

**The Chicago Alliance to End Homelessness
Service Providers Commission
Unapproved Minutes
July 24, 2009**

I. Welcome and Introductions

Sol Flores, Co-Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked everyone for attending. Attendees introduced themselves.

II. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the April 21, 2009 meeting were distributed for review. A change was made to page 2, second paragraph to read "...are six representatives from SPC on the Planning Council but they...". The minutes with approved with the above mentioned change.

III. State Budget Update

Nicole Sauler gave an update on the state budget. On 7/15/09 a budget was finally passed. On paper human services were spared cuts but it doesn't include a tax increase so the budget has been built on borrowing and delaying payments. Even with borrowing and delaying payments funds will most likely run out in January 2010 so another budget debate will occur so the year can be finished out.

\$2.3 billion in funds are to be distributed which is roughly 86% of 2009 budget funding levels. Some programs/agencies are hearing from DHS about revised contracts while others haven't heard anything yet. Though Homeless Prevention Funds were to be zeroed out in the 2009-2010 budget it now looks like it will only be cut by 20%.

Nicole encouraged people to continue to advocate for fair funding for human services. She has sample letters if you need them. Nancy Radner and Nicole will meet with IDHS in two weeks to press for equitable funding for homeless services and also explore opportunities to develop a statewide campaign to give homeless services a stronger presence in Springfield.

IV. Upcoming Elections

It's been two years since the first round of elections for commissions so it will soon be time to hold new elections. Sherise Alexander talked through how the Service Providers Executive Committee and how at-large representatives can be elected.

On August 10, 2009, Alliance staff will be emailing out a nominating form which will be due back on August 24, 2009. Information about terms and responsibilities will also be sent out. If you plan to nominate someone please talk with them first to be sure they want to serve. If you want to nominate yourself, please be sure to read the responsibilities so you know the number of meetings and duties you are committing to. Information about how many people from one organization can serve on the SPC Executive Committee, how many votes per agency, etc. will be included with the email. Voting will take place via an on-line survey tool to make it accessible to all Alliance members.

It was suggested that we have the election done by the next Planning Council meeting. According to Sherise, the timelines for nominations and voting as set, the election will be done before the October Planning Council meeting.

If anyone needs information about the election process for the Consumers Commission, please contact Sherise. Per Nancy, there is a core of 12 members who routinely attend so there's room on the Commission. People were encouraged to think about consumers who might want to get involved. The Consumers now have a

nominating committee of 3 members who can talk with potential Consumer Commission members about serving. There's a policy on stipends for consumers who participate which Alliance staff will email out.

V. NOFA Process

Nicole Prichard explained that we're completing the local evaluation process. Appeal decisions have been made and final scores will be emailed out next week to the agency's primary NOFA contact.

The Continuum has to complete registration in esnaps by the end of August. Agencies will be able to do their entry into esnaps in September. For renewal projects, esnaps will be easier this year as they will most likely be updating information from last year as necessary.

HUD recently announced that we are not able to reallocate funds this year. Ceandra Daniels explained that the Planning Council's ranking policies indicate that funds for new projects were going to come from defunding programs that fell below a score of 50, and SSO programs. The Planning Council will be revisiting these policies once the NOFA is released, which will not be before August 31, 2009. HUD also announced that this year, the bonus project will not be for chronically homeless individuals only; it will be for permanent housing. We can have more than one project and if we have more than one project, one of them should be for chronically homeless people. We now believe that HUD is not going to use the housing to services ratio other than as part of the bonus project. Per Nancy Radner next year HMIS seems to be the place we need to focus on improving our score-it was 56 this year.

VI. Report from SPC Representatives of the Chicago Planning Council on Homelessness

Ceandra Daniels gave the update from the last Planning Council meeting. On July 15, 2009, the Planning Council reviewed a report from Alliance staff on the NOFA process. The report will be posted on the website for review.

