



# Minutes

**Committee:** Local Policy & Practice Committee

**Date:** 6/17/2020

**Duration:** 9:30 – 11:00

**Meeting Place:** Zoom virtual meeting

**Attendance:**

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

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

| AGENDA                                |           | DISCUSSION  | ACTION ITEMS   |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|---|--|
| <b>I. Welcome &amp; Introductions</b> | D Shubitz | <b>Review and Approve May 2020 Minutes</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minutes approved with no changes</li> </ul> <b>Motion to move committee meeting start time to 9:30am</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Motion passed</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May minutes approved</li> <li>• Motion to move meeting start time to 9:30am approved</li> </ul> |
| <b>II. Membership Council Updates</b> | D Shubitz | <b>June 2020 Meeting - Actions Taken at Membership Council</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approved Kellee Coleman as P&amp;P Committee Co-Chair</li> <li>• Approved termination policy</li> <li>• Approved written standards creation/approval process</li> <li>• Formed written standards feedback review subcommittee</li> </ul> <b>July Meeting Agenda Items</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• N/A</li> </ul>  |

| AGENDA                             |                | DISCUSSION  | ACTION  |
|------------------------------------|----------------|---|---|
|                                    |                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Written Standards</li> </ul>   |   |
| III. City of Austin Updates        | Michelle Myles | <p><b>Austin Public Health</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Working with NHCD and HACA to set up another round of rental assistance for people struggling during the pandemic</li> </ul> <p><b>NHCD</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Working with HACA to stand up a new round of rental assistance for people struggling during the pandemic.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/A</li> </ul> |
| IV. ECHO Community Housing Updates | B Williams     | <p><b>RHDA CoC Units</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Currently in our community “affordable housing” tends to be extremely inaccessible to the people served by CoC housing programs because of restrictive tenant selection criteria</li> <li>New RHDA agreement would require developers of affordable housing units to agree to less restrictive screening criteria for applicants <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Agreement would remove income screening of applicants <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Income screening is unnecessary given the financial support enrolled individuals received from their housing programs</li> </ul> </li> <li>Agreement would prevent application denials based on rental history and/or credit history</li> <li>Criminal background screening would be limited to the elements currently listed in the <a href="#">Re-Entry Roundtable’s “Re-Entry Guide”</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>Affordable housing providers who agree to work with the RHDA CoC program would set aside a set number of units specifically for people served by CoC housing programs. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>When a property is expecting vacancies in one of their CoC units, the property would notify the CoC</li> <li>The individual(s) at the top of the prioritization list (regardless of which program is serving them) would be given the option to claim the unit</li> <li>Even if a CoC-funded tenant moves out of a unit, the unit remains a CoC unit available exclusively to CoC housing program participants</li> </ul> </li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>    |
| V. Workgroup Updates               | P Petty        | <p><b>PSH WG</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Case staffings continuing as usual</li> <li>WG will re-engage in work around exit standards and program-to-program transfer policy</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/A</li> </ul> |
|                                    | K Rose         | <p><b>RRH WGs</b></p>   |   |

| AGENDA | DISCUSSION   | ACTION |
|--------|--|--------|
|        | <p data-bbox="451 358 527 383">K Rose</p> <ul data-bbox="621 134 1598 310" style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continues to meet regularly, bi-weekly</li> <li>• RRH programs continue to pull referrals</li> <li>• Working with street outreach groups to identify prioritized clients who cannot be housed quickly to provide tents/other donations and/or potential placement in ProLodge sites.</li> </ul> <p data-bbox="611 350 940 375"><b>Outreach &amp; Navigation WG</b></p> <ul data-bbox="621 391 1604 1097" style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staffing group has not been meeting due to lack of PSH capacity in the community <ul data-bbox="751 464 1444 521" style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ There have been a few recent referrals for Caritas PSH</li> <li>○ Referrals may slowly start picking up</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Ongoing COVID-19-specific street outreach meetings (bi-weekly)</li> <li>• The Other Ones Foundation has begun coordinating services at the state-sanctioned campsite</li> <li>• Following up on a “GoFundMe” campaign that raised money for tents and sleeping bags for people who may have lost their property during recent protests downtown <ul data-bbox="751 748 1604 773" style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Supplies have been purchased and distribution is being coordinated</li> </ul> </li> <li>• BOLO and Outreach Engagement policies were amended to account for individuals who may be difficult to contact as they engage in social-distancing/COVID-19 safety precautions <ul data-bbox="751 894 1604 1097" style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Individuals are now allowed to stay on BOLO list over 90 days</li> <li>○ Individuals placed on BOLO list by a housing program will now have their housing referral remain open for 90 days instead of the normal 30 days</li> <li>○ Most engagement requests have been put on hold due to reduced capacity</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p data-bbox="611 1146 989 1170"><b>VAWA Housing Protections WG</b></p> <ul data-bbox="621 1187 1604 1487" style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussed changes in operations/services implemented by service providers due to COVID-19 <ul data-bbox="751 1252 1604 1382" style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ In general, reduced capacity for in-person services and more people working remotely</li> <li>○ No increase in VAWA transfers has been observed (transfer rate was already fairly high before the pandemic)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Discussed potential training opportunities <ul data-bbox="751 1430 1604 1487" style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Attendance at most recent VAWA training was larger than expected demonstrating a demand for additional trainings</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |        |
|        | <p data-bbox="451 1170 554 1195">M Stocks</p>  |        |

