

**Chicago Alliance to End Homelessness
Service Providers Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**

MINUTES

DATE: 1/12/10

START TIME

10:08 AM

MEETING CALLED BY	Joyce Coffee
TYPE OF MEETING	SPC Executive Committee
NOTE TAKER	Peter Toepfer
ATTENDEES	<p>Present: Christine Achre, Kathy Ahler, Michael Banghart, Arturo Bendixen; Mark Bradley, Alvena Clark, Joyce Coffee, Ceandra Daniels, Richard Ducatenzeiler, Aaron Eckhardt, Eileen Higgins, Bruce Kim, Flora Koppel, Fred Maclin, Felix Matlock, Maura McCauley, Kathleen Molnar, Sanja Stinson, Peter Toepfer, Israel Vargas</p> <p>Absent: Bridgette Baker, Teresa Cortas, Johanna Dalton, Sol Flores, Carlos Freytes, Bill Hayes, Katy Kelleghan, Ellen Ray</p> <p>Alliance Staff: Sherise Alexander, Nicole Prichard</p> <p>Guests: Randall Doubet-King, Jeffrey Kunker, Tedd Peso</p>
QUORUM?	Yes

Agenda topics:

DISCUSSION I	<p>Joyce opened the meeting and all present introduced themselves. The 11/12/09 minutes were approved as written. There was a question as to whether Teresa Cortas had resigned from the Executive Committee. Alliance staff had not heard this and will follow up.</p> <p><u>OPEN SPC SEATS:</u> Fred Maclin was elected to serve as an alternate on the planning council for a 1 year term.</p> <p>The committee will ask the full SPC to elect 3 At-Large SPC Executive Committee Members, 2 SPC Executive Alternates, and 2 At-Large Advocacy Committee Members during the next meeting on February 9th. All members should make a concerted effort to go back to their constituency groups to recruit interested individuals. An email blast will go out to inform the members of the open seats prior to the February 9th meeting.</p>
DISCUSSION II	<p><u>CURRENT ISSUES:</u> There were several issues brought up during the last meeting (as well as a few proposed in today's meeting) the SPC wanted to work on moving forward. A discussion around how to prioritize the issues resulted in the following:</p> <p>#1 Funding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Are there opportunities for funding in the new capital bill? How can we advocate for our needs in future capital bills? Can we advocate for a homeless set-aside from IHDA? What are our alternatives if state funding continues to be cut? How do we formulate plans in the case of a "doomsday scenario" in the state budget? <p>#1a Late City/ State Payments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - People are still experiencing late city and state payments. <p>#1b Conflict between local/national HUD offices on definition of chronic homelessness and other issues with local HUD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Art and Aaron both stated they have had conversations with local HUD representatives who declared that any consumers who utilize interim housing program automatically loses their designation as chronically homeless. As such, they don't qualify for many permanent housing programs with criteria requiring chronic homelessness. - Local HUD has further refined definitions that make chronic homeless definitions stricter than anything published by national HUD. - People would like to know how they are coming up with these definitions and why. - All interim housing programs who receive HUD funding are classified as transitional housing (TH), though there are many interim programs that are not HUD funded. - Art gave the example of the AFC bonus project that has felt restricted by local HUD in trying to fill their units because of the conflicting definitions. - Aaron gave an example of their (non-HUD funded) interim housing consumers who have been denied access to housing due to the new definition. - There was discussion around who should handle this issue. Some possibilities were: Nancy and the Alliance go to

