

Attendance: Carrie Casey (Chair), John Bates (Vice Chair), Brandy Nauman, DeBorah Gilbert White, Jo Allegro Smith, Kimberly Brockenbrough, Kimberly Ellis, Marcey Rezac, Marlana Gibson, Paula Witcher, Renee Beaman, Stephanie Staats, Susan Kent, Tyler Shade

Board Members Not Present: Deb McKenna, John Cook, Ruthann Messick

Had Staff: Rachel Stucker, Erin Gallaher, Cher Chandler

Special Guest: Christy Rubenstein DMA (Diana T. Myers & Associates)

Call to order: Carrie C. 2:04 PM

- Welcome & Introductions
 - Welcome New Board Member Tyler Shade (Family Promise NNCC)
- COVID-19 Wellness Check-in
 - All present shared personal and program updates on how they/programs are managing through the pandemic
- Approve March Minutes
 - **MOTION** by Carrie C.
 - Jo Approved
 - Seconded by Paula
- CoC Business
 - a) Recap of Quarterly Meeting
 - a. Rachel- no need to do full recap; attendance was good for first Zoom webinar w/membership
 - b) DMA (Diana T. Myers & Assoc.)
 - a. Christy R.- HUD's mixed messages (COVID-19 preparedness priorities and CoCs preparing for competition)
 - i. Important to not let go of year-round CoC work
 - ii. Cares Act- No direct CoC funding; (7) COVID Waivers provided
 - iii. ESG- Primary source of funding
 - iv. Differences in DMA Assistance from FY20- Last minute request for assistance for last NOFA; advanced notice this time
 - v. Lauren W.- Assisted with last NOFA as a contractor; now hired w/DMA as staff

- vi. Christy will be the main point of contact with CoC and DMA; worked w/ten different CoCs across country in 2019
 - vii. Will make use of video and tele-conferencing
 - viii. Scope of Work for DMA Proposal- System Performance and Project Level
 1. System Performance- TA, Scoring Committee and support to HAD staff: Scoring tools, stronger process (improvement in processes), transparency, more dialogue w/applicants, policies, RFP for new projects, will be making suggestions; TA will be developing strategy for scoring data
 2. Project Level- Assisting HAD staff with TA- review of project tools, app attachments, bi-weekly calls, find a basic way to provide input & get information out; discuss framework and background of E-snaps, feels archaic, will provide tips and tools through e-snaps process, most likely e-snaps will be used for submitting renewal apps
 3. Christy departs board meeting
- Scoring Committee Update
 - Brandy- will work with Erin to discuss with this group will look like
 - Relying on Christy to assist with making scoring tools adequately reflect CoC's mission and HUD requirements
 - Tools will be provided to membership when approved
 - Rachel- Do not want to drop the ball-need stronger framework; strong systems for evaluations this year and going forward
 - COVID-19 Updates
 - Cher- Survey was completed w/shelter providers and included supply request
 - State and County could not honor requests; limited supplies in stock; health care and first responders
 - NCC worker donated 50 masks
 - Providers received name of regional supply vendor
 - Rachel- Infrared thermometers were given to all shelters
 - shrink of resources statewide level; struggle of where to send folks
 - work w/DSSC has provided ability to serve folks 65+, chronic health conditions, with motel/hotel assistance-tremendous resource

- Additional resources and some relief through Friendship House, Love, Inc.
- Marcey- Five DV shelters in the state and SARC (Sexual Assault Response Center, YWCA)
 - DV rates up as isolation increases
 - Message is out for victims/survivors to still access services
 - Hotel funds are needed to support DV
 - How do you continue to function with depleted budgets?
 - Brandy- What do you recommend sharing w/persons?
 - Marcey- Keep reiterating services open and available
 - Chat services being worked on
 - National hotline is currently using chat services
 - Will send Cape Gazette article
 - DCYF numbers have increased
 - Rachel- Are there folks who cannot be helped?
 - Marcey- Still reaching out to Centralized Intake; all programs using motels for overflow
 - Paula- Send any veteran DV persons to SSVF
 - Partnership w/Extended Stay
 - Marcey- Operational budgets are enormous; huge deficits
 - Hard to plan with no/limited resources
 - Hoping ESG funding will be made available to assist; what does this look like?
- Carrie- NCC, DSHA, and CoW talking about ESG Funding
 - NCC Public Meeting on May 7th at 12 PM
 - 60% of \$690,000 for shelter operations
 - No RFP; will be questionnaire to shelters
 - Marlena- DSHA will be doing something similar (ESG public meeting)
 - Hoping more ESG allocations will be provided
 - HUD may be allocating more in 6-8 weeks
 - Marcey- Are programs looking at the deficits in state budget?
 - DeBorah- Interested in the numbers and feedback
 - Are people getting tested?
 - How can our populations access testing?
 - Carrie- Weekly call w/DEMA; told info should come from DPH

