



Minutes

Committee: Local Policy & Practice Committee

Date: 7/15/2020

Duration: 9:30 – 11:00

Meeting Place: Zoom virtual meeting

Attendance:

- P = Present
- TC = Attended via Dial in
- A = Absent

Local Policy & Practice Members							
A	Akeshia Johnson-Smothers	A	Greg McCormack	P	Marilyn Hartman	P	Victoria Perez
P	Allison Shurr	A	Hannah Cweigenberg	A	Marissa Latta	P	Sam Verde
A	Bailey Gray	A	Jason Phillips	A	Megan Podowski	A	Sarah Frazier
A	Chris Larson	A	Jenn Mishler	P	Michelle Myles	A	Scott Merritt
A	Chris Meigs	A	Karen Dorrier	P	Myk Stocks	A	Shawna Arnesen
P	Caitlin Bond	A	Kellee Coleman	A	Quiana Fisher	P	Sonja Burns
A	Donna Ware	P	Laura Enderle	A	Rachel Hampton	A	Steven Potter
A	Emily Seales	P	Lauren Katz	A	Rhie Azzam Morris	A	Sylvia Garrett
P	Eric Kunish	A	Liz Baker	P	Rick Rivera	A	Vedia Sherman
P	Erin Goodison	A	Mamadou Balde	P	Robyn Schoen	P	Caitlyn Bayer
Co-Chairs							
P	Dylan Shubitz	P	Kellee Coleman				
ECHO Staff							
P	Andrew Willard	A	Laura Evanoff	P	Axton Nichols	A	Allison Mabbs
P	Bree Williams	A	Niki Kozak	P	Preston Petty	A	Chris Davis
A	Claire Burrus	P	Chris Murray	A	Whitney Bright	P	Katie Rose
P	Mason Turpin	A	Jordan Schmid				

AGENDA		DISCUSSION	ACTION ITEMS
I. Welcome & Introductions	D Shubitz	Review and Approve June 2020 Minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minutes approved with no changes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • June minutes approved
II. Membership Council Updates	D Shubitz	July 2020 Meeting - Actions Taken at Membership Council <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written Standards review subcommittee approved final version • HMIS Emergency Operations Procedure approved <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ New procedures outlined the steps necessary for HMIS users to access the system on personal devices in light of many people working from home • Designated ECHO as CoC and HMIS lead agency • Coordinated Entry Prioritization Policy approved 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A

AGENDA	DISCUSSION	ACTION
		<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Policy adds new questions to the CE vulnerability assessment to try to address racial inequities around who receives services in our CoC <p>August Meeting Agenda Items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● None
III. City of Austin Updates	M Stocks K Coleman	<p>Austin Public Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● APH is holding a pre-bid virtual meeting on 7/16/20 about COVID-19 RISE 2.0 funding<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ The city is seeking to fund qualified social service providers with demonstrated experience providing immediate financial assistance through ACH transfers, pre-paid debit and credit cards to individuals impacted by COVID-19○ Link to meeting invite https://www.eventbrite.com/e/aph-pre-bid-meeting-rfq-006-covid-19-rise-20-registration-113152580414?aff=affiliate1 <p>NHCD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● No updates <p>Equity Office</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Met with representative from the Mayor's office to discuss the Coordinated Entry prioritization policy to address racial inequities<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Mayor's office had questions about why the first draft of the prioritization policy to address racial inequities had been revised<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ First draft of the policy explicitly prioritized based on race which HUD said was not allowed and would result in HUD suing our CoC if the policy was implemented as written
IV. ECHO Community Housing Updates	B Williams	<p>RHDA CoC Units</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Traditionally in our community "affordable housing" has been inaccessible to the people served by CoC housing programs because of restrictive tenant selection criteria and wait listing● ECHO Housing department has worked with NHCP to increase access to housing units through the Rental Housing Development Assistance (RHDA) program<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ RHDA includes multiple funding streams including local affordable housing bond money.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developers wishing to access RHDA funds can specify units as “CoC Units” to bolster their applications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ CoC units are set aside, separate from non-CoC units, allowing CoC housing programs first right of refusal on those particular units ○ CoC units have significantly reduced tenant selection criteria, removing many of the barriers that can prevent CoC clients from accessing housing ○ Housing providers do not necessarily need to be funded through the HUD CoC grant to access CoC units, but the provider must utilize our community’s Coordinated Entry system to enroll new clients • So far around 170 units have been committed to operate as CoC units <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Developers must enter into an MOU agreement with ECHO to qualify ○ Many of these units are still seeking funding and may not come to fruition ○ This includes 101 units from a new development Caritas is working on ○ Units are expected to come online anywhere between 6 months and 2 years • ECHO housing department is also working with the City on another initiative, Affordability Unlocked, to further increase the stock of units available to participants in CoC housing programs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Affordability Unlocked initiative would provide deed-restricted, long-term access to units for CoC housing programs • 	
<p>V. Workgroup Updates</p>	<p>P Petty</p> <p>PSH WG</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sub-workgroup has been working to finalize a PSH to PSH program transfer policy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ PSH workgroup expects to review the proposed transfer policy at their July meeting <p>RRH WGs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No updates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A

