

2.20.2024 SMAC Governing Board Meeting Notes

1. Welcome and Introduction

2. Governing Board Election Update

Returning members:

Kamaria Toulon

Jen Romero

Jaime Wilkins

New members:

Marla Dotson (Director's Council)

Ieasha Wofford (Director's Council)

Mica Bingel (Hope 4 Youth)

Trisha Cook (CommonBond)

3. Hennepin County Legislative Policy Proposal

Shelter Demonstration Pilot Proposal (**Incl. with notes**)

If passed, SMAC might be able to access \$6.7-8M towards eligible activities (incl. shelter and case management).

Questions:

Is it being endorsed by Minnesota Coalition of the Homeless?

Not opposed but have some questions around who would benefit from this.

Some concern about this not being statewide.

Greater MN involvement? Who from Greater MN is endorsing or benefiting from this?

St. Louis County has endorsed. Others are interested in learning more about what this will entail and/or who could access it.

If passed, who would we be reporting to?

SMAC would receive a portion and determine allocation within our communities (5-county suburban metro)

Workgroup to determine distribution, allocation, etc.

Would there be a willingness for direct allocation to counties?

Not yet determined.

Would MESH or ICA administer the funds for SMAC?

Not yet determined.

Likely wouldn't start until 2026, which would provide some space for fiscal management. Legislation, as is, will seek to be as flexible as possible. Written in a way that would be from the lens of Hennepin or Ramsey Counties, which are one county CoCs.

Ask: Does our Governing Board endorse this legislative proposal?

Jeff made a motion, Cherita seconded the motion.

This vote does not reflect the opinions of agencies that employ our Governing Board members.

Quorum was not reached – there will need to be outreach to GB members that were not present during this conversation.

4. NOFO Updates (FRM, Reallocations, SPM)

Information and updates on Notices of Funding Opportunity, including Financial Reporting Manuals, Reallocations, and Single Point of Entry.

Project name	Agency Name	Award Amount 2022	Award Amount 2023	% Adjustment from 2022 - 2023
SCDCAP Consolidated PSH	CAP Agency	\$155,455.00	\$164,719.00	5.96%
SMAC PSH Project	CAP Agency	\$305,269.00	\$322,273.00	5.57%
Dakota Permanent Supportive Bryant & Aldrich Operations Renewal	CAP Agency	\$33,775.00	\$35,735.00	5.80%
Scott Carver HUD Rapid Re-housing	CAP Agency	\$206,780.00	\$217,160.00	5.02%
CCCCA CoC PSH	Carver CDA	\$148,363.00	\$159,619.00	7.59%
Granada Renewal	CommonBond	\$23,735.00	\$24,815.00	4.55%
Hearth SMAC	Hearth Connection	\$200,425.00	\$210,001.00	4.78%
Hearth SMAC CES	Hearth Connection	\$259,604.00	\$259,604.00	0.00%
Hearth SMAC CES Expansion Plus	Hearth Connection	\$29,095.00	\$29,095.00	0.00%
MN HMIS SMAC Renewal FY22	Hearth Connection	\$140,872.00	\$140,872.00	0.00%
Permanent Housing for Chronic Homeless	MHR	\$226,501.00	<i>Transferred (See Below)</i>	4.09%
HUD Metro Renewal Application	Avivo	<i>Transferred to Avivo between 2022-2023 grant cycle</i>	\$236,159.00	
Supportive Housing Program - Dakota	Dakota County	\$659,634.00	\$701,346.00	6.32%
The Link SMAC Youth Rapid Rehousing Program	The Link	\$656,797.00	\$684,457.00	4.21%
The Link Youth PSH	The Link	\$155,126.00	\$160,970.00	3.77%
Tubman TH & RRH for Youth Survivors Renewal	Tubman	\$260,788.00	\$266,944.00	2.36%
Washington Cares	Washington County CDA	\$317,988.00	<i>Reallocated (See Below)</i>	1.68%
MN One Stop Permanent Supportive Housing	Mn One Stop	<i>Reallocated from Washington Cares</i>	\$323,432.00	
Welcome Home Washington	Solid Ground	\$282,633.00	\$293,037.00	3.68%
SMAC Planning Grant	Hearth	\$123,202.00	\$205,236.00	66.58%
TOTAL		\$4,186,042.00	\$4,435,474.00	5.96%
Projects included on 2023 NOFO that were not funded				
Mosaic	Canvas Health			<i>Not Applicable</i>
ICA Expansion	Institute for Community Alliances			
Prairie Pointe - PSH	Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative			
Southern Valley Alliance - THP (DV Bonus)	Southern Valley Alliance			

Tier 1 Projects were funded
FMR increase across all projects.
Lost 1 project: Not included in Tier 1
No bonus projects were funded.
New project – reallocated project.

