

Arizona Balance of State Continuum of Care
Governance Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

April 17-19, 2018

Members Present:

Anita Baca (*Housing Authority of Cochise County*)
Valarie Donnelly (*WACOG*)
Eliza Louden (*Catholic Charities, Yavapai County*)
Barb Mikkelsen (*HCIC*)
Carole Benedict (*U.S. Vets, Yavapai County*)
Karia Basta (*ADOH*)

Suzanne Payan (*CAHRA, Pinal County*)
Jessica Sueskind (*Good Neighbor Alliance*)
Cristina Benetiz (*AZCH*)
Ricardo Fernandez (*Southern AZ Aids Foundation*)
Lizbeth Fullbright (*Verde Valley Sanctuary*)
Camie Rasband (*Catholic Charities, Coconino County*)

Members Absent: Karin Uhlich (*CENPATICO*)

Staff & Guests

David Bridge (*ADOH*)
Melissa Swain (*ADOH*)
Joy Johnson (*ADOH*)
Ryan Vernick (*ADOH*)
Andrew Rael (*ADOH*)
Candee Stanton (*Consultant*)

Josh Crites (*AHCCCS*)
Betsy Long (*DES*)
Leslie Wise (*Community Solutions*)
Ty Rosensteel (*CIR- AZBoSCoC HMIS System*
Administrator - via conference call
Chris Pitcher (*Vets@Home*)

Everyone was welcomed, and the meeting was called to order at 9:10 a.m. Introductions were performed.

Board Membership and Leadership

New members (C. Benitez, R. Fernandez, L. Fullbright, J. Sueskind, and C. Rasband) who were approved at the March meeting were introduced, welcomed and officially seated as members of the Governance Advisory Board. The Board was still seeking a member with lived experience of homelessness per the Governance Charter. Members whose terms of service had expired, E. Louden, A. Baca, and K. Uhlich, were recognized and thanked.

At the previous meeting, V. Donnelly and C. Benedict had offered and been nominated to serve as the Vice Chair and Co-Chair respectively of the Governance Advisory Board. There being no other nominations or candidates, it was moved to appoint V. Donnelly as Vice Chair and C. Benedict as Co-Chair. The motion was seconded and approved. The slate was approved unanimously.

C. Benitez moved, and A. Baca seconded to approve the minutes of the March 14, 2018 meeting, as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

A Conflict of Interest document or form is being drafted and will be available at the next meeting.

Additional Agenda Items:

None

Retreat Session 1:

J. Crites, the Housing Coordinator, from the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) was introduced to the GAB. J. Crites was interested in finding increased participation between AHCCCS and the AZBoSCoC. Specifically, he is interested in collaboration round the development of additional affordable appropriate housing stock to support CoC and AHCCCS projects and users and to find ways to improve data sharing between AHCCCS and the CoC to improve service coordination. He noted he would be working with Cenpatico and HCIC as well as new integrated health entities to coordinate housing resources and participation in the CoCs.

Overview of Balance of State Continuum of Care (BoSCoC) Structure

D. Bridge gave the background on the AZBoSCoC for the new members, explaining that it includes 13 of the state's 15 counties (excluding Maricopa and Pima, which have their own CoC's) with roughly 25% of the state's population. AZBoSCoC receives and manages approximately \$4 million in HUD Continuum of Care funds which are spent in all but one AZBoSCoC County (Gila). D. Bridge discussed key barriers and challenges that are unique to the AZBoSCoC including the diversity of the communities, huge geography, and disparate resources within and between areas. While coordination is difficult, a lot is accomplished throughout the year.

HEARTH Act

The HEARTH Act amended and reauthorized the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, with changes to the competitive grant programs by consolidating them, the creation of a Rural Housing Stability Assistance Program, and a change to the definition of homelessness and chronic homelessness.

The HEARTH Act:

1. Promotes a community-wide goal of ending homelessness
2. Provides funding to support activities
3. Promotes access to and effective utilization of mainstream programs by homeless individuals and families
4. Optimizes self-sufficiency among individuals and families experiencing homelessness

Local Coalition to End Homelessness

D. Bridge described the various duties of the CoC under the HEARTH Act including CoC governance, HMIS governance and management, the need to continue to establish coordinated entry system in

some communities, CoC system coordination, the annual Gaps analysis, Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) coordination and evaluation, the HUD CoC NOFA applications and funding oversight. D. Bridge described how the AZBoSCoC had established Local Coalitions to End Homelessness (LCEHs) to implement the AZBoSCoC structure, goals and activities within the Counties and communities across the AZBoSCoC.