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	<p>K Rose</p> <p>Outreach & Navigation WG</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workgroups have not met for the last few months due to changes to the schedules of outreach and navigation workers and the limited amount of case staffings that do need to occur have been handled virtually. • The Street Outreach COVID-19 coordination group is meeting every other Wednesday <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Street outreach workers have played a large role in identifying people experiencing homelessness who are at increased risk of contracting COVID-19 and referring those individuals to be assessed for placement in Pro-Lodges or Iso-Fac <p>E Goodison</p> <p>VAWA Housing Protections WG</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workgroup did not meet in July • Looking to develop a training calendar with the goal of offering trainings to the community during the designated VAWA WG meeting time. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Potential topics for trainings include <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Teen Dating violence ▪ Community responses to trafficking ▪ Preventing trafficking ▪ Additional screening for domestic violence ○ Email suggestions for training topics to Erin Goodison 	
<p>VI. Other Community Updates & Discussions</p>	<p>M Myles</p> <p>Health Communities Collaborative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No updates <p>Guided Path</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No updates <p>B Williams</p> <p>Landlord Outreach Support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potentially increased opportunities to house people and form partnerships as rental industry is struggling with decrease demand during the pandemic <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Entered into an agreement with a developer to work on converting hotel units into multi-family properties utilizing the City's Affordability Unlocked program • Received small grant from the City to increase the system's capacity of affordable housing units • Researching additional legal mechanisms to increase the supply of affordable housing, e.g. deed restrictions, restrictive covenants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A

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	D Shubitz	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Looking to contract with an attorney that specializes in affordable housing <p>Veterans Initiatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● HUD issued a notice for housing authorities to express interest in a new round of HUD-VASH funding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Housing Authority of the City of Austin (HACA) and Housing Authority of Travis County (HATC) plan to pursue that funding opportunity ● HACA has 25 project-based units coming online by the end of the month ● Additionally, 8 HUD-VASH units expected to come online at the new Chalmers development ● Additional funding has become available for SSVF programs to pay for hotel rooms and other emergency housing options as individuals wait for permanent housing interventions 	
	L Katz	<p>YHDP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Project continues moving forward and housing youths <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Around 75 youths have been housed since the start of the pandemic 	
	K Rose	<p>Care Connections Clinic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ECHO is not currently operating out of the clinic due to COVID-19, but the Healthcare for the Homeless team is still seeing clients at the clinic <p>AHAC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No updates 	
	P Petty	<p>Equity WG</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No additional updates other than work around the updating the Coordinated Entry process to address racial inequities 	
	A Nichols	<p>PIT Count</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Still waiting on information from HUD on whether or not the PIT Count will be cancelled and what it might look like if not canceled <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Communities are only required to do a count every other year (Austin does a count annually), but 2021 would be a “required” year 	

AGENDA	DISCUSSION	ACTION
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hosting representatives from the US Census Bureau at the next workgroup meeting to discuss how the census is adjusting operations in light of the ongoing pandemic 	
Adjournment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next Meeting: August 19, 2020 9:00AM – 11:00AM; Location TBD (via videoconference) 	