- Chicago was funded for \$4.7 million
- the score total changed from 60 to 100
- we had a score of 78.5 and were above the funding line by .25 of a point
- Recommendations and notes:
 - utilize HMIS to complete and check the quality of the housing inventory chart
 - change meeting structure of the Planning Council from 4x/year to 6x/year
 - limit number of committees on Exhibit 1 to those related to the Planning Council
 - we lost a point for lack of d/c planning from health providers
 - quarterly reports from HMIS to help us improve our HMIS score

Other topics included the HMV Committee giving a report on ranking policy suggestions, an update and discussion on the HEARTH legislation, and an HMIS Committee report where issues around problems with interface agencies were discussed.

Concerns about HMIS were discussed, mainly the lack of timely technical support and assistance. The HMIS Committee is trying to get a budget from the city so we can learn how much money is available. Having 1-2 people dedicated to supporting HMIS seems critical given the importance of improving our score for the next NOFA. Sherise thanked Nicole Prichard for a report she compiled for the HMIS Committee.

VII. Ad-Hoc SSO (support service organizations) Group

Susan R-G reported from the group. They developed a plan to get the word out about how the system will be impacted because of SSO cuts. The group developed a paper detailing the impact (it's been distributed but it will also be posted on the Alliance website). Group members also met with Alderman and other political officials. Now given the change in focus that appears to be coming from down from HUD it doesn't appear that

the cuts will occur. Nancy has been advocating with the city on getting some money from the parking meter sale to go towards services for homeless people.

VIII. Alliance Board of Directors Update

Audrey Thomas explained how the Board has developed and transitioned since the development of the Alliance. 2 consumers (Dorothy Yancy and Lonnie Fulton) and 2 service providers (Art Bendixen and Audrey Thomas) are serving on the Board along with a variety of community leaders.

On June 23, 2009, the new Board met for the first time. A list of Board members was distributed to the group-another person will be elected to the Board at their next meeting. The Board will have 18 members after the next meeting. At the June 23rd meeting, four board committees were created which are: Audit and Finance, Development, Marketing and Rapid Response. Expectations on meeting attendance and participation, financial contributions, and committee membership have been outlined for all Board members.

The Board is responsible for the fiduciary management and the direction of the Alliance. They are to raise the visibility about the alliance and the goal of ending homelessness, they're to be ambassador's to the community to help us end homelessness, and to help us raise the necessary resources to end homelessness.

The Board signed an open letter to the media and legislators decrying the impact of the state budget cuts.

IX. Announcement

-Margaret Haywood announced that Inspiration Corporation has begun a new training program for restaurant customer service (ex. cashier, servers, etc.) is beginning. They hold orientation for their training programs at 1pm every Wednesday in their Uptown location.

-Art announced that the AFC Supportive Housing Program will have 195 subsidies for homeless singles with a chronic medical illness available this fall. AFC will put out an official announcement once HUD has given them final approval.

-Nancy talked about CSBG funds. A comprehensive approach to homeless outreach for youth has been funded. A program to target Englewood, doubled-up families with case management, housing and employment has been funded. It was suggested that we look at who has been funded and how they fit in our system

-Mercy Housing will start filling shelter plus care spots this fall. A formal announcement will be going out.

-Volunteers for American is hosting a back to school fair for kids. Doctors and dentists will be there giving exams and they're trying to arrange for haircuts. Backpacks will be given to children in grades K-12 who are at the fair. It's a block party and will be at the Dr. King Boys and Girls Club at Washington and Sacramento on Saturday, August 15.

-HPRP partners have been selected but it appears that the word isn't out publicly yet. In the meeting, 3 agencies were in attendance and said they've been funded: Featherfist, Heartland Human Care Services, and La Casa Norte. We talked about the importance of getting clear and transparent information from the city on which agencies have been awarded funds. We also talked about making the most of the opportunity afforded by the funds.

XI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:01pm.