



Minutes

Committee: Local Policy & Practice Committee

Date: 10/21/2020

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 | P | Marilyn Hartman | P | Victoria Perez |
| P | Allison Shurr | A | Hannah Cweigenberg | A | Marissa Latta | A | Sam Verde |
| A | Bailey Gray | A | Jason Phillips | A | Megan Podowski | A | Sarah Frazier |
| A | Chris Larson | A | Juan Lazcano Jr | A | Michelle Myles | A | Scott Merritt |
| A | Chris Meigs | P | Karen Dorrier | P | Myk Stocks | A | Shawna Arnesen |
| A | Caitlin Bond | A | Ruth Ahearn | A | Quiana Fisher | A | Sonja Burns |
| A | Donna Ware | P | Laura Enderle | A | Rachel Hampton | A | Steven Potter |
| A | Emily Edgerly | A | Lauren Katz | A | Rhie Azzam Morris | A | Sylvia Garrett |
| P | Eric Kunish | A | Liz Baker | A | Rick Rivera | A | Vedia Sherman |
| P | Erin Goodison | A | Mamadou Balde | A | Robyn Schoen | P | Caitlyn Bayer |
| A | Asher | P | Linda Horbal | A | Elizabeth Perch | P | Dawn Perkins |
| P | Brion Oaks | | | | | P | Jeanie Nelson |
| Co-Chairs | | | | | | | |
| P | Dylan Shubitz | P | Kellee Coleman | | | | |
| ECHO Staff | | | | | | | |
| P | Andrew Willard | P | 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 | A | Whitney Bright | P | Katie Rose |
| A | Mason Turpin | A | Jordan Schmid | P | Eri Gregory | | |

| AGENDA | | DISCUSSION | ACTION ITEMS |
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| I. Welcome & Introductions | Co-Chairs | Review and Approve September 2020 Minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minutes approved with no changes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • September 2020 minutes approved with no revisions |
| II. Membership Council Updates | D. Shubitz | September 2020 Meeting - Actions Taken at Membership Council <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • October Discussion/Actions Taken <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Discussed how to make decisions to adopt written standards <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Exploring potential structures/ad hoc committees, including whether they are needed or not | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Approved PSH Program Transfer Policy ● November Voting Items <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Outreach & Navigation Written Standards (presented by K. Rose last month) – Dylan to email them to this group again to solicit feedback and bring it up to MC | |
| <p>III. City of Austin Updates</p> | <p>A. Johnson-Smothers</p> <p>Austin Public Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Currently reaching out to housing agencies along with ECHO in order to plan how to distribute ESG funds to the community as it relates to the COVID response ● RISE2.0 COVID-19 Relief funds <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Eligible families are awarded \$2000/per household (e.g., rental assistance) ○ Additional funds to be added to assist 1000 more families in addition to the 4500 households already assisted ● Question from D. Shubitz: What is status of COA/ECHO’s feedback survey regarding ESG-CV Tranche 2? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A. Willard: Agencies were generally concerned with... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ operating federal funds due to lack of experience; 12-month grant limit; hiring process and handing of staff once funding expired <p>D. Perkins</p> <p>NHCD (Dawn)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Executed contract for \$1 million in CDBG-CV (COVID) funds with FEC to assist up to 43,000 HHs who are currently in PSH/RRH or exited PSH/RRH in the past 2 years to prevent returns to homelessness <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Funding provides for rental assistance, including arrears (some utility funds included), but no CM/administrative fees included ○ Formal referral process being worked out w/ ECHO’s Community Housing Dept ○ Other eligibility requirements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Living in rental property ▪ Have active rental/utility arrears/ or monthly rental/utility payments ▪ At risk of entering literal homelessness ▪ Currently enrolled in Permanent Supportive Housing or Rapid Re-Housing wherein the source rental assistance funding cannot be extended ▪ Have exited the Permanent Supportive Housing or Rapid Re-Housing Programs in the past 24 months or have been assessed to meet threshold as defined by the Homelessness Prevention screening <p>K. Coleman</p> <p>Equity Office</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● N/A |

