



2816 SWISS AVENUE DALLAS, TEXAS 75204
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Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors
Friday, September 16, 2016 • 9:00A.M.
2801 Swiss Avenue, Dallas, TX 75204

Board Members in Attendance:

Molly Van Ort, Jennifer Dominguez, Karen Hughes, Vicki Ebner, Stacy Brown, Bernadette Mitchell, Britton Banowsky, Larry James, Regina Levingston, Dr. Sue Spalding, Dustin Perkins, Connie Wilson, Michael Peterson, John Castaneda, John Lawton, Theresa Daniels

Staff & Guests in Attendance:

Cindy Crain, Rebecca Cox, Shavon Moore, Amber Puga, Lester Collins, Alex Espinosa, David Gruber, Wayne Waslien, Eryca Peters, D'Arcy Drescher

Approval of Minutes

Britton Banowsky called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. with a welcome.

A motion to approve the minutes from the MDHA Board of Directors meeting Thursday, August 25, 2016 was made and seconded. Motion passed.

Update on the Dallas Commission on Homelessness

Britton Banowsky shared that the Commission has met 4 or 5 times since its inception. Subcommittees have been feeding the overall body with their recommendations all leading to the final recommendations of the commission. The process has been challenging. Some members of the commission were appointed by city council and the rest of the positions were filled by individuals with expertise. Part of the committee seems to want immediate yet evidenced based change while another part of the committee seems to want strategic systematic "slow cooker" change – philosophical differences. Accountability is of the utmost importance because many stakeholders want to know how money and other resources are being spent. The commission has 1, maybe 2 more meetings before final recommendations are delivered.

The objectives of the commission are to: 1. Assess the homelessness issue in Dallas, 2. Compare it to similar communities nationally, and 3. Produce detailed recommendations to address homelessness in Dallas.

Karen Hughes and others pointed out that some of the positive outcomes of the commission process so far include: having needed conversations on homelessness, creating awareness of some of the challenges of homelessness, learning the importance of having navigators, learning about the condition of vouchers, learning that the county and city need to collaborate more intensely, coordinated assessment is vitally needed (CAS).

Some mention was made of the history of the homelessness response system or lack of one in Dallas. Discussion took place on whether or not there needed to be a rebranding of MDHA or if sticking to the course that is being laid out and letting the results speak for themselves was the best direction.

It was reaffirmed that MDHA has officially been designated the lead agency in efforts to address homelessness in Dallas. Clarification on the definition of "authority" was sought. Does authority mean expertise or power or a combination? Among the main functions of MDHA are developing data & providing support in the effort to end homelessness in Dallas.

The next commission meeting is October 18, 2016.

Nominating Committee Report

Molly VanOrt provided a report on the nominating committee process. The committee will meet at 9am on November 2nd. The “big” meeting is November 18th. Discussion took place regarding the participation of a recently homeless (consumer) individual joining the efforts. It was pointed out that although there is presently such an individual involved it may well be helpful to add another.

Executive Committee Report

John Castaneda shared that the performance review of the CEO is making its rounds and will soon be forwarded to the Executive Committee Huddle.

It was decided that Form 990 did not require a vote of acceptance, rather a record in the minutes that states it has been shared with the board, the opportunity to comment has been given, and the form has been approved.

The financials of MDHA are a matter of public record. It was clarified that Form 990 does not reflect the ~\$17 million that MDHA is the steward of, because the funds don't pass through MDHA, rather they are distributed to the agencies by HUD.

Update on CoC Program Grant

Cindy shared that the application was submitted by the federal requirement to uploaded two days prior to the due date. A debriefing to the few hundred CoCs is expected to be expedited due to an impetus to beat the impending administration change that comes with this election year.

Feedback forms to applying agencies are forthcoming. A RRH learning collaborative is also coming soon.

More information on the Youth Demonstration Project is forthcoming.

Staff Update: MDHA welcomes D'Arcy Drescher, Lester Collins, and congratulates Alexandra Espinosa on U.S. citizenship

Britton Banowsky thanked all who served on the PRAC committee, and Cindy thanked David Gruber for his work in securing an operations grant from Reese-Jones

Briefing on the SSVF Veteran Planning Session

Rebecca Cox provided an update on the efforts to end veteran homelessness in Dallas. This goal has been reached in other localities nationally why not here? One of the first challenges is an accurate accounting of how many homeless veterans there are. We know of 300 in HMIS but there sure to be others from non CoC organizations. The meeting that took place yesterday was well attended with representation from partnering agencies as well as some property owners. One thought is to have a mixer in which property representatives can mingle with some of the potential residents in order to quell their concerns. The landlord association has complained about VASH supportive services not being robust enough to keep veterans from being evicted, and the timing of payments.

Banowsky shared that the number of housing vouchers will be reduced from 1100 to 800 due to low use of them, this despite it being known that one reason for underuse is a lack of housing. Work also needs to be done to have a more accurate account of how many people have vouchers. MDHA is working on this task.

Rebecca shared further that the Veteran Planning session attendees that lead table discussions will also serve as subcommittee leaders and will attend a leadership meeting on September 20, 2016 to work toward the actualization of the suggestions from the table groups.

CoC Assembly Report (unintentionally left off agenda)

Dustin Perkins shared that requests were made for nominations for new leaders, but none have come in. Ed Easson & Dustin Perkins have been serving for two years. Voting for new leaders is scheduled for October 30, 2016.

- There has been some questions surrounding the matter of needing a mental illness diagnosis to be admitted to the Bridge and MetroCare services.

- CoC & CAS survey results are forthcoming

Future Board Agenda Items

Recording the level of engagement with the PSH standards of care

Landlords have concerns that case management is spotty and varies too much from one program to another.

Suggestion – include case management as an item on future PRAC scorecards

Question about keeping up with legislative agenda items that affect homelessness

Other future item suggestions were – a possible image campaign aimed at re/branding the homelessness reduction efforts, and promoting accomplishments like the cottages.

Meeting Adjourned 10:52 am