

Coordinating Council – DRAFT NOTES
Bridgeport YMCA, 850 State Street, Bridgeport
Monday October 16, 2017, 12:30 pm – 2:30 pm

Attendees:

ODFC Officers: Adam Bovilsky (ODFC co-chair), Carmen Colon (ODFC Secretary), Chris Jachino (ODFC Treasurer)

Executive Committee: Stuart Lane, Lisa Tepper-Bates, Jason Shaplen, Joyce Platz, Helen McAlinden, Rafael Pagan, Jeff Wieser

Coordinating Council Member: Joe Sicilia, Anthony Crisci, Jennifer DaSilva, Jennifer Kolakowski, Carlo Leone, Linda Autore, Wendalina Claudio, PJ Leopold

Guests: Brian Roccapriore (CCEH), Julian Pierce (FCCA), Alana Kabel (HUD), Alicia Feller (SWCMHS/DMHAS), Yvonne Jackson (City of Bridgeport), Ginne-Rae Clay (City of Bridgeport)

Staff: Jessica Kubicki (SHW), Pam Ralston (ODFC/CCEH), Doran Wright (ODFC/CCEH, notes)

1. Welcome / Adoption of May 15, 2017 meeting notes: Adam Bovilsky

Lisa Tepper-Bates motioned to approve, Joe Sicilia seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously adopted with the exception of Joyce Platz, Alana Kabel, Jeff Wieser and Julian Pierce who each abstained.

2. Updates from Previous Executive Committee Meetings: Carmen Colon

Carmen reported that the past few months have been taken up with finalizing the NOFA submission. She stated that a lot of time was spent reviewing the process by which we do business as a community. We worked hard with DMA Associates. We have had honest and open dialogue within our group and will continue to need that dialogue as we move forward toward Progressive Engagement. We're not forgetting about the chronic homeless. We are looking at the fact that we are having a housing crisis due to our local housing authority. Carmen thanked Pam Ralston profusely for her work in preparing and submitting the NOFA. Carmen said the SSVF program is working. In closing she suggested that we invite a provider to speak at a future meeting.

3. ODFC Nominating Committee Caucus: Adam Bovilsky

Adam instructed members to divide into smaller groups according to sub-regions and to caucus for the purpose of identifying a person from within each sub-region to constitute the nominating committee that will slate candidates for officers and chairpersons at the annual meeting to be held in January. Upon reconvening, each sub-region reported back the person selected for nominating committee, as follows:

Danbury: PJ Leopold

Norwalk: Stuart Lane

Stamford: Linda Autore

Bridgeport: Joyce Platz

Adam will inform the selected individuals of their obligations over time, such as when vacancies shall occur in committee chairs. Adam stated that January 8 is the next Coordinating Council meeting and we hope to make this our annual meeting and is the deadline to slate officers, Coordinating Council members and Executive Committee members. The Operating Guidelines will inform as to diversity of agencies, religious figures and private and foundation members. Adam thanked members for volunteering their time.

4. Progressive Engagement Overview: Lisa Tepper Bates (CCEH) and Jessica Kubicki (SHW)

Lisa thanked everyone who attended the October 5 training and launch. Lisa said Iain DeJong is among the most respected authorities on homelessness nationally and internationally and has a wide angle. Our objective is to move forward with what is called Progressive Engagement which dovetails with dynamic prioritization. We don't want to assign homeless persons to a resource we wish we had, but rather to use what we already have as effectively as we can. HUD is now rethinking the way they put out regulations around coordinated entry, and it was always the intent to have more fluidity.

We aren't serving people by putting them on waitlists. The question is, how do we more actively engage at the "front door" going forward? If people do need a housing intervention, we should start with least amount of intervention. There are no good rules even on the national level. We try to bring to Connecticut best thinking and best practices but there are none as yet. We have good experience, thinking and data in Connecticut. New Haven and Hartford, as well as Fairfield County are enthusiastic. Front lines are empowered in new and important ways. It is unlikely to have expansion at State level, or with HUD, so we are getting ready for a new reality in Connecticut.

