charletra Sharp – City of Dallas.

### **Approval of Minutes**

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 am by John Castaneda, Chair. He thanked everyone for coming and asked for self-introductions of those present. Kenn Webb stated that he was attending the meeting to learn more about the Alliance and was thanked for doing so by John Castaneda.

A motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of May 19, 2017 was made by Edd Eason and seconded by Jim Malatich. Motion passed.

### **CEO Report**

#### **A. Approval of the Continuum of Care Strategic Work Plan for 2017-2018 (CoCSWP)**

Cindy Crain reviewed the final version of the CoCSWP presented for approval by the Board. Cynthia Scaife, Housing Resources Liaison, has already located properties and identified several units for CitySquare clients, with some leases being signed today. The housing opportunities she collects will be placed on a list on Basecamp for agency member access.

Questions asked by those present included how will we meet goals for families with children and how we will measure housing stability. Traswell noted that community-wide, our biggest

challenge is the future development of affordable housing and suggests the creation of a formal linkage with developers and the City and County. It was suggested to amend Goal 1, Action Item #8 to include language to this effect.

Other items noted included: 1) the creation of a written advocacy strategy; 2) engaging representatives from all cities in Dallas and Collin counties, especially from planning and development departments; 3) how do we handle recidivism, i.e., getting housing, then becoming homeless again; 4) how will we know when we have met a goal; 5) housing inventory, such as how many beds are in HMIS; and 6) can we place domestic violence programs in a separate system so those beds can be counted and data used?

Edd Eason thanked staff for the good job with involving the CoC Assembly in the development, review and comment of the CoCSWP. John called for approval of the 2017 CoCSWP. Motion passed.

#### B. FY 2017 CoC Program Grant Competition

A discussion of the PRAC Scorecard used for renewal projects included questions about 1) is there a new incentive for housing the chronically homeless (85% for CH)?; 2) how much does the scorecard affect the PRAC score (2/3 or 70%)?; 3) is there a list of sponsored or required training (MDHA staff will prepare a list) and 4) how specific should the narrative be (more details helps with scoring)?

John Castaneda called for the approval of the PRAC CoC Renewal 2017 Scorecard. It was moved by Jim and seconded by Molly. Motion passed.

Cindy reviewed the CoC Competition Timeline. Due to scheduling conflicts, the final PRAC meeting was been rescheduled to Thursday, September 7<sup>th</sup>. Because the Board needs to approve the Priority List and post it by no later than September 12<sup>th</sup>, it was proposed that the September Board meeting be moved from the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 8<sup>th</sup>, 11:30 am – 1:00 pm. It was approved.

#### C. Coordinated Assessment System Taskforce

At the Board meeting in May, the Taskforce was created. Cindy reviewed its issues:

1. Information and Referral Line
2. Review of DOPS Matrix
3. Managing the Housing Priority List (monitor need and denial)
4. Managing the Housing Inventory (formal recognition of emergency homeless shelters)

Cindy also reviewed the current staffing and contracts to perform the CAS work: Family Gateway for homeless families and the Disability Action Center for assistance with social security benefits.

#### D. HMIS Implementation Update

Cindy provided an update on HMIS which focused on its functionality, especially access to reports. There are two emergency shelters not in the system, Salvation Army and UGM and The Bridge stopped the data migration to the new PIECES Iris system on the day of go-live of the test environment for their instance of IRIS. The updated HMIS release in mid-August addressed some of the concerns of the shelters related to alerts and bed management functionality. Alexandra advised that the goal is to meet the needs of the shelters, focusing on APR and system report needs, which has improved since implementation.

#### **CoC Assembly Report**

Edd Eason reported that at the last two meetings of the CoC Assembly, attendees have been breaking up into small groups for interaction. At the last meeting, a discussion of the Scorecard revealed two concerns/issues: 1) accuracy of the APR (HUD requirements and our new system) and 2) receiving the Scorecards already completed. Cindy assured the use of accurate data and that MDHA staff will prepare the scorecards and allow for review and comment for each item by agencies.

#### **Executive Committee Report**

John reported that the Executive Committee reviewed the financials thru May and that MDHA is \$30-40K in the black. Cindy reported that the Audit is fine, with only one open item relating to HMIS user fees payment/adjustments to be done.

John noted Board vacancies and that they will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. He also called attention to 2018 Board meeting dates. The November meeting will be moved forward to accommodate the Thanksgiving holidays.

#### **New Business**

Cindy Crain noted the following: 1) There has been no pulling back from Housing First within the FY2017 Continuum of Care Program competition as reflected in the HUD Notice of Funding Availability and 2) System performance measures include critical metrics that we do not have (for example, homelessness went up, veterans homelessness only slight improvements, etc.). According to best practices, our housing stability rate is always good, 96%, which is very high nationally, which Crain detailed may also reflect that there are successful program participants that should now possibly move on to permanent private or subsidized housing with little to no supportive services to make room for the chronically homeless waiting on the Housing Priority List. The CoC committees will be working on "moving on" strategies.

Cindy also informed the Board that she presented at a recent conference information on our PIT Count, one of the largest volunteer efforts in the country in January 2017. The CoC will work to increase the number of volunteers to more than 1500 in 2018 to cover even more of the geographical location of where the homeless are in Dallas and Collin counties. Also, MDHA would consider conducted outside of the count a well-structured survey of the homeless in 2018. Vickie Ebner suggested that this study take place in the summer rather than the winter.

Other issues presented for Board consideration were: 1) Where MDHA should be positioned within the new structure/system for addressing homelessness issues in relationship with the new City/County local government organization on homelessness? and 2) Crain would like to add Public Comment to our Agendas (time-limited or no more than 15 minutes of the meeting) to allow for more exposure to the public. Rickey Redd noted that shelter representatives came to the last Alliance Forum. Several members, Vicki, Shanette and Dustin, liked the idea.

After noting the revised date for the November 2018 meeting and the next Board meeting from the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 8<sup>th</sup> of September, the meeting adjourned at 10:55 am by the Chair, John Castaneda.