

## Homeless Policy Steering Committee Meeting

Meeting Minutes | August 29, 2016

Health and Wellness Campus, Room 109/110 | 3240 Kerner Blvd, San Rafael, CA | 3:00PM-5:00PM

### 1. Welcome. Call to Order

### 2. Roll Call

HPSC Voting Members in Attendance:

#### Elected Officials

County Board of Supervisors: Supervisor Katie Rice, Co-Chair  
Supervisor Damon Connolly

Cities and Towns: San Rafael Vice-Mayor Kate Colin, Co-Chair  
Larkspur City Council: Ann Morrison

#### Public Housing Authority

Marin Housing Authority: Michelle Taniguchi

#### Consumer Representative

Bill Hale

#### Domestic Violence

C4DP: Christina Schiffner Santschi

#### Faith-Based Organizations

Marin Organizing Committee: Pat Langley

#### Law Enforcement

Forensic Multidisciplinary Team (FMDT) Liaison: Lt. Alan Piombo (San Rafael)

#### Homeless Service Providers

St. Vincent de Paul: Christine Paquette

Ritter Center: Cia Byrnes

Adopt a Family: Pamela Meyer

#### Homeless Housing Providers

Homeward Bound: Mary Kay Sweeney

Buckelew: Jeff Helvig

#### School Districts

Marin County Office of Education: Lisa Schwartz

#### Employment Services

Downtown Streets Team: Jesse Taylor-Vermont

### 3. Approval of the May 11, 2016 Minutes

- a. Cia Byrnes moved to approve the minutes; Ann Morrison seconded the motion.
- b. All in favor, none opposed, no abstentions. Motion carried.

### 4. Introductions, Announcements

### 5. Public Comment

Bill Hale: Public comment should be limited to three minutes, not two minutes.

## 6. Continuum of Care NOFA

- HomeBase prepared an outline of the local competition and summarized the process for the Committee
  - Marin has an Annual Renewal Demand (ARD) of \$3,175,036 and up to \$158,952 in bonus funding available for new and renewal projects that align with HUD and local priorities
  - Projects were scored by a non-conflicted subcommittee of the HPSC and divided into two tiers as required by HUD
  - Projects with less than one year of data were automatically placed at the bottom of Tier 1 because they have no demonstrated performance
    - Mary Kay Sweeney asked for clarification on why new projects were placed in Tier 1 and not with the first-time renewals. HomeBase explained that new projects must be ranked with renewal projects using the new project scoring tool. This is different than a renewal project without data.
  - There was one appeal, which was denied
  - The final recommendations to the HPSC include three reallocations in full or in part. Eden Housing's Fireside PSH, the lowest-ranked project, was recommended for full reallocation. Center for Domestic Peace's Second Step Transitional Housing and Buckelew's Marin SHP, the second and third lowest-ranked projects, were recommended for partial reallocation
    - Mary Kay Sweeney noted that it is difficult for clients to increase income in PSH projects, as many of them are on SSI/SSDI. HomeBase explained that this is based on HUD's preferred measure.
  - There were three new project applications. Marin County's Coordinated Entry project and the Marin Housing Authority's Shelter Plus Care Expansion were recommended for funding.
- Co-Chair Katie Rice thanked the Review Panel for their participation
- Co-Chair Kate Colin thanked the applicants for their detailed applications, which allow Marin to write a strong application by showing its strong local system
- Anna Gwyn Simpson from Eden Housing asked the HPSC to consider that the tool disadvantages affordable housing providers and expressed her concern that without HUD CoC funding, Eden would be unable to continue providing permanent supportive housing at its Fireside location.
- Dave Coury stated that preserving current programs should take priority, and that both preserving and developing new affordable housing should be goals. It would be great if the county could find funds to replace some of the funding that's going away.
  - Katie Rice: The conundrum is that we have limited funding
  - Dave Coury: Just because it's services doesn't mean it's not housing. The same distinction is made on the HOME committee.
- Christina Schiffner Santschi stated that she understands that this is a difficult process and requires difficult decisions, but this funding reallocation comes at a difficult time, as

Center for Domestic Peace is also experiencing the loss of ESG funding. She requested that time be allocated at an upcoming HPSC meeting to discuss HUD's perspective on Domestic Violence.

