Delaware Continuum of Care
Board Meeting
July 15, 2020

Attendance: Carrie Casey (Chair), John Bates (Vice Chair), Brandy Nauman, DeBorah Gilbert White, Jo Allegro Smith, Kimberly Brockenbrough, Marcey Rezac, Marlena Gibson, Paula Witcher, Renee Beaman, Tyler Shade, Deb McKenna, John Cook, Ruthann Messick

Board Members Not Present: Kimberly Ellis, Stephanie Staats, Susan Kent

Had Staff: Rachel Stucker, Erin Gallaher

Special Guest: Sheila Bravo, Joshua Solge (DANA)

Call to order: Carrie C. 10:01 AM

- **Welcome & Introductions**

- **Approve May 7, 2020 Minutes**
  - **MOTION** by <u>John B.</u>
  - **Seconded** by Tyler
  - **Approval** Unanimous

- **Outstanding CoC Board Nominations**
  - Orenda Poindexter (YWCA) and John Whitelaw (CLASI)
  - Board voted and approved in May
  - Voting members will receive an E-Vote for final approval
    - will join September meeting contingent upon voting membership approval
- **Point-In-Time and Housing Inventory Count**
  - Conducted January 2020, completed and submitted to HUD by the required deadline
    - PIT is snapshot of need, HIC is snapshot of supply of homeless assistance resources available on the night of the PIT
      - HIC includes ES, TH, PSH, RRH
    - PIT and HIC data will be presented at the quarterly membership meeting
  - PIT numbers:
    - Total count of people experiencing homelessness in 2019 was 1082 and in 2020 it was 1165, <u>increase of 83 people</u>
      - 37% were in households with adults and children in 2020, in 2019 39%
      - Unsheltered count in 2019 was 95, in 2020 was 150 people

- o Large increase in unsheltered single adults
        - o Possible explanations: more teams covering a larger geography, warmer weather
    - How does HUD view an increase?
        - Not positive however HUD is starting to rely more heavily on System Performance data to measure a community's progress towards reducing and ending homelessness, more complete picture than one night snapshot of PIT. PIT is looked at for funding but it is not weighted or scored as heavily as System Performance data
        - HUD is also looking to see if HIC has an increase in permanent housing options each year
            - o Is the community increasing PSH and RRH inventory in the community over time?
- Committee Updates
    - o System Performance
        - Met in June
        - Effects of COVID-19 on System Performance
            - Predicting increases in LOT homeless (longer shelter stays) and returns to homelessness (increase in evictions/foreclosures)
                - o Predicting to see this across whole country, not just DE
        - New Centralized Intake Data Elements
            - Deadline for implementation is October 31, 2020
            - Preliminary implementation in DE began in April 2020
        - Homeless Street Outreach
            - Weakened over the last few years, looking to strengthen again
            - Opportunity to fund pilot through CARES Act funding
                - o What providers have interest and capacity?
                - o What would the model look like, not just temporarily but on-going?
                - o Substantial funding possibility, $250,000-$400,000
            - Small group meeting next week to discuss further, if you are interested please let Kim B. know
    - o Advocacy
        - Met May 20, 2020
        - Two action items
            - Connect with grassroots advocacy in DE

