

**GEORGIA BALANCE OF STATE CONTINUUM OF CARE BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
Atlanta, Georgia
August 24, 2016**

Conference Call Number 866-754-5292

Present

Shannon Candler
Sule Carpenter (teleconference)
Kristy Carter
Carmen Chubb (teleconference)
Teresa Concannon (teleconference)
John Ellis (teleconference)
Mike Kraft (teleconference)
Eric McGhee
John R. Moeller
Monica Johnson
Ann Shirra
Lejla Slowinski (teleconference)
Antoinette Thornton
Randy Welty (teleconference)

Absent

David E. Blackwell
Bill McGahan
Jennifer Shearin

Collaborative Applicant Staff

Dave Whisnant
Tina Moore
Ashlee Starr
Rick Heermans
Theresa Renfro

Support Entities

Evan Mills, Ethics Officer (teleconference)
Dr. Lindsey Barranco, HUD TA Consultant with The Cloudburst Group

Guests

Melinda Allen, Salvation Army Metro Atlanta
Laketa Whittaker, Wellcare Health Plans
Lisa Bell, Salvation Army Milledgeville
Perette Morris, Salvation Army Douglas
Katha Blackwell, Partnership Against Domestic Violence
Marie Beard, CSRA EOA, Inc. Augusta
Mary Harrison, CSRA EOA, Inc. Augusta
Damian Campbell, Genesis Prevention Coalition
Maithri Vangala, Techbridge
Charlotte Woody, Macon-Bibb County (teleconference)
Mary Davis, Salvation Army Metro Atlanta (teleconference)
Rachel Castillo, MUST Ministries (teleconference)

The meeting of the Georgia Balance of State Continuum of Care Board (the "Board") meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Candler at 1:00 p.m.

Vice Chairman Candler welcomed board members, thanked everyone for participating in this meeting and conducted a roll call of the board members present, either in person or on the call.

Vice Chairman Candler introduced DCA's new Director of the Office of Homeless and Special Needs Housing, Dave Whisnant. Mr. Whisnant explained that he has been at DCA for three weeks and is looking forward to working with everyone. He formerly served as the Executive Director at the Georgia Law Center for the Homeless in Atlanta.

Vice Chairman Candler called for approval of the minutes of May 25, 2016 and the minutes of the special meeting held on July 13, 2016 (Tab A).

Motion to approve the minutes of May 25, 2016 and July 13, 2016 was made by John Moeller and seconded by Ann Shirra. The Vice Chairman conducted a roll call for votes, and the motion passed unanimously.

Vice Chairman Candler invited guests to participate in the public comment period. There were no comments from the public.

Vice Chairman Candler called on Tina Moore to review the 2016 Balance of State Continuum of Care (CoC) Competition. Referencing meeting materials distributed to the Board (*2016 CoC Project Application Priority Ranking Summary - Tier 1 and Tier 2; 2016 Balance of State CoC Ranking and Tier Results; 2016 Balance of State Reallocation Amounts; 2016 BoS CoC Competition Threshold Notes; Backup Data - BoS 2016 RENEWAL Application Scores; Backup Data - BoS 2016 RENEWAL Application Scores; Backup Data - BoS 2016 NEW Application Scores; and BoS CoC Competition Threshold Notes*), Ms. Moore reviewed the results of the competition and project review by the application review sub-committees. Project applications were sent to the application review sub-committees and scored in accordance of policy set by the Board at the last meeting on July 13, 2016. Staff collected scores from review team members for each project on August 16-17, 2016, performance data was collected from annual reports, and applicants that met threshold were given the opportunity to review their project scores. On August 22, 2016, the results of the competition, project ranking, and recommended reallocations were reviewed with the Standards, Rating, and Project Selection Committee who approved them and recommended they move forward to the Board.

Ms. Moore reviewed the ranking results for renewal permanent housing project applications which includes Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) and Rapid Re-Housing (RRH), and new permanent housing project applications (which also includes RRH and PSH). Using project application review scores, projects were ranked in tiered groupings as determined in the BoS Competition Policy (Group 1 – Renewal PSH and RRH (operational projects); Group 2 – Newly awarded PH (RRH & PSH) from 2015 competition; Group 3 – New PH (PSH & RRH); and New Bonus PSH.

Ms. Moore noted that 68 projects are listed in the final ranking. The 2016 BoS CoC Competition began with an unknown amount of funds to be reallocated. Projects that were underutilized were subject to a grant reduction (with partial funds to be reallocated) or a reallocation for significant underutilization. During the review process it was determined that a total of \$620,994 was available for reallocation to new projects. Funds from one project was fully reallocated (trouble reaching full capacity - no application submitted), one project requested a reduction, and ten projects were reduced due to funds being left over at the end of the year. Ms. Moore reviewed threshold issues around two new project applications.

Of the 5 new project applications submitted, the application review sub-committee determined that 2 of the new projects (1 RRH and 1 PSH) did NOT meet threshold. Both projects did not meet Equal Access laws. The PSH project application did NOT demonstrate meeting threshold around program eligibility of clients being 100% chronically homeless. The other project had eligibility issues around project design for housing to be utilized.

Ann Shirra asked about the coverage around the state from applications and whether there was more interest from South Georgia agencies this year. Ms. Moore replied that she had talked to one South Georgia agency that was considering applying but decided to postpone this until next year when they'll be in a better position

to implement a new program. She added that DCA, working with Collaborative Solutions, Inc., has scheduled several capacity building training sessions for September including one in South Georgia that will cover a variety of topics including how to develop effective grant proposals and implement new projects.

Ms. Moore requested the Board's approval of the results of the competition, final ranking and determinations, and recommended reallocations of the 2016 Balance of State CoC Competition.