| AGENDA   | DISCUSSION  | ACTION   |   |
|--|---|--|---|
|  |   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ WG is discussing the possibility of using the regular workgroup meeting time (second Mondays 1-3pm) to host trainings               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ No training currently scheduled for July meeting but WG Chairs are meeting with the Texas Council on Family Violence about a potential training opportunity</li> </ul> </li> </ul>   |   |
| <b>VI. Other Community Updates &amp; Discussions</b> | <p>R Ahearn</p> <p>M Myles</p> <p>B Williams</p> <p>D Shubitz</p> | <p><b>Health Communities Collaborative</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No updates</li> </ul> <p><b>Guided Path</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Programs continue to house people from the Guided Path list</li> <li>• Completed analysis on how many people who were housed prior to COVID-19 vs. after COVID-19</li> </ul> <p><b>Landlord Outreach Support</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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"> <li>○ Entered into an agreement with a developer to work on converting hotel units into multi-family properties utilizing the City's Affordability Unlocked program</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Received small grant from the City to increase the system's capacity of affordable housing units</li> <li>• Researching additional legal mechanisms to increase the supply of affordable housing, e.g. deed restrictions, restrictive covenants               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Looking to contract with an attorney that specializes in affordable housing</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Veterans Initiatives</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Housing Authority of the City of Austin currently has a budget shortfall due to a spike in housing assistance payments related to the pandemic               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ HUD can step in to cover HACA budget shortfalls, but HUD will require HACA make changes to reduce their overall costs</li> <li>○ Due to budgetary shortfall, HACA is unable to issue any additional vouchers, including HUD-VASH vouchers, except for mainstream Housing Choice vouchers                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ New enrollments are put on hold which will reduce the outflow of Veterans from shelters/transitional housing to permanent housing.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• N/A</li> </ul> |

| AGENDA | DISCUSSION   | ACTION |
|--------|--|--------|
|        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ As a result of a previous contract with a new development, HACA will have 25 new HUD-VASH vouchers available to house people in those site-specific units once that development opens up</li> <li>● Housing Authority of Travis County is also experiencing a budgetary shortfall and cannot accept additional voucher applications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ HATC does have a dozen HUD-VASH vouchers currently but has not received referrals</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>YHDP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Work to end youth homelessness by the end of 2020 is moving ahead</li> <li>● Programs continue housing youths at a high rate</li> </ul> <p><b>Care Connections Clinic</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Medical team continues to operate out of the clinic</li> <li>● The contract for the space utilized by the Care Connections Clinic will be up in 6 months <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Discussions on whether or not the contract should be renewed or if the clinic should move to another location</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>AHAC</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● No updates</li> <li>● Local Policy and Practice committee chair will reach out to AHAC about providing more regular updates on AHAC's work</li> </ul> <p><b>Equity WG</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● WG is working to identify specific factors/markers that can be used to identify individuals most likely to be impacted by racial disparities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Some factors being considered include <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Being evicted in areas experiencing high levels of gentrification</li> <li>▪ Disparate health outcomes</li> <li>▪ Over policing</li> <li>▪ Reduced access to public education</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>PIT Count</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● PIT Count workgroup is meeting Thursday, 6/18/20 from 1-2:30pm <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Email <a href="mailto:axtonnichols@austinecho.org">axtonnichols@austinecho.org</a> if you would like to attend the meeting and have not already received an invite</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |        |
|        | <p>B Williams</p>  |        |
|        | <p>N Kozak</p>   |        |
|        | <p>P Petty</p>   |        |
|        | <p>A Nichols</p>   |        |

| AGENDA             | DISCUSSION   | ACTION |
|--------------------|--|--------|
|                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Meeting will focus on debriefing on 2020 PIT Count and brainstorming around the 2021 PIT Count</li> </ul> |        |
| <b>Adjournment</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Next Meeting: July 15, 2020 9:0AM – 11:00AM; Location TBD (via videoconference)</b></li> </ul>         |        |