- a. Alan Piombo moved to adopt the recommended priority listing; Pat Langley seconded the motion.
- b. All in favor, none opposed. The following committee members abstained due to conflicts: Michelle Taniguchi, Christina Schiffner Santschi, Cia Byrnes, Mary Kay Sweeney, Jeff Helvig

## **7. HMIS Vendor Selection**

- Staff summarized the review process. Five applications were received. Only two, from Bitfocus and Bowman Systems, met the minimum service requirements outlined in the RFP. The HMIS Lead recommends switching HMIS vendors to the Bitfocus software Clarity.
  - Hugo Landecker asked about coordinating HMIS with other counties and whether other providers like the police and VA have access, and asked for more information on the transition to the new system.
    - Staff noted that we will talk more about sharing moving forward, taking into account privacy laws and talking to providers about what information is useful. Sharing information county-to-county is very complicated. Currently there are very few multi-county HMISes. Privacy laws do not allow sharing more than the minimum amount of data and there is a wide range of HMIS software in the area. We need to talk about regional collaboration but it probably will not be HMIS.
    - Staff noted that there is a workplan for transition, and the recommended vendor has experience with transitioning from another HMIS, which was one of the scoring criteria.
  - Jesse Taylor-Vermont noted that members of the Downtown Streets Team that have used Clarity liked it
  - Anna Gwyn Simpson has also used Clarity in Santa Clara County and agrees that it is an improvement on the current system.
- a. Mary Kay Sweeney moved to adopt the recommendation of Clarity as the new HMIS software and Bitfocus as the new HMIS administrator; Ann Morrison seconded the motion.
  - b. All in favor, none opposed, no abstentions.

## **8. Program Updates**

- Point-in-Time Planning: The first PIT planning meeting was the previous week. Talk to staff to get involved. Marin is contracting with ASR again.
- Coordinated Entry Discussion: The Coordinated Entry pilot will be able to expand with CoC funding. All CoC and ESG providers must participate. Implementation will be rolled out on a gradual basis. The Coordinated Entry Committee will reconvene in the next few weeks to have a longer conversation and bring recommendations to the HPSC.
- VI-SPDAT Registry Week: The VI-SPDAT is an assessment tool for the Coordinated Entry pilot that assigns a score based on the greatest need. San Rafael, the County, and providers conducted a VI-SPDAT blitz over two days, organized by St. Vincent's. The list generated will feed into the HOT program, our Coordinated Entry pilot.

- Christine Paquette offered special thanks to Lynn Murphy, the VI-SPDAT queen.
- REST: Last year there were 311 unduplicated guests. The program was at full capacity from the second night, though they seldom had to turn people away. This year it will again run from November 1-April 30. About 2000 volunteers participate in REST.
  - Katie Rice asked if more detailed information or data is available. Christine Paquette said more would be made available.
  - Kate Colin noted that all the cities and towns participate in funding REST, so having that data is very important.
  - Hugo Landecker asked if not turning people away when the program was at full capacity meant that the program was running over capacity. Christine Paquette clarified that REST was only over capacity in extreme weather emergencies.

#### **9. Setting the Agenda for our November HPSC Meeting**

- Fair Housing Discussion: Many of our beds are limited to Marin residents, which may run afoul of federal law. These requirements are often in place for community support. This should be on the agenda to have these conversations. Liz Darby and Leelee Thomas from CDA will be part of this discussion.
- Coordinated Entry
- 2017 Review & Rank Materials: To allow the Review Panel to do mid-year reviews in January or February, tools must be approved at the November meeting
- HMIS data sharing/ROI
- PIT planning update
- ESG funding impact – should have ESG results by September or October
- The lack of family shelter beds and TH for youth
- The domestic violence conversation will be at a future meeting, but not in November

#### **11. Adjourn- 4:45pm**