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| | B. Oaks | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suggestion to be mindful of the way the community has been showing up for the affordable housing zoning cases, around who is developing the community- especially in East Austin <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ NHCD decided to move forward w/ their recommendations and process despite recommendations from Equity Office against doing so • Recommend that members follow the progress around the City’s reimagining public safety process <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ COA has established a community task force to look at policing issues around the city <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To come up w/ alternative ways to respond to situations other than relying on policing ▪ Shift policing funds into alternative resources • Suggestion for this group to discuss the intersection between the work to end homelessness and policing | |
| IV. ECHO Community Housing Updates | B. Williams | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently in beginning stages of partnering up w/ Austin Justice Coalition regarding landlord engagement campaign to support surge in COVID-related funding and programming • Continuing to work closely w/ LifeWorks to lease up Pearl Street Co-op to house between 60-90 youth households • Community policy updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ NHCD hosted “Fair Chance Housing Ordinance Stakeholder Meeting” late September <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Proposed ordinance mandates potential developers to use lenient criminal history screening criteria and practices when accessing local affordable housing dollars ▪ Question from K. Coleman: Are there organizations that have pushed back against NHCD’s recommendations? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Answer: FC & HACA have been the most vocal opponents ▪ Contact Bree (brewilliams@austinecho.org) for more info how to stay involved and advocate for passing of ordinance ○ NHCD’s “Housing Investment Review Committee (HIRC)” met late September <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Potentially 161 CoC units to be funded through 2 projects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Strong advocacy opportunity to help people understand what it means to commit CoC’s low-barrier units for the length of the affordability period (i.e., 40 years) ○ BASTA’s website <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Keeps track of federal/state/local regulations regarding eviction moratorium to help tenants navigate their rights - available in English/Spanish | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ TDHCA recently closed 30-day public comment period for their QAP (i.e., administrative plan regarding next year’s budget allocation process) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ QAP added language that mandates supportive housing developments slated for inclusion into the tax-credit program (i.e., developments that intentionally serve special needs population, such as people exiting homelessness, exiting institutions) include a minimum criminal background screening, which is considered very discriminatory against potential tenants ▪ TDHCA’s board meeting will be held 11/5. QAP, including public comments, will be reviewed for final edits. ▪ Bree will host an advocates meeting on 11/4 to plan how to collectively advocate against inclusion of this language during the board meeting. Contact Bree (breewilliams@austinecho.org) if interested in participating. | |
| <p>V. Workgroup Updates</p> | <p>K. Rose</p> <p>Outreach & Navigation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Started the monthly Unsheltered Housing for Health workgroup this month <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Combination for Housing for Health and Outreach & Navigation workgroups ○ Goal is to increase coordination among frontline providers currently serving unsheltered people (e.g., emergency response, medical providers, criminal justice, street outreach) ○ Next meeting scheduled for 11/4 @ 8:30am • Question from M. Hartman: Would clients permanently lose opportunity to be offered housing assistance if they actively refuse assistance after affirmative engagement? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Answer from K. Rose: Although clients may lose their spot w/ a specific housing program if they keep refusing assistance after 30 days, clients will still be offered housing assistance in the long run if/when other programs develop capacity. <p>P. Petty</p> <p>PSH WG</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopted PSH to PSH program transfer policy <p>E. Goodison</p> <p>VAWA WG</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussed record confidentiality and record keeping around VAWA policies. See here for more info. • VAWA Housing Protections Survey (Goal: To seek feedback on awareness & implementation level, community best practices, questions etc. related to VAWA policies) was emailed to community but response rate has been low so far. Please fill out survey if applicable. • Next step is to develop specific TA questions to send to TA providers (e.g., HUD) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A |

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| | <p>P. Petty</p> <p>Equity WG</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Austin, Travis County CoC, along w/ other 7 other CoCs, has been identified as participant in 1st Cohort of HUD’s Equity Demonstration Project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Goal is to identify disparities and opportunities to further equity by conducting a targeted review of CoC’s system flows, assessment policies, assessment tools, etc. • 1st formal kickoff meeting to be held 10/30 | |
| <p>VI. Other Community Updates & Discussions</p> | <p>R. Ahearn</p> <p>HCC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Darilynn Cardona-Biler, IC Director of Adult Behavioral Services, is leaving IC soon. This will be a huge loss for community given her years of work in housing & homeless services. • 1 pager return on investment info (presented during last month’s meeting) will be sent to the group today <p>D. Shubitz</p> <p>Veterans Initiative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st move in yesterday after being 3 months behind on schedule • Officially accepted 25 additional unused HUD-VASH vouchers from the Belton-Killeen area to be placed in Austin area effective 1/1/21 • Expecting VA’s announcement of annual HUD-VASH Voucher award soon • SSVF is getting ready to ramp up capacity w/ referrals & housing placements for the new fiscal year • About 70 veterans currently being navigated for HUD-VASH • From Bree: Waterloo (FC) reportedly has some units set aside for veterans <p>B. Williams</p> <p>YHDP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • About 170 youths housed so far in 2020 (approx. 30 youths housed in October alone); by-name list for youth is shrinking • LifeWorks Diversion program has made strides in nurturing relationships w/ AISD, criminal justice system, etc. <p>AHAC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No updates <p>A. Nichols</p> <p>PIT Count</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No updates yet from HUD <p>M. Hartman</p> <p>HHSC Housing Choice Plan Workgroup</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewed housing access gaps/barriers for by people w/ histories of mental illness, substance use, and/or IDD (intellectual developmental disabilities) and came up with recommendations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommendations will be reviewed by HHSC personnel and expected to come out as an official report Jan 2021 | |
| Adjournment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Next Meeting: November 18, 2020 9:00AM – 11:00AM; Virtual meeting invite TBA | |