![Western Virginia Continuum Of Care logo]

CoC General Meeting Minutes
10am-12pm, August 8ᵗʰ, 2024

Welcome and Introductions

- Kaitlin Heatwole provided an overview of the CoC's geographic area, mission, goals, and the services that CoC agencies provide

Agency updates

- **AIDS Response Effort** (Zanata Fenn): temporarily moving from Picadilly office during window replacement over the next few weeks
- **Shenandoah Alliance for Shelter** (Katie Furneisen): still seeking applications for CHI position
- **Valley Health** (Jason Craig): starting 2026 plan, will be conducting surveys to community and looking for input from CoC agencies
- **Phoenix Project** (Avery Harper): Avery is the new director at Phoenix Project
- **Faithworks** (Bob Boulter) – United Way's VAN is closing, which will impact nonprofits in the northern Shenandoah Valley. Sandy Webster at Faithworks is coordinating meetings to discuss how to respond and adapt.
- **Network 2 Work** (Paula Woods) is interested in filling some of those gaps as possible
- **Harrisonburg Redevelopment and Housing Authority** (Michael Wong): HRHA has a shortfall for HCVs; in order to avoid terminating any current recipients, they are pausing any new issuances and will be closing the waitlist soon for the remainder of the year (this does not affect project-based housing or mainstream non-elderly vouchers)
- **HCHC Care Management** (Kim Whetzel): will be closed the week of September 2 for office move to third floor of 25 W Water St

CoC Committee Updates

- **Compliance & Evaluation (Katie Furneisen)**
  - in the middle of doing agency site review for VHSP recipients (have completed ChoIces, ARE, First Step, HCHC, Mercy House)
- **Data Committee (Rachel Rivera)**
  - Submitted VHSP performance metrics to Executive Committee for review
  - Posting visualizations of System Performance Measures on the CoC website to compare our CoC's outcomes with state and national averages
  - PIT revisions for January 2025 and potential for summer PIT count next year
  - Discussing how to close the loop to thank PIT respondents and share information
  - Still seeking deputy chair position
- **Media & Advocacy Committee (Megan Bly)**
  - Updating language and appearance of CHI flowchart

- - - o Creating visualizations to explain HUD's definitions of homelessness and program eligibility
  - **Best Practices Committee (Matt Tibbles)**
    - o Hasn't met frequently over the summer
    - o Examining how rural/urban differences affect best practices
  - **Executive Committee (Michael Wong)**
    - o Did not meet in July due to timing conflict with NAEH conference in DC
    - o Large docket of policy revisions for review next week
  - **Work groups and advisory committees**
    - o Built for Zero case conferencing meetings happen monthly to coordinate case management for chronically homeless individuals
    - o People with Lived Experience committee will coordinate Peer Panel
    - o CHI process has been maintained by Mila Sanchez during the SAS personnel gap

Info Session: FY 2024 HUD Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for CoC Program Competition
- Michael Wong provided an overview of the current grant application, which [HUD published on July 31, 2024](#)
- New components include the following:
  - o Building an effective workforce is a new priority
  - o 2-year grant cycle for NOFO applications (FY 2024 and FY 2025, with new priority listing for FY 2025 in August of next year)
  - o Tier 1 is set at 90% of the CoC's Annual Renewal Demand (ARD), which has not yet been released for 2024
  - o Cost of living adjustments for select grants (HMIS and supportive services)
- Eligible project types remain unchanged from previous years
- For the current FY 2023 fiscal year (Which runs from July 2024-June 2025), the ARD was 361236 and we received 115% of it:
  - o $50,019 for Planning
  - o $84072 for HMIS
  - o $282,924 for PSH through Northwestern CSB
- HUD's policy priorities remain the same as last year, with the exception of adding "building an effective workforce"

Break

Collaborative session for strategic planning
- Michael Wong used Menti to solicit responses from in person and online participants to four questions, which were then voted on to prioritize.
  - o *Note: the following percentage totals combine duplicate entries, i.e. "emergency shelter," "shelter," and "Shelters". See attached PDF of methodology, summary visualizations, and a record of all responses and votes.*

- **What is the greatest challenge in addressing housing instability in our CoC?**
  - Affordable housing was the overwhelming response (90% of votes)
  - Other responses included affordable AND accessible housing, housing supply, limited program resources, access to services, cost of living, and financial barriers
- **What are our top opportunities to reduce the number of families (households) experiencing homelessness in our CoC?**
  - Zoning revisions and landlord recruitment received the highest single vote score (22%)
  - Other popular responses were more affordable housing (15%), more permanent supportive housing (12%), employment programs (8%), and operating master leases (8%).
  - Additional ideas included ongoing support/case management, mental health services, rental assistance, transportation, more flexible funding requirements, more shelter beds, and prevention
- **Recommended funding priorities?**
  - The top three funding priorities were rental assistance (20%), shelter (20%), and permanent supportive housing (18%)
  - Other funding priorities included employment programs (15%), joint transitional housing/rapid rehousing programs (15%), prevention (11%), and street outreach (2%)
- **Which CoC service needs to be expanded the most?**
  - Shelter was the top priority for expansion (27%)
    - verbal discussion focused this need in the NSV region (Shenandoah/Page counties as well as Winchester, Frederick, Clarke, and Warren for year-round, low-barrier shelters for individuals)
  - Next priorities included permanent supportive housing (19%), rapid rehousing (17%), and transitional housing (14%)
  - Other ideas mentioned included prevention (10%), mental health (6%), HOPWA (5%), and street outreach (2%)

Info session continued
- CoC funding priorities include renewal of current projects (PSH and HMIS); most recent attempt of adding a new project for SSO-CE was not successful
- Projects that address domestic violence, youth, and LGBTQ populations receive bonus prioritization
- The schedule has not been finalized by the compliance and evaluation committee, but the following dates are set based on grant requirements:
  - Announcement: July 31, 2024
  - Intent to submit: sometime in August (TBD)
  - Submission of grant: No later than September 29, 2024
  - Scoring of the CoC application: early October, 2024
  - Notice of project acceptance/rejection: No later than October 15, 2024
  - Final application submission: October 30, 2024

- All information will be posted on the CoC website and shared via email as soon as possible
- Resources for application:
  - HUD's e-snaps: https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/e-snaps/
  - System Award Management: https://sam.gov/content/home
  - National Alliance to End Homelessness: https://endhomelessness.org/blog/creating-an-effective-homelessness-system-leveraging-the-fy24-25-coc-program-competition-nofo/
  - Western VA CoC website's Federal Grant resources page, where materials will be posted: https://continuumofcare513.com/preventing-homelessness-coc-grant/

Open discussion
- Jason Craig from Valley Health asked, "how often are staff in a situation where they are a victim of violence (verbal or physical)?"
  - Consensus was that verbal threats/violence is a regular (daily/weekly) occurrence
  - Physical violence is less common, but becoming more frequent in recent years

Announcements
- Upcoming trainings in Woodstock (part 2 and 3)
  - August 15th: Trauma-informed interviewing and conflict resolution
  - September 5th: Peer Perspectives Panel
- Next general meeting: October 10, 2024, 10am-12pm
  - The perch at Magpie, Wing Gallery (85 W Gay St, Harrisonburg VA 22802)
- Reach out to Allison Henry, Michael Wong, or Kaitlin Heatwole if you are interested in submitting a project application to the HUD NOFO
  - Jason Craig expressed interest in Valley Health being a health partner for potential applications

Minutes submitted by Kaitlin Heatwole