	<p>HUD, the advocacy committee should handle it, or the Executive Committee bring it to the SPC. Eventually the group decided to bring it to the full SPC. Randall suggested the SPC collect concrete data on who is being affected and what the implications are in case we want to bring a complaint to someone with leverage at national HUD.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There was a suggestion to ask a HUD representative to come to an SPC meeting to address the issue. Sherise reminded the group that even as we advocate for our needs, we should try to maintain a positive working relationship with local HUD. <p>#1c Clearly define program types</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Since part of the issue above is that HUD does not seem to understand how our different program types work and therefore it becomes a funding issue, we should work to clearly define them. <p>#2a Follow up on HEARTH Act changes to the system, which begin in 2011. This may be a good topic for a special full SPC meeting later in the year.</p> <p>#2b Healthcare reform's impact on the CoC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This also may be a good topic for a special full SPC meeting later in the year if/when an actual bill is passed and signed into law. We may want to designate certain people who are specifically affected as ones who will report on issues. - There was also a concern raised about why we aren't attracting more people to full SPC. There was agreement that we should work to increase attendance and attract new members. Sherise mentioned that there were multiple seats open during the last election, but there were not enough nominations to fill the vacant positions. She did not want to speculate on why this happened. - Fred encouraged everyone to make personal appeals for new people to get involved. He stated a personal request was how he first became involved. He suggested everyone on the executive committee reach out to their constituency groups or anyone else who might join. Finally there was a suggestion to let people know ahead of time that elections are happening at the full SPC meeting and to be prepared (this could possibly happen in a special email with only that information).
DISCUSSION III	<p><u>Draft SPC Agenda:</u> The next full SPC meeting will occur on Tuesday 2/9 @ Interfaith Council for the Homeless, 642 N. Kedzie The group discussed and finalized the agenda for the full SPC meeting next month. See below.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. Introductions II. Reminder on SPC rights/responsibilities III. Current Issues Discussion IV. Fill Open SPC seats <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 3 At large SPC Executive Committee seats - 2 SPC Executive Committee alternates - 2 At large advocacy committee seats V. Updates and Reports <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Alliance board - Advocacy - Plan advisory - Planning council VI. Discussion about Quarterly HMIS Reports VII. Adjourn
DISCUSSION IV	<p><u>REPORTS:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. Alliance Board – given by Arturo Bendixen <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The board of directors of the Chicago Alliance to End Homelessness is a legal entity that governs the Alliance as an organization. It provides oversight for the Alliance and evaluates the CEO's performance. It is made up of community and corporate leaders, 2 elected providers (Audrey Thomas and Arturo Bendixen), and 2 consumers (Lonnie Fulton and Dorothy Yancy). - In their last meeting in December the board debriefed on the breakfast with the mayor. There was much positive feedback. Certain board members made large contributions to underwrite the event. - The board was briefed on how the Alliance operates and how the different funding streams work. - The board approved the 2010 work plan for Alliance, which the SPC Executive Committee Members received as a draft copy in the last meeting. - The financial position of the Alliance generally looks good although there are some challenges. - An Ad Hoc Organizational Committee made up of 6 board members formed to examine the at HEARTH Act's changes for how funds are allocated and distributed by HUD. - They came up with 4 possibilities to explore as the HEARTH Act goes into effect: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A merger between Chicago and metropolitan/suburban continua.

2. The Alliance assumes the role the City of Chicago currently holds with HMIS and homeless implementation.
 3. The Alliance becomes the local entity designated as the “consolidated applicant” for HUD funds. The Alliance is already doing a lot of the work this would require. A change would be that 3% of HUD money would be tied to this responsibility to help pay for administration costs. It would go directly to the Alliance for operations and would not be taken away from overall pot of money.
 4. The Alliance could administer all \$45M of HUD funds coming to Chicago by become the “unified funding agency.” They would be the grantee for the funds and all agencies would be subgrantees. In this case agencies would not deal with local HUD, only the Alliance. There would be no local HUD for Chicago and local HUD would only do the job for continua not becoming a “unified funding agency.” The City of Chicago would also not have their current role of direct grantee for these HUD funds under this possibility. They may still facilitate the Shelter Plus Care grants they hold. The Alliance would hold the legal responsibility and monitoring duties in this scenario.
- The next Alliance Board meeting is in March.

II. Advocacy Committee: - Given by Tedd Peso

Tedd passed out a worksheet outlining the accomplishments, ongoing priorities and new priorities for the Advocacy Committee in 2010. He highlighted the Federal, State and Local priorities which include:

Federal

- Advocating around the implementation of HEARTH Act regulations
- Participating in national campaign for homeless youth housing
- Advocating for Increased resources for homeless veterans

State

- Participate in Responsible Budget Coalition to ensure funding for human services

Local

- Ensure accurate count of people who are homeless within institutions and work with the Discharge Planning Committee
- Ensure the Census accurately counts people who are homeless
- Participate in the development of a Cook Co. Prostitution Court

He encouraged everyone to call their state reps on Wed 1/13 to advocate for no cuts to human services

III. Planning Council: Given by Ceandra Daniels

- An updated Program Models chart has been completed
- They are working on an implementation schedule for Plan. There was an older one which was not followed. It needs to be updated.
- Agencies will be evaluated differently through the NOFA Evaluation Tool for HMIS use. They will now need to submit reports on quarterly basis in order to receive points. They will receive points each quarter if the reports are correct and accurate. This measure was approved 6 months ago, but there has been no follow up and no reports have been sent yet. Agencies may have to back date and send reports to the City. The goal of this is to improve the quality of data and the continuum’s score on the NOFA.
- This announcement led to a lengthy discussion about this proposal and how this was the first people in the room had heard of it. There were comments about major conflict between provider reports and City HMIS reports. People complained the City had HMIS trainings for running ARTS reports, but only one person could come from an agency and that is the only person who has a license to run the report. Eileen Higgins noted she worked with Dupage and Evanston Service Point systems and they did not have anywhere near the problems the Chicago has. There was a suggestion to take this HMIS committee. Reportedly both they and planning council are asking for an HMIS training budget, but have not received one for over a year. There was also a suggestion for more people to join the HMIS committee to help work on these issues.

DISCUSSION V

NOFA Update

The 2009 NOFA is closed and all projects sent in were renewed. We are still waiting for overall Exhibit 1 scores. The new bonus project contingent on meeting the threshold score (compared with other national continua). The Evaluation Tool subcommittee is starting to meet to design this year’s evaluation tool.

Next meetings DATES for the Executive Committee are: March 9, May 11, July 13, September 8, November 9.

ADJOURNMENT: 11:44 AM

MINUTES SUBMITTED BY:

APPROVED BY:

Peter Toepfer