A motion to approve the results, final ranking and determinations, and recommended reallocations for the 2016 Balance of State CoC Competition as proposed by the Standards, Rating, and Project Selection Committee was made by John Moeller and seconded by Antoinette Thornton. The Vice Chair conducted a roll call for votes, and the motion passed unanimously.

Vice Chairman Candler called on Tina Moore to review the Balance of State Permanent Supportive Housing Written Standards and Prioritization. Referring to the *Draft - BoS PSH Written Standards and Priority* document, Ms. Moore noted that last year this policy was approved in order to build on competition policy to prioritize permanent supportive housing (PSH) beds for people who are chronically homeless. This policy establishes written standards for PSH projects and formerly adopts HUD's Notice CPD-14-012, *Notice on Prioritizing Persons Experiencing Chronic Homelessness and Other Vulnerable Homeless Persons in Permanent Supportive Housing* so that those experiencing chronic homelessness should be given priority for non-dedicated PSH beds as vacancies become available through turnover. The policy has been updated to include the definition for Chronically Homeless released January 2016. Requesting approval to adopt the updated policy, Ms. Moore reported that this policy was approved and recommended to move forward to the Board by the Standards, Rating, and Project Selection Committee on August 22, 2016.

A motion to approve and adopt the updated Balance of State Permanent Supportive Housing Written Standards and Prioritization policy, as proposed by the Standards, Rating, and Project Selection Committee was made by Carmen Chubb and seconded by Monica Johnson. The Chair conducted a roll call for votes, and the motion passed unanimously.

Vice Chairman Candler called on Tina Moore and Dr. Lindsey Barranco to review the Balance of State Homeless Count. Ms. Moore said that DCA is preparing for the upcoming Point in Time (PIT) count scheduled for January 2017. Work is underway to with KSU to update the methodology and survey instruments as well as to look at a possible update of the data used to predict homelessness within the methodology. Special efforts are being considered to ensure an accurate count for homeless veterans, unsheltered youth, and the chronic homeless. She introduced Dr. Barranco who is an expert on areas where CoCs need to focus in order to serve people with the highest needs in addressing homelessness, focus resources, and on how to best align with federal priorities in addressing homelessness.

Dr. Barranco gave an overview of the PIT count process. HUD expects each continuum to do this every other year at a minimum in the last 10 days in January when they would expect more homeless to be seeking shelter. There is a sheltered and unsheltered count for the one night in question and she discussed the HUD definition for each group. The entire state should be covered and HUD has placed a big emphasis this year on getting a good youth count of those under 25 who are either unaccompanied or parenting others. Each CoC reports on their methodology in their funding request to HUD and is graded on this. The PIT count is also one of the seven areas HUD will be looking at in their performance measurements assessment that is beginning this year with the establishment of benchmarks. Not all groups are included in this count. Among those that are not included are program participants in PSH, RRH, and VASH, those living in locations not on the housing inventory chart, and persons living with others in potentially overcrowded or substandard

housing. Lejla Slowinski asked how persons living in extended stay facilities were treated in this count. Dr. Barranco said they could be counted only if a homeless provider was paying for their stay.

Dr. Barranco said that Georgia has the second highest percentage of unsheltered homeless of any state in the country with 60.7% behind only Texas for either Balance of State or statewide continuums. The results of this count, along with other data through McKinney-Vento and Education programs and other sources, should be considered by Georgia for planning purposes and resource allocation decisions.

Ann Shirra asked whether there is a list of agencies that participated in the count the last time. She is particularly interested in getting the Labor Department with their 44 offices statewide and the Juvenile Justice Task Force involved. Ms. Moore replied that DCA knows who the coordinators were and this effort was coordinated with the Department of Community Supervision for the last count. John Moeller asked why it seems that Georgia struggles so much in mobilizing a project such as this. Dr. Barranco replied that it is partly because the state is so large and some counties do not have any homeless providers at all. She suggested possibly partnering with domestic violence providers in those areas where no homeless providers exist. Ms. Moore added that community action agencies have also assisted with the count in the past in those areas.

Vice Chairman Candler asked if there was any old business.

John Moeller asked about the status of the Pathways data migration and the selection of a new HMIS provider. Mr. Whisnant replied that meetings are currently underway to select the new provider and the hope is still to be able to meet the October 1st deadline for the selection of the vendor and the substantial completion of the data migration process.

Mr. Whisnant gave a status update on the Balance of State Initiative to End Veteran Homelessness that was reported on at the July meeting. He stated that DCA has created a by name registry of homeless veterans with the goal of locating those that are not in HMIS or currently receiving services so that they can be assessed for a housing plan and any needed services. Additional names are being received regularly and added to the list as providers and the United Way encounter new clients who are veterans and they are entered in HMIS. There are currently 95 of 152 counties in the State included in the registry with efforts underway to add other counties to this list. A pilot program is underway in Macon where a large number of homeless veterans have been identified. Based upon those identified thus far, Mr. Whisnant stated that 88% are unaccompanied by children, 89% are male, 88% want to receive services, 26% are employed, 63% have a disability, 73% were honorably discharged, and 52% are newly homeless.

Ms. Starr added that she has contracted with DCA to develop this veterans' registry and that we are currently hitting HUD's benchmarks for this effort. The Macon focus came about as that is where the most homeless veterans were located. Efforts are underway to work with day shelters, soup kitchens, SSVF providers, and VA Centers to add names to the list as they are identified. The data is being cleaned up as we go along to ensure that it is accurate.

Vice Chairman Candler then asked for new business. There was none.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:50 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Board will be held on November 16, 2016, (1:00 P.M.) in Atlanta, Georgia.

Signature

Title