- o HOMES Campaign invited to next meeting
- Virtual forum/town hall with political candidates in DE to discuss plans around homelessness and housing, potentially Biden
    - o Wrote letter to chair and co-chair, waiting to hear how to proceed and if this is something the CoC wants to move forward on
        - ▪ Carrie thinks it is a great idea
        - ▪ Would like to have further discussion on how to carry out, plan, etc.
    - o Also discussed right to counsel around evictions
        - ▪ Worried about courts rushing to open without proper safety nets and could overwhelm homeless response system
        - ▪ CoC needs to weigh in in writing to Governor and/or JP Court Magistrate to say we are thankful for what has been done and Delaware being pro-active in putting the eviction moratorium in place but we should not open without the proper safety nets in place to help people
            - Rachel and Carrie will draft letter and send it to the Board for approval before sending
                - o Group gave the go-ahead
- **2020 CoC Funding Update**
    - o CoC Scoring Committee officially approved all scoring tools, evaluation tools, compliance tools and criteria for 2020 competition
    - o HUD has not put out any updates on the NOFA however it is important that we are prepared and are evaluating the performance of our CoC-funded projects/thinking about a funding strategy for 2020
    - o Renewal Agencies received email notice on 7/14/2020 launching the renewal applicant evaluation period
        - ▪ Mandatory information meeting for renewal projects July 30, 2020 from 10am-12pm
        - ▪ Scoring, Evaluation, and compliance tools were provided to all renewal projects through this notice but are also available on HAD CoC page.
        - ▪ Reach out to Erin at egallaher@housingalliancede.org if you are in need of more information on this
    - o John Bates provided feedback that it would have been helpful if the Board reviewed the scoring/evaluation tools before finalization and distribution

- Per the 2020 CoC Funding Policies which were approved by the Board in May, the policies were followed in having the Scoring Committee approve and finalize all tools
  - Can look at amending the policies next year if the Board would like to have final approval rights
- **CoC Quarterly Meeting Reminder**
  - July 22, 2020
  - 10am-12pm via zoom
  - If you have any items that you would like to see on the agenda, please reach out to Rachel or Erin
- **Vision Grant Opportunity – DANA Facilitation**
  - Sheila Bravo (DANA ED) and Joshua Solge (UD Masters Student Researcher)
  - DANA background
    - A non-profit whose mission is to support non-profits in the state of DE
    - Help with leadership practices and sustaining strategies
      - Provides Board development training, workshops and consulting practices specifically in strategic planning, fundraising, advocacy, and succession planning and have expanded support services to include financial management and HR
  - COVID-19 Strategic Response Initiative
    - DANA, Philanthropy Delaware, United Way of Delaware, Delaware Community Foundation
    - Combination of funding opportunities, coordinating volunteers, identifying non-profit needs, and advocating to government on non-profit needs
    - Through the funding that was made available under these grants, housing and homelessness came through as a huge need and gap in the system
  - Vision Grant
    - Second funding stream created to improve systems of service delivery and impact
      - HAD identified as a potential candidate for funding, Rachel invited to submit a preliminary application
      - DANA to work with HAD to conduct research and identify possible best practice models that could be brought into DE to inform a formal application
        - Working Group

- Where could there be opportunities for funding intervention to help address a homelessness initiative that could improve the system and reduce homelessness
  - A lot of agencies involved and they may not all be connected
  - Different definitions of homelessness
  - Resource inventory different depending on where you are geographically in the state

- o Recommendation
  - Families experiencing homelessness identified as target population
    - Important to have CoC Board support and multiple agencies on board
    - Deadline to submit proposal is July 23, 2020 for next round of TA
- o Question 1: Is the Board supportive of an initiative, similar to the Veterans Model, for families experiencing homelessness; that a coordinated effort could make a difference?
  - Board is in agreement and sees the benefit of focusing on a sub-population
  - Will have prevention component and component for those who cannot avoid homelessness
  - Opportunity to address childhood/family trauma in a significant way
    - Large focus of this state administration and other state agencies. This could connect this initiative really well and makes homelessness very relevant to those other priorities
  - Should include dedicated coordination with the DV community
    - Often working with the same families but recorded differently
  - Dedicated staffing and capacity should be looked at in detail
- o Question 2: Is there a need for a CoC vote to confirm moving forward with the proposal?
  - Motion to approve the proposal with the amendment of coordination with DV partners **provided by** John B
  - **Seconded by** Jo A-S
  - **Approval** Unanimous
- o Question 3: What are some of the obstacles or areas that need to be explored to understand the opportunity for reducing family homelessness?

