Homeless Leadership Board of Directors Meeting | MINUTES

October 5, 2018 – 10:00 AM – Hospice/Empath Health, Clearwater, FL

Attendees
Melissa Baird  
Rick Butler  
Duggan Cooley  
Bob Cundiff  
(Darren Waters) Bob Dillinger  
Amy Foster  
Sean McGillen (for Gualtieri)  
Donna Holck  
Beth Houghton  
Michael Jalazo

Debbie Johnson  
Eileen Long  
Michael Raposa  
Ginny Rowell  
Shadai Simmons  
Keith Sabiel  
Karen Seel  
Robbin Sotelo Redd  
Chris Steinocher

Staff
Susan Myers  
Ginny Keeter-Bodkin  
Cynthia Kazawitch  
Jack Garrett  
Brian Leapley  
Atty. Regina Kardash

1. Welcome, Introductions, Establish Quorum:

A quorum was established. Chair Foster opened the meeting at 10:05AM. The Chair introduced the new designee for Sheriff Gualtieri, Capt. Sean McGillen, new Director Shadai Simmons, and Michael Jalazo.

1a. Appointment Michael Jalazo, PERC, Service Expert: Amy Foster stated that the Providers Council, at their last meeting, appointed Michael Jalazo of PERC as Service Expert to the Board of Directors (replacing Mark Dufva). Mr. Dufva will be at the next meeting to be recognized for his service.

ACTION: Michael Raposa moved to ratify the Providers Council appointment of Michael Jalazo as Service Expert to the Board of Directors. All in favor; motion carried.

2a. Items Removed from Consent Agenda (if applicable):

Agenda items included Board Meeting Minutes September, Executive/HMIS Minutes, System Redesign and Providers Council minutes July, Financials August, Committee Reports September, CEO Update, Board Attendance through 8.31.18.

ACTION: Michael Raposa moved approval of consent agenda as presented; seconded by Sean King. All in favor; motion carried.

3. Public Comment/Good News: Theresa Jones of the City of St. Petersburg Social Action Funding for 2019 was approved by City Council yesterday; an additional $100,000 went to SAF. Also, this year an additional $150,000 has been approved in the budget for added beds at WestCare for opioid addiction.

4. August 2018 Data Summary Report:

The Chair stated that this is an Informational item, unless there are questions. Sean King inquired whether Negative Exit Destinations due to late curfew at Safe Harbor has been addressed; per Staff, the Data and System Performance Committee has made that change would now reflect as Unknown. Discussion followed on PHMIS Entry/Exits and programmatic entries vs. Inflow to know what we are targeting for prevention and diversion. Work is being done to identify a mechanism to more clearly define; it is a difficult process. Per Michael Raposa, Pinellas was selected as one of eleven pilot sites selected by the VA for Rapid Resolution under the SSVF Project. Lessons learned are that we are at a 100% successful with diverting first time touches to the system, but the rate drops with cyclical users. The cost savings for diversion are remarkable. Importance of diversion and data on first time touch to system. Susan Myers
stated that two new Diversion Specialist positions (one at Safe Harbor) are coming online from County funding, as well as one through Foundation for a Healthy St. Pete in South County to focus on families with children. Michael Raposa added that SVDP has contracted with the Cleveland Mediation Center to come here the week of November 5th to do five days of training including Train the Trainer. Further discussion on diversion and how that data will be captured; HLB will be working with DSP Committee on that.

ACTION: Bob Cundiff moved approval of the August 2018 Data Summary as presented; seconded by Beth Houghton. All in favor; motion carried.

5. Homeless Response System Redesign Implementation Plan Review: Susan Myers reviewed the Implementation Plan that was in the packet; it has been represented here several times. She reviewed ‘big bucket’ accomplishments: Coordinated Entry now fully implemented (four Navigators and a Director); Housing First has been adopted as a strategy and philosophy; Using Data more effectively as the HLB has assumed the HMIS role; Data and System Performance drafting new policies and procedures; System Benchmarks have been developed; the Funders Council now receives quarterly data on funded projects and how they are performing; and the System Redesign Committee continues to monitor progress of the system plan. CEO Myers shared that the largest needs to be focused on are 1) Front Door - still weak 2) Back Door (Affordable Housing).