Progressive Engagement is shift from VI Score to automatically get something. We are really poor assessors. It is hard for us to know what a client will need at a given stage. We need less case-conferencing and subjectivity and more objectivity. People left the training feeling a bit uncomfortable, which is good. There are questions about implementation and front line staff are looking at how to implement. Progressive Engagement and looking at resources differently takes a mind-shift to encourage clients fix, adjust and resolve their housing crisis with our help and tools at their disposal. For each individual community and state-wide there will be a uniform implementation so clients get a different response in Bridgeport than they would in Stamford.

Adam Bovilsky commented he is happy at how we allow ourselves to be challenged. This was our launch and commitment going forward. Lisa remarked that we had HUD-TA input as well as DMHAS and DOH colleagues to ensure we weren't pursuing anything that was out of bounds of HUD/DOH policy guidelines.

Rafael Pagan commented that as a shelter provider he found this training very helpful, saying the staff are enabled to think and question and strive for that cultural shift that will break in new interventions and that this is an opportunity to bring all stakeholders together for dialogue because partnership is going to drive it. Jessica remarked that we can only do it with feedback from everybody.

PJ Leopold commented that rental assistance used to be 19 months and is now down to 6 months and seems to be working as well as a longer hand-hold; phase 1,2,3 is really working.

Lisa remarked that we always want to look at data to see what is working and what isn't. Veterans is the biggest data set and highlighted that veterans with a high disability rate are just as successful. The question is, What is going to be different at month 5 or 6 or 7 that is going to be different than month 3? Lisa said she is also putting in a plug for shelter diversion training which are strengths based modeled after the Cleveland Mediation Center. Linda Autore commented that this is strengths based, we meet people exactly where they are. Many people are trained in that model and that is going to be significant in helping clients to see we will meet them where they are.

5. NOFA Recap: Pam Ralston

Pam circulated two documents for review: 1) Report to ODFC Coordinating Council: October 16, 2017 and 2) ODFC/CT-503 CoC 2017 Ranking and Tiering for HUD CoC Competition FY17 Priority Listing.

Pam stated that DMA (Diana T. Myers Associates) is always very complimentary of the ODFC grantees and have seen a lot across the country and are amazed by the commitment to clients and their work they have seen on the part of ODFC grantees. Pam said we have done some somewhat aggressive reallocations and this has affected a number of grantees and that we are glad that Alana Kabel and Ginne-Rae Clay are here and that DMA is amazed at our field office. Pam acknowledged and thanked the City of Bridgeport for its commitment to ESG.

Pam stated we will be getting a visit from DMA in mid-November for a debrief. Last year Pam went to DMA to debrief. Pam said we keep a list of red-flags to look into such as SPM (Systems Performance Measures) and next steps and Pam will get together with DMA again.

Pam remarked that is always a challenging application and each year it is challenging in a new way. Some questions are longer in characters than the characters allowed for the answer. The question is, What can we share in small amount of narrative that is compelling given that we are so progressive and so far ahead of other communities and don't want to miss out in sharing those things with HUD.

Pam made the following additional comments:

- Our process was as unbiased as we could possibly get.
- We need to fill vacancies on Funding Oversight Committee, Non-Conflicted Coordinating Council.
- All data is now on ODFC website.
- Points are based on work leading up to NOFA, APR and HMIS data. We will be moving from annual data collection to quarterly basis; this will be an ongoing, supported process and non-punitive to grantees. We had 19 different scenarios of tiering this year, and it is critical to prioritizing resources and reallocate based on those priorities.
- We used to put renewals by scores and put bonus on the bottom. This year we went fast and took and took a step back to carefully look at tiering.
- The priorities are reflected in our application. We had 40 projects together. We set a goal of 10% re-allocation and we got to 9.4%. Norm Suchar told David Rich that reallocation is the way to demonstrate to HUD that our priorities are aligned.
- We got \$689,000 from reallocations which went to a new PSH project for which DOH/DMAS is the grantee and this amounts to approximately 41 new units of housing. Two projects which were low performing for two years were reallocated, and we had a voluntarily reallocation from DMHAS that is going to a new SSO project that, if funded, will staff a new housing locator that will help a great deal in light of their hiring freeze. We had applications for a new SSO project for staffing a CAN navigator. Funding from poor performance re-allocation is also going to fund 2-1-1.
- There are good things have happened. We have looked at the infrastructure and gaps. There are small group meeting on a monthly basis to forecast what HUD is doing. In Norwalk \$143,000 was given back to HUD, and we want to avoid that.
- We will have a grantee roundtable in a couple of weeks to look at how we clean up data. Rather than collecting data on an annual basis, we will begin collecting quarterly which will improve data quality.