- Child care normally but especially now with the restrictions on being open or capacity with COVID

- Previous evictions, credit issues, arrearages, housing locators, transportation
  - Seeing in pilot with FP for trying to move clients out of motels into housing
    - Possible landlord mitigation fund as guarantee/safety net for landlords
  - Sussex co, jobs are not where the housing is
    - County level working groups or tailored pilots

- Mental health, psycho-social, trauma

- Job training/ workforce development for affordable/living wages to sustain
  - Rents do not match wages – have to work multiple jobs, families were already struggling before COVID
  - More subsidies or vouchers

- Families that would have been successful in RRH or other programs before COVID may not be able to do so now
  - Need to make sure housing and support services are resourced to provide longer term, more intensive care

- Question 4: Are there agencies or programs in certain parts of the state that could serve as a model for other parts of the state? Leverage what is working well versus creating something new

  - Sussex County Code Purple
    - Low barrier
    - Operates every night from December to March

  - Kent County Code Purple
    - In CMIS already for tracking
    - Has some year-round housing supports outside of cold weather shelters

  - All agencies that provide services have strengths, maybe a matter of coordinating between them for best practice sharing

  - Family Promise of Sussex County
    - Already serves specifically families
    - Could be an opportunity to get it off the ground

- o Question 5: Are there any national models or best practices that could be brought to DE?
    - ■ Philadelphia – outreach, day centers
    - ■ Salt Lake City
    - ■ Bergen County NJ ended chronic homelessness
- o Question 6: What other resources or steps will be necessary to put a cohesive system together that rapidly moves these families from homelessness to stable housing?
    - ■ Homelessness effects all segments, needs political involvement
        - Advocacy
    - ■ Identifying support systems and natural support systems such as community. Connecting families if they do not have them
        - Connecting with agencies and programs on the other side of homelessness
    - ■ Connecting with the Homeless liaison network out of the Dept of ED
        - John Holt – state coordinator for all liaisons
    - ■ Case Management
        - Credit, financial literacy, other barriers that make them look unattractive to landlords
    - ■ More affordable housing
        - Affordable housing that currently exists is targeted to 50%-80% below AMI but most of our clients are 30% below AMI so still not affordable
        - Needs policy change, incentives for developers
    - ■ Need to make sure that the initiative is not too broad but not too narrow to get the outcomes that we're looking for
        - Scaling for success
- **Open Discussion**
    - o Incorporating racial equity into our work as a CoC in a more intentional way
        - ■ HAD has been working on a follow up report that highlights some of the major findings of the data review with the intention of creating action steps
        - ■ Racial disparities in housing and homelessness are still very prevelant today

- Family Promise looked at the racial distribution of families served versus the respective population in the state
  - Black/African American individuals/families make up 23% of Delaware's population but accounted for 70% of families served by FP over the last 5 years
  - White individuals/families make up 69% of Delaware's population (3 times more) and accounted for 19% of families served by FP over the last 5 years
- Tyler volunteered to make info graphics on behalf of CoC to help spread data and make it digestible

- What are we going to do about it? Data and info are important but needs action
  - Looking at systems and assets racially
    - What service delivery systems and agencies look like racially in Delaware and is it affecting how services are provided; who and how people being served?
  - Form a sub-committee that can assess and bring recommendations on how to address racial justice and equity as a CoC
  - In DE, its not the homeless assistance system is reproducing or exacerbating inequity, in our data, it looks like external factors are producing the inequity experienced by Black/African Americans experiencing homelessness in DE
    - Really connected to advocacy work, what can be changed in the other systems producing inequity for those experiencing homelessness
  - Can racial equity and justice be connected to the town hall/forum coming out of the Advocacy committee?
- Sussex County is having their CARES ESG/CDBG public meeting is being held July 29, Brandy will make sure that info goes out to all list serves
- NCC public meeting information for recommendations for funding info has been sent to CoC list

Meeting Adjourned at 11:55 AM
Minutes Submitted by Erin Gallaher