6. Update on Meeting with Pinellas County School Board: Chair Foster wanted to share this information here in the Sunshine; Attorney Kardash will provide minutes from a joint meeting between the HLB and the School Board. As we continue to focus on homeless families and the advocacy that needs to be done there, discussion continues for the need for data sharing with the School Board. Board member Eileen Long assisted in setting a meeting with members of the HEAT Team, Amy Foster, and Susan Myers (Attorney Kardash also attended) to talk about data needs and ways to collaborate. Three specific asks were made 1) to receive data, more than once a year, in aggregate format (containing no identifying information) on McKinney-Vento students. This seemed well received, but this data sharing has been a problem in the past. Last year the St. Pete Housing Authority and the School Board did not send data. 2) Optimally, have the HEAT Team (or Social Worker or other) use HMIS to best serve their clients. HMIS is the only way to know what beds available and which services families are touching. That ask may not be an easy lift. The School Board attorney express concern with sharing that data, and there are issues with their staff being overburdened. The HEAT Team does not case manage. 3) The HLB/CoC would provide the tools and resources including funding for needed licenses to view HMIS to better serve their clients. That was perceived as too labor intensive. Other Continuums have ‘view’ access and some also enter data. There seemed to be reluctance. It did not feel as if progress was made at this meeting.

The Advocacy for Families Committee met on Monday and an infographic is being created that illustrates data from the School Board on how many homeless children there are and how that affects outcomes including that is the definition of homeless. The infographic can help us with our advocacy campaign. HLB Staff is drafting an End User Agreement which will put something on paper to help move the conversation along. Staff is also creating a list of what data points would be requested and how often, so the ask is clearer. Data by school would be most helpful.

The Advocacy Committee discussed that we should consider using our sphere of influence to start with one school at a time entering data. Department of Education briefs indicate that when a parent signs the paper that their child fits the McKinney-Vento definition of homeless, there could be a box to check ‘if you’d like assistance, please indicate that you are willing to share this information’. This is allowable per (FERPA) Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act. That may be an easy way to solve any legal issues. At Monday’s Family Advocacy Committee meeting, every member agreed to reach out to a School Board member and share the data packet and ask, however, a call was returned by School Board attorney advising against School
Board members speaking with Advocacy Committee members. The School Board should be making decisions, not administration. The Chair wanted to share this information in the Sunshine at this meeting. The Chair asked for HLB Director/School Board member Eileen Long’s input. She said that Donna Sicilian did meet with the Board Attorney, David Koperski. There is a workshop on October 16th and Ms. Long has asked for this to be placed on the agenda and conversation will take place.

Discussion followed on contacting the Florida Attorney General for clarification; not intending to be adversarial, but to assist the system. Beth Houghton stated that she will contact School Board members to voice her concerns and encouraged others to follow their conscience. Ms. Long stated that anyone can attend the workshop on the October 16th, but not speak; she indicated that she would bring letters from this Board to that meeting if needed, please email them to her. The regular School Board meeting is on the 23rd and attendees are allowed 3 minutes to speak. The Chair thanked Eileen Long for her advocacy.

Public Comment: Scott, who identified as Homeless Man, shared information about his experiences. Gary MacMath of Boley reminded everyone that this is an election year and to act accordingly.

The Chair stated that she is placing a public records request that will include copies of data sharing agreements with other entities; that may be a starting place. Eileen Long asked for all topics for discussion with the School Board be listed on a sheet for her; Regina Kardash and Susan Myers will prepare, and it was requested to send a copy all Board members.

7. USICH Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness: Susan Myers spoke about USICH Home, Together Plan (which was provided in meeting packet); this is the successor to the Opening Doors Plan – and the introduction the HLB’s next strategic Plan. The new plan key points are to - Increase Affordable Housing Opportunities, Strengthen Prevention and Diversion Tactics, Creating Solutions for Unsheltered Homeless, Help People to Find Employment Success and Use the experience of Formerly Homeless. Population Specific Goals. This new plan does not use deadlines but encourages communities to make their own; we will be setting our own as a CoC. USICH will be developing criteria that we will respond to as a CoC. There are eight objectives in four categories and Ms. Myers reviewed them. Strengthening partnerships across systems is stressed – and using measurable, achievable goals with best use of data metrics. This plan leads to the HLB’s next Strategic Planning process and a target data is in the Spring for the System Redesign Committee to focus on how the CoC will move forward.

Brief discussion followed including affordable housing and the Tropicana Field land. The Chair stated that the City’s strategic plan includes affordable housing and a presentation on that may be a good idea. Attorney Kardash stated that FS Chapter 163 requires housing impact statements in land development.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00PM.