Adam commented that innovation of cost-effectiveness standard and putting our new projects in tier one will demonstrate to HUD how committed we are to improve our return when the NOFA is finalized.

6. Presentation of Analysis of Systems Performance Measures: (Brian Roccapriore, CCEH)

Brian gave a slide-by-slide presentation of the most recent analysis of Systems Performance Measures and concluded with a comparison between ODFC and BOS (Balance of State). Highlighted were:

- Projects must accurately report where people are going when they exit shelter to ensure that exit destinations are accurate. Total returns to homelessness has gone down and held steady over two years.
- Measure 3: trending positively past 3 years Annual homeless counts overall decreased 8 percent.
- Measure 4.1 and 4.3: only impacted by CoC funded projects. Overall, there was a 4% decrease in number of stayers with income from any source, the percentage of clients with income shows an increased when reviewing the data by percentages of clients with income.
- Measure 4.4-4.6: Income Changes-Leavers. When reviewing the ACTUAL numbers of clients with increased income, there are decreases in every category. When reviewing the data by the PERCENTAGE of clients served who increase income, there is an increase in all except for the earned income.
- Measure 5.1-5.2 First Time Homeless. There was a 14% decrease in First Time Homelessness clients in ES & TH. There was a 1% increase in First Time Homeless clients in ES, TH and PH.
- Measure 7a-7b Exits to & Retention of Permanent Housing. The Street Outreach exists to PH are low. FY 15 number of exits overall was 4. In FY 16 there were 74 exits. In FY 17 there were 89 exits

In Comparison to BOS:

- ODFC Length of Stay Homeless is longer. Transitional housing is higher in ODFC as well.
- Measure 3: PIT – everyone is trending downward in all the right ways.
- Measure 4.1-4.3 Income Changes-Stayers – ODFC is doing better and doubled percentage year over year FY15 to FY16.
- Measure 5.1-5.2 First Time Homeless: BOS 4 times larger number terms

Brian's guidance going forward is to run the Data Quality Report in system, clean up inactive records, review the report make other corrections. Every month a webinar is offered and very few people take advantage of it. Allows real one-on-one access. Brian implores people to take advantage of these webinars.

Lisa asked whether this body would like to set some goals? Pam mentioned the data roundtable on October 25 and that Standards and Evaluations Committee is working with Jackie Janosko to come up with benchmarks. Lina would like to join Standards and Evaluations and it was agreed this was a good idea.

7. Announcements

Adam remarked that today is the last day for Nancy von Euler at Fairfield County's Community Foundation and that she will be missed. Also, David Kennedy lost his sister recently and we wish him well.

Joyce Platz stated that on November 4 St. Vincent's will be holding its Medical Mission at Cesar Batalla School in Bridgeport.

Lisa stated that advocacy continues. There is CIA funding (Community Investment Act) and DOH is getting money and hopeful of money being allocated to CAN

Senator Carl Leone, speaking on the budget impasse stated that the 4 chambers are meeting daily and working over the weekend. Governor Malloy has now put all 4 chambers together plus his staff to try to come to a conclusion.

Doran commented that the ODFC Faith Leaders Collaborative is holding a Symposium on Youth Homelessness at Grace Farms tomorrow, October 17, and a wide representation of the Fairfield County faith community as well as youth-serving agencies are signed up to attend and present.

Rafael Pagan commented that the annual Homeless Memorial event will take place December 21 in Stamford

Pam commented that ODFC Economic Security Workgroup is holding its "What's the 411 on 2-1-1" this Wednesday at the WorkPlace in Bridgeport

The meeting was adjourned at 2:32 pm

The next meeting to be held January 8, 2018 at Fairfield County's Community Foundation, 40 Richards Avenue, Norwalk, CT, in the 4th floor training room.