Agenda
Tuesday, January 15, 9 a.m.
HHCK, Frankfort
306 W. Main St., Ste. 207
Frankfort, KY 40601

I. Welcome and Introductions
   Jason Dunn, Vice Chair

II. Review and Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes
    Jason Dunn

III. Subcommittee Reports
    - Medicaid/Housing Subcommittee
      Tom Beatty
    - Services Subcommittee/SOAR Update
      Tom Beatty

IV. Policy Advocacy Topics
    - SchoolHouse Connection legislative proposals
      Adrienne Bush
    - Medicaid implementation
      Jason Dunn
    - Other issues

V. Point in Time Count Activities
   Various

VI. Updates from Continua of Care
    Natalie Harris (Louisville)
    Polly Ruddick (Lexington)
    Paul Semisch (Balance-of-State)

VII. Other Business

VIII. Adjournment

2019 Steering Committee Meeting Dates:
January 15
April 16
July 16
All times from 9-11 a.m.
Location: HHCK, Frankfort

Full KICH Membership – September 11, 9 a.m., Lexington Convention Center
A meeting of the Kentucky Interagency Council on Homelessness was held on November 1, 2018 at the Kentucky Association of Counties in Frankfort, KY. The following were in attendance:

Adrienne Bush, HHCK  Paul Semlisch, Gateway Shelter
Andrea Miller, KCADV  Jennifer Oberlin, Louisville Metro Government
Jeff Herron, LFUCG  Senator Gerald Neal
Thomas Beatty, DBHDID  Maria Price, St John’s Center
Shelly Warner, Erlanger-Elsmere Schools  Charlie Lanter, LFUCG
Melissa Benton, CHS/KCCVS  Polly Ruddick, LFUCG
Curtis Stauffer, KHC  Jason Dunn, KY Voices for Health
Tracy Williams, KY Health  Kelly Stephens, AOC
Lauren Sandmire, VA  Adam Trosper, DBHDID
Natalie Harris, Coalition for the Homeless  Jodi Brandenburg, KY River Foothills

Minutes from the November 1, 2017 meeting and July 17, 2018 Steering Committee meeting were presented for approval. A motion for approval of both sets of Minutes was made by Melissa Benton, and seconded by Thomas Beatty. The Motion was approved.

Adrienne Bush presented the completed updated of the Kentucky Strategic Plan to End Homelessness. The last update of this plan was in 2012 and is required under authority of KRS 194A.735. In the time since the 2012 update, we met several goals of the plan, such as aligning state goals with federal goals, formalizing CoC governance, implementing Coordinated Entry, and establishing ESG priorities.

For the 2018 update, goals were expended as follows:

- Increase available housing
- Strengthen discharge for Substance Abuse programs
- Assess and develop responses to systemic racism in the homeless system
- Increase agency participation in HMIS
- Broaden stakeholder participation in the CoC
- Improve LGBTQ access to homeless assistance
- Implement low barrier practices among emergency shelters and crisis bed facilities

The ultimate goal for the plan is that we meet functional zero for veterans, chronically homeless, and homeless families with children. Functional homeless would mean there are fewer people entering the system than resources available, and the homeless can be housed within 30 days. In order to achieve this, we will need more resources in the state.
Some considerations for ending homeless include the effective use of Coordinated Entry, which is now implemented statewide. Additionally, access to mainstream benefits such as SOAR, Medicaid and Move Up/Housing Choice Vouchers should be increased. Additional considerations include: aging population, racial inequity, diversion and prevention strategies, evictions, medical respite programs, family equal access rule, data sharing and performance measurement, domestic violence considerations.

Strategies for implementation of the plan:

- Create an effective governance structure
- Lead implementer
- Formally approve the plan
- Review and prioritize adopted recommendations
- Define clear roles and responsibilities
- Create structured and time-limited committees
- Ensure buy-in through ongoing engagement
- Increase agency participation agencies regardless of funding sources
- Medical respite
- Quality services for aging homeless population
- Diversion and prevention
- Eviction policy recommendations
- Continue work on recommendations not covered
- Align tasks with federal plan and regulations

Adrienne thanked the individuals who assisted in completing the plan. In addition to Adrienne, Justin Beale, Samantha Brooks, Thomas Beatty, Natalie Harris, Jeff Herron, Marty Jones, Jackie Long, Jennifer Oberlin, Polly Ruddick, Curtis Stauffer and Kenzie Brubank worked on the development of the updated plan.

A Motion to adopt the 2018 Strategic Plan to End Homelessness was made by Thomas Beatty and seconded by Melissa Benton. The motion was approved.

Tracy Williams of Kentucky Health gave an update on the Medicaid 1115 Waiver. Since last meeting Dental and Vision have been reinstated. The approval of the Waiver was suspended by the Courts. An updated waiver is now being considered by CMS. No decisions have been made to date. The state is preparing for when the decision is issued by CMS, but Ms. Williams did not elaborate on those preparations. As of 1/1/2019, all MCOs will require copayments from Medicaid users. If the KY Health program moves forward, those required to pay premiums will not pay copays.