- Rachel- DPH is trying to pull all this information together
 - Rita Landgraf brought in to help coordinate work around homelessness
- Carrie- Recall we (state) really just started to be concerned about homeless
 - Homeless outreach teams going where homeless are to complete health assessments
- Rachel- 285 persons in motel through outreach teams (not including those placed by DSSC, Love, Inc.); had to meet certain criteria
 - Rachel- Brief: HAD tracking data message will be sent that folks cannot fall through the cracks; Short: Highlighting issue folks in outside (places not meant for human habitation)
- Carrie- CoC knows role around advocacy
 - Must be rogue advocates
 - CoC needs to be the voice of people we are serving
 - Next 6 months will be challenging, but have to be willing to be deliberate in our actions
 - Writing to Governor in March was good; more needs to be done
 - Eviction court will be opening up—we need to be vocal
- Paula- Homeless preventions needed
 - SSVF expecting a surge in evictions
 - Tenants are opting not to pay their rent even though they have the funds
 - Tenants who can show documentation is good (loss of employment, etc.); populations w/single incomes (SSI, SSDI)
- Advocacy & Policy
 - DeBorah- CoC must be more active and action-oriented, especially w/COVID-19
 - Advocacy & Policy sub-committee wants to be action-oriented when presented with information on a national level
 - Connect with politicians in support of:
 - H.R.6515 bill proposed by Rep. Omar (Rent and Mortgage Cancellation Act)
 - DE was not represented on legislation
 - Need to write Rep. Blunt-Rochester
 - Emergency Rental Assistance and Rental Market Stabilization Act (Rep. Maxine Waters)
 - \$100 billion state & local to prevent housing instability and homelessness

- DeBorah will send links to access information on these bills
- Prevention work needed- Maintenance, Outreach, Prevention
 - Work w/grassroots organizations
 - Need people to participate and who are dedicated
 - Deborah shared personal history and why she is passionate about advocating for homeless
 - Partner with Right to Counsel
 - New Co-Chair, Tony Sierzega (CLASI) will be instrumental in this area
- Carrie- Need support of the board
 - Plans and Proposals
 - Will be an avalanche of evictions when restrictions are lifted
 - Proposal to advocacy committee to help get the word out
 - Marcey- How can we support having every agency that can support this?
 - Rachel- HAD can push things out quickly
 - Brandy- Feedback from landlords- most communication is about tenants; trickle up effect
 - Clarify information so landlords know about resources and have access to knowledge base
 - John- Need to advocate in getting ESG funding
 - needs to be a push to get this out
 - Rachel- Must address support for advocacy
 - Tyler- First Advocacy & Policy meeting in 01/2020
 - Majority of new members
 - Previous members fell off because things stayed stagnant
 - Need to be responsive to what the group is putting out
 - Need a recipe for involvement
 - DeBorah- Pieces/expectations were not clear
 - Need CoC board to support our advocacy
 - If we bring it to you, then it should be supported
 - Need to get message out to elected officials

- Jo- Advocacy efforts seem to be very good in Sussex Co.
 - Board came together when Carrie got word out to Senator Lopez and Rep Schwarzkopf
 - Very impressed w/CoC board on emerging issues
 - John- Have to bring truth to power; cannot be afraid to speak directly to those in position to make decisions
 - Deborah- Agreed. Not time to play it safe
 - Have to be involved on issues now and afterwards
 - Carrie- >Deborah- Do you have what is needed for the Board to be behind you?
 - Know the importance of action
 - Deborah- Have not heard anyone say they are not committed; that's good
 - Rachel- Board must be responsible about items CoC should take on
 - Carrie- Quick Turnaround Group (Pandemic Working Group) needs to be formed to respond quickly to issues
 - John- CoC board is best pivot to address issues and have to be prepared to do so 6 months from now
 - Carrie->Board- let Carrie and John know if you are interested in participating in this group
- Board Nominations
 - Rachel- Two new board nominations
 - John Whitelaw, CLASI
 - Orenda Poindexter, YWCA DE
 - Stephanie- Term coming to an end
 - Will stay on board through October 2020 to allow Orenda to get on board
 - Orenda has 15 years' w/YWCA working w/housing
 - RRH, Diversion
 - Expressed interest to be more engaged
 - Approve Board Nominations

- **MOTION** by Carrie
 - John Approved
 - Seconded by Kim E.
- Carrie->Stephanie- Thank you for your leadership on the board since 2015
- July Quarterly Meeting
 - Carrie- Feeling may not be meeting in-person
 - Board meeting scheduled for morning
 - Quarterly meeting for afternoon
 - How does the board feel about a full day of meeting?
 - Rachel- Think it is a lot for people to do a full day
 - Board- Exhausting
 - Plan on July meeting being virtual
 - Will work around quarterly being moved
 - Jo- board meetings were changed to the afternoon
- John- When will ESG funding be released?
 - Carrie- County Council approves on 05/12/2020
 - Will be a couple of week afterwards
 - Reimbursable costs will be from 04/12/2020
 - Carrie will send Public Hearing information
 - Marlena- Waiting to hear DSHA's Public Hearing date
 - Will share information

Meeting Adjourned at 3:57 PM

Minutes Submitted by Cher Chandler