



Minutes

Committee: Local Policy & Practice Committee

Date: 8/19/2020

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	Akeshia Johnson-Smothers	A	Greg McCormack	A	Marilyn Hartman	P	Victoria Perez
P	Allison Shurr	A	Hannah Cweigenberg	P	Marissa Latta	P	Sam Verde
A	Bailey Gray	A	Jason Phillips	A	Megan Podowski	A	Sarah Frazier
A	Chris Larson	P	Juan Lazcano Jr	A	Michelle Myles	A	Scott Merritt
A	Chris Meigs	P	Karen Dorrier	P	Myk Stocks	P	Shawna Arnesen
A	Caitlin Bond	P	Ruth Ahearn	A	Quiana Fisher	A	Sonja Burns
A	Donna Ware	P	Laura Enderle	A	Rachel Hampton	A	Steven Potter
P	Emily Edgerly	A	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	A	Caitlyn Bayer
Co-Chairs							
P	Dylan Shubitz	A	Kellee Coleman				
ECHO Staff							
P	Andrew Willard	A	Laura Evanoff	P	Axton Nichols	A	Allison Mabbs
P	Bree Williams	P	Niki Kozak	A	Preston Petty	A	Chris Davis
A	Claire Burrus	A	Chris Murray	A	Whitney Bright	P	Katie Rose
A	Mason Turpin	P	Jordan Schmid				

AGENDA		DISCUSSION	ACTION ITEMS
I. Welcome & Introductions	D Shubitz	Review and Approve July 2020 Minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minutes approved with no changes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> July minutes approved
II. Membership Council Updates	D Shubitz	August 2020 Meeting - Actions Taken at Membership Council <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinated Entry COVID Prioritization points approved <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policy adds additional points to the CE assessment to prioritize people at greater risk from COVID-19 These points are in addition to the points added to address racial inequities CoC Scorecard Timeliness Policy approved 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ New policy identifies the timeframe during which corrections can be made to entries in HMIS and outlines the procedures programs must take if they need to make changes outside of that timeframe ● Discussion: Poppe Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Report can be viewed here ○ Report outlines recommendations for increasing coordination across all homeless service providers and how to align the work of all agencies with the City's Action Plan to End Homelessness ● Discussion: Save Austin Now petition advocacy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Signatures were gathered in support of a petition for the City to roll back ordinance changes made last year that de-criminalized certain aspects of homelessness (e.g. camping in public) ○ Since MC met, the City determined the petition did not gather enough valid signatures and thus will not be considered by City Council or be placed on any upcoming ballot <p>September Meeting Agenda Items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Continuing discussion on the Poppe Report ● Following up on next steps for the CoC NOFA Grant competition <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ HUD released the Grant Inventory Worksheets (GIW) for CoCs to review for accuracy. This is a preliminary step before HUD releases the NOFA, but still no official word on when the NOFA might be released or if the competition will be canceled 	
<p>III. Workgroup Updates</p>	<p>A Willard</p> <p>PSH WG</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● PSH to PSH Transfer Policy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sub-workgroup has been working to finalize a PSH to PSH program transfer policy ○ Transfer policy was reviewed by VAWA workgroup to ensure it aligns with the existing VAWA Emergency Transfer policy ○ Policy states <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Transfers should be rare and reserved for urgent cases ▪ Housing providers should exhaust all other options and resources before pursuing a PSH to PSH transfer ▪ All transfer requests will be reviewed, not all transfers may be approved 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● PSH to PSH Transfer Policy will be submitted to Membership Council for approval at the September meeting.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Transfer requests related to Reasonable Accommodations and/or VAWA housing protections will be prioritized above all other transfer requests ○ Process overview <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project submits a Transfer Request form to Coordinated Entry ▪ CE identifies possible transfer options ▪ Request Review panel reviews request ▪ PSH Chair notifies relevant housing projects/agencies ○ Policy covers all PSH projects regardless of funding source ○ Policy will be submitted to Membership Council for approval at the September meeting. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ If you have comments or concerns you would like MC to be made aware of, email dylans@hacanet.org <p>RRH WGs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No update from WG • General RRH project update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ HACA is working with ECHO housing department on their HOME TBRA project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ HACA has funds available to extend the financial assistance to individuals enrolled in RRH programs through CE. ▪ Planning to provide assistance for an additional 12 months <p>Outreach & Navigation WG</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No updates, workgroup has not been meeting regularly • Outreach and engagement work continues in the community <p>VAWA Housing Protections WG</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VAWA Applicability Determination Guidance document <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Guidance document produced to provide clarification on when VAWA protections would apply, for example, whether a VAWA emergency transfer request is appropriate or if other options should be explored • Plans to work on confidentiality and record-keeping guidance at the September wg meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Submit questions or concerns on this topic to Erin Goodison 	