Senator Gerald Neal asked question about under what authority the state found it was not allowed to waive the requirement for copays. Ms. Williams did not know, but offered to follow up with an answer.
Adrienne Bush asked about premium exemptions for medically frail/chronically homeless. Ms. Williams stated that it is the intention of the state to leave the exemption in place, however until CMS makes a decision, we won’t know what the exemption looks like.

Kelly Stephens from the Administrative Office of the Courts gave an update. The WINGS Committee (Working Interdisciplinary Network of Guardianship Stakeholders) has been tasked to widely examine the issue of adult guardianship and make recommendations. She mentioned that the new Power of Attorney law is a good way to avoid full guardianship and they are currently trying to educate the public on the law.

Melissa Benton gave an update on Serve Kentucky. Serve Kentucky administers all Americorps programs in Kentucky. They are focusing on helping agencies increase capacity with volunteers. Please contact the program officer with program ideas. Melissa also mentioned that Galaxy Digital will help agencies with organizing at no charge.

Medicaid Subcommittee – Thomas Beatty gave an update. The recent Medicaid Academy trained several agencies in how to use Medicaid billing. They are looking at additional trainings to include Housing First and Person Centered Planning. They are also working on additional funding sources. He also gave a report on SOAR and stated that there are new leadership academies coming available to train local leads. The state can send two people a year, with all expenses paid. Those interested should contact him.

Policy Update- Adrienne Bush gave the group a new talking points document on Kentucky Youth Homelessness Policy Priorities:

- Allow homeless minors to enter shelter without parental consent
- Increase homeless student graduation rates by addressing negative impact of school mobility
- Allow unaccompanied homeless youth to obtain their own birth certificate
- Provide homeless college students with priority for on campus housing

There was discussion and concern that programs were not receiving their HUD grant agreements in a timely manner because of short staffing at the HUD field office. Senator Neal graciously offered to assist agencies in working with HUD to get the agreements faster.

Senator Neal made an official request for funded agencies to provide the data as to how they are being affected by HUD’s lack of speed in getting the funding agreements out. Adrienne Bush and Curtis Staufer will take the lead in gathering the information.

Updates from Continuums of Care

*Louisville* – Maria Price gave an update for the Louisville CoC. Under the 2018 NOFA they had 35 CoC funded projects and 11 applications. Three new projects were submitted. They did not
apply for the Domestic Violence Bonus as the interested agencies could not get their application compiled in the allotted timeframe.

Since July 1, two staff at the Coalition for the Homeless have been manning the phone at the single point of entry. Since that date, they have served 80 clients who were assisted with diversion from homelessness.

Louisville was awarded the Youth Homelessness Demonstration grant for $3.5 million. They have begun planning, which has been very consumer driven and several agencies are participating.

*Lexington* – Polly Ruddick gave an update from the Lexington CoC. The CoC is working with IT to geomap the unsheltered homeless which will make it easier to serve this population. They are working with local hospitals to better coordinate on discharge planning. They are working with the Bluegrass Community Foundation on Housing First funding. The City of Lexington will have an announcement on ending veteran homelessness very soon. The Stand Down for homeless veterans had roughly half the participants as previous years, which points to a significant decrease in veteran homelessness. Lexington’s Cross-functional Team is meeting monthly to work with the highest utilizers of services in the city and hopefully move them into housing. Lexington has recently had two developers come forward who want to donate land for affordable housing.

*Balance of State* – Paul Semlisch updated the group on the Balance of State CoC. The annual statewide meeting was held in August in conjunction with the Affordable Housing Conference. The CoC continues to implement Coordinated Entry across the state. The CoC has added a board member who is formerly homeless. For the new year, the CoC will be talking to public housing authorities and asking them to set homelessness as a waiting list priority.

**Election of Vice Chair**

No nominations for Vice Chair. Adrienne will speak to people privately about being taking the Vice Chair position.

**Other Business**

Jason Dunn of Kentucky Voices for Health gave an update.

A new policy change going into effect for SNAP will require disqualification for benefits for any noncustodial parent who is behind on child support payments. There is concern that this will create food insecurity, which will lead to increased health problems, and ultimately make it more difficult for the noncustodial parent to catch up on the child support payments.

The SNAP work requirement has already taken effect across the entire state and requires able bodied persons with no children in the household to participate in work training programs.
There is an issue as the state has closed many Career Centers across the state, and the in the ones that remain open, not all offer the SNAP training services.

SNAP is using the same system as Medicaid. They are already seeing negative impacts on the SNAP population and expect that there will be similar impact on the Medicaid population once the waiver goes into effect.

The new Medicaid copays will likely keep people from accessing care. We can expect a possible emergency regulation to go into effect on December 31 to implement the copays, even if the legislative committees find that copays should not be implemented.

There being no additional business, a Motion to adjourn was made by Thomas Beatty and seconded by Melissa Benton. Motion was approved.