Retreat Session 2:

L. Wise gave a presentation on Community Solutions' Built for Zero Initiative, which is a national change-effort designed to give core groups from communities and continuums the tools to bring an end to chronic and veteran homelessness in their communities.

Ty Rosensteel gave an update on the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) and how it is being used to provide the CoC and HUD the required statistics necessary to evaluate state and federal efforts to end homelessness.

There were discussions on the mainstream resource coordination, a prioritization discussion, the need for a Coordinated Entry Committee, and the DES/Emergency Solutions Grant coordination. C. Stanton provided a summary of the 2018 Point in Time (PIT) Summary. From an organization standpoint, the PIT went very well. Statewide there was a significant increase in volunteers. Overall the numbers of surveys and unsheltered homeless individuals was up. The full report to HUD which also includes HMIS sheltered data and the results of the non-HMIS sheltered surveys will be aggregated and submitted on April 30th. A full Point in Time report will be available including data by County will be available at the end of June.

C. Pitcher with HUD TA/Vets @ HOME provided a close out report on the Vets@Home Technical Assistance that ended March 31, 2018. While the overall project had challenges in aligning and bringing together all Veteran stakeholders. Positively, key strategies and elements were incorporated into the AZBoSCoC and its veterans' efforts including the initial implementation of Coordinated Entry in various counties and improvements to the overall CoC system coordination. From the Vets@HOME TA, C. Pitcher provided ongoing strategies for continuing to improve CoC and veteran coordination. As a final project, C. Pitcher had been requested to review all the AZBoSCoC draft performance measures and provide recommendations on further strategies the AZBoSCoC and Veterans providers could implement to continue to enhance service systems serving persons who are experiencing homelessness.. This information will be considered by the GAB in their ongoing strategic planning discussions and processes.

Retreat Session 3:

A. Rael provided an overview about the different programs ADOH administers, including the Home Plus Home Loan Program, which is a down-payment assistance program; the Housing Locator Program; and the eviction prevention Save our Home AZ program.

Re-Allocation and Project Evaluation Criteria

There was a lengthy discussion about the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) preparation, including system performance measures, approval of Re-allocation Notice, and performance-based NOFA application and scoring. To prepare for the 2018 NOFA and to improve overall year-round performance monitoring and potential re-allocation of CoC funding it was proposed to review and develop key threshold and evaluation criteria for all CoC funded programs. These standards could also be shared with DES for ESG coordination.

For the Re-Allocation Standards, thresholds for reallocation and related processes will be drafted for GAB review. The process will be in alignment with HUD guidance to ensure they are:

- objective,
- clear and transparent,
- controllable,
- based on standard measurements;
- and a fair process that aligns with the CoC goals and strategies.

The GAB discussed setting threshold standards that project/applicants must comply with to compete for funding. Failure to meet threshold criteria would result in projects not being eligible for submission as a part of the NOFA.

Organizational fair thresholds/standards for applicants/grantees as agreed on by the Board:

- Legal status to apply (i.e. the financial status; financial *instability* needs to be defined)
- Must apply within the timeframe (i.e. timeliness)
- Auditing/monitoring of results of all awards is necessary
- Are active in the CoC

Programmatic fair thresholds/standard for applicants/grantees s as agreed on by the Board:

- Participates in HMIS
- Participates in Coordinated Entry
- Housing First/Low Barrier (as recommended by HUD) is followed
- The timely expenditure of funds (i.e. full utilization within the timeframe) is followed

If an agency met all threshold requirements, the GAB would evaluate annual performance on project system performance measures/ benchmarks established by the CoC The GAB discussed the adoption of the following performance-based standards for re-allocation and project ranking and review.

Re-Allocation standards:

Performance Measures

- Length of Stay (Rapid Re-housing, Transitional Housing)
- Exits to Permanent Housing (RRH, PH, TH)
- Returns to Homelessness

- New or Increased Income
- Housing Stability

Serve High Need/Target Populations

- Definitions need to be drafted

Project Effectiveness

- Reasonable Costs
- CE Participation (% of referrals)
- Housing First Model

Other

- Collaborations/Formal Partnerships
- A checklist needs to be drafted

C. Stanton will create a draft of the re-allocation standards for GAB review prior to the 2018 NOFA process. Once approved, the standards will be incorporated into the CoC NOFA re-allocation and ranking and review process.

With no further business, the meeting concluded at 12:10 p.m., April 19, 2018.