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<p>IV. City of Austin Updates</p>	<p>S Verde</p> <p>S Verde</p> <p>D Shubitz</p>	<p>Austin Public Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No updates <p>NHCD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City of Austin is re-opening the application process for rental assistance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ More information available here ○ Individuals currently receiving federal assistance (e.g. enrolled in CoC housing programs) are not eligible ○ Significantly more money is being available for this round of rental assistance, and households are eligible to apply for longer term assistance ○ ECHO Community Housing department is working on outreach to properties/landlords that potentially have a higher percentage of tenants in need of assistance to try to mitigate negative housing outcomes (e.g. evictions due to inability to pay rent) <p>Equity Office</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equity Office budget just received a substantial increase. Details on what this will mean are forthcoming. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A
<p>V. ECHO Community Housing Updates</p>	<p>B Williams</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new meeting group is being established consisting of PSH and RRH housing programs and ECHO Community Housing department to help disseminate information on work aimed at increasing the community's stock of affordable housing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Meetings will provide report outs around partnerships with existing housing providers/property managers as well as potential housing developments seeking to utilize RHDA funding to produce new affordable housing units. <p>RHDA CoC Units</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ECHO Community Housing department has been working with local organization Imagine Arts to facilitate their move into housing development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Agreement was executed to reserve some units as CoC units should Imagine Arts' housing project move forward <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project is in early development stage and new units are not expected to come online for a couple years • Working on agreement with College Houses targeting young adults <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ College Houses currently runs some co-op housing that serve students, but current changes brought on by the COVID-19 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A

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	<p>pandemic have opened them up to the possibility of forming a partnership to provide CoC units</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ If agreement goes through, new CoC units are expected to come online within a few months ● In discussions with Foundation Communities around their Waterloo Terrace development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Agreement would secure 27 SRO units for use by CoC programs ○ Agreement expected to be finalized soon ● Community Housing department continues working to develop smaller scale partnerships (10-15 units) in addition to larger-scale agreements like those listed above 	
VI. Other Community Updates & Discussions	<p>R Ahearn</p> <p>Health Communities Collaborative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Working on finalizing contracts and budgets. More details to be made available in the coming weeks ● Next year is the last year the state has appropriated funds for HCC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Integral Care planning to engage in advocacy with Texas Legislature to have funding extended <p>P Petty</p> <p>Guided Path</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No updates ● Suggestion to drop this item from future agendas <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"> ○ Looking to contract with an attorney that specializes in affordable housing <p>D Shubitz</p> <p>Veterans Initiatives</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● N/A

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due to HACA budget shortfall, issuing new VASH vouchers was put on hold temporarily, but new VASH vouchers are now being issued again. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ VA is picking up new referrals from community prioritization list to continue housing people • VA still has funds available to help pay for emergency shelter in hotels <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ VA is unable to fund hotel stays for people who have tested positive for COVID-19 due to risks involved. Suggestion to refer COVID-19 positive veterans to existing City Pro-Lodge and Iso-Fac sites until quarantine is complete or individual recovers ○ VA is seeking assistance to provide case management services for veterans place in hotels <p>YHDP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project continues moving forward and housing youths <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The rate of housing individuals is currently higher than it was at this point last year <p>Care Connections Clinic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthcare for the Homeless team is operating out of the clinic 5 days a week <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Suggestion to call to ensure availability before making the trip to the clinic with a client <p>AHAC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No updates <p>Equity WG</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuing to roll out the new equity-focused CE prioritization questions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ As implementation continues, workgroup will be evaluating outcomes ○ Early analysis appears to show the desired effect, increased racial equity and referrals to housing programs • Continuing to gather feedback from community stakeholders on additional prioritization factors that could be explored • <i>Question about any work being done by the wg to evaluate the racial equity efforts of community programs</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This idea has been brought up in the wg, but as of right now there are no immediate plans to pursue 	

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	<p>R Rivera</p> <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 • Some outreach being done to other communities to solicit ideas on how to safely conduct a Count and/or potentially collaborating on a joint statement to HUD regarding safety concerns and potentially cancelling the Count. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Responses from other communities have been minimal 	
<p>Adjournment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next Meeting: September 16, 2020 9:0AM – 11:00AM; Virtual meeting invite tba 	