SMAC Planning Grant: This increase will secure our CoC Coordinator Position and may position us to add an additional staff to carry out the work of SMAC Coordinator.

There will be an opportunity for debrief after scores are released from HUD. Anticipating that we may have additional information ahead of our next GB meeting to help inform how to better position ourselves for accessing support for Bonus Projects in the future.

5. Continuum of Care (CE) Updates

Updates on ongoing CE activities.

How can we work on the front end of our system? Redesign to offer more services to the folks who cannot access supportive housing

TA Request submitted to HUD last week, likely to hear back in a month or so.

This would be to focus on whether we want to make a big change to our CE System and what do these changes look like. This will heavily rely upon GB member thoughts and votes.

There will be needs for significant involvement with Dusty (TA Provider)

Currently, Director’s Council and Coordinated Entry Committees will be heavily involved. If you’re interested in participating, it would be a great opportunity to join CE Committee, which can be done by emailing Liz: liz@mesh-mn.org

This additional TA

Policy and Procedures discussion:

Exploring how we want to proceed with reviewing policies on an annual basis to offer suggestions for edits:

Identified expertise areas for the dedicated positions within different committees

Committees carry out the majority of the work and then reviewing the proposed changes with the Governing Board.

Standing agenda item to review policy changes - high level overviews to keep the board informed, but allow committees to make policy changes at the committee level

Vote in March to determine our path forward for information sharing around P&P changes in the future

List of folks with access to CE assessment is getting cleaned up! If you've not yet completed the trainings to update their assessment, please encourage staff to do so! Permissions will be removed for people that haven't completed this by the end of February.

6. **Housing Inventory Count (HIC) Updates**

Data was due on 2/9. ICA is currently reviewing and working with PIT Leads and Laquita to complete data clean-up around PIT

HIC: If you haven't done so, please make sure you have updated all of your HIC information. Additional communication may come from ICA and/or Laquita re: clean-up information.

Housing Support – LTH: Providers need to update their agency information and add in their bed capacity in this list.

These numbers represent the total stock of bed capacity for our region. Consistency in what's being reported and unit utilization inform our scoring metrics around NOFO time.

7. **Distribution List Clean-Up**

Needing to update distribution lists. If you don't currently receive communication, please reach out to Laquita (laquita@mesh-mn.org) or Liz (liz@mesh-mn.org) – this is an attempt to make sure all GB information is distributed to the right folks in a timely manner.

8. **PATH/HSASMI: Apply Letter of Support**

For those interested in applying for PATH or HASAMI grants, please come prepared to discuss your intentions for 2-5 minutes. We encourage you to share your plans for implementing and utilizing the grants.

LSS: Anoka project was renewed (HSASMI) – Scattered-site housing in Anoka and Hennepin County. Coupled with HTF Vouchers (HPH & SPMI Diagnosis)

Guild: PATH Services in Anoka(?), Carver, and Dakota County – Expansion on existing outreach work in Dakota and Scott Counties. Supports individuals experiencing literal homelessness who have an identified SMI/SPMI Diagnosis.

Washington County: HSASMI Grant application for the work that their outreach/services team completes.

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Shelter Demonstration Pilot Proposal:

Problem Statement:

Lack of coordination among system partners and government fail to make homelessness rare, brief, and non-reoccurring. Overreliance on local property taxes disincentivizes stronger county leadership in addressing homelessness.

Proposed Approach:

Metro focused demonstration program to incentivize county level leadership across the homelessness continuum.

Program Elements:

- Five-year pilot program
- \$54 million annually for the program.
- Inspired by metro demonstration program for housing with supports/group residential housing.
- Addresses critical systems gaps- particularly crisis response and operations/services for emergency shelter.
- Fills gaps existing programs do not fund:
 - Crisis response services
 - Shelters and outreach
 - Diversion
 - Unsheltered navigation services
 - Housing focused case management
 - Other critical services
- Emergency Shelter Programs were designed with shelters in mind, not for the entirety of the continua of care.
- Flexibility for counties to address unique approaches and target populations.
- Counties direct funding to providers to address unmet needs and serve target populations.
- Criteria:
 - HUD's identified continuums of care
 - There are three in the metro area.
 - DHS to select one non-metro awardee. Recommend selecting continuum with the highest HUD score.
 - Formula funded based on percentage of the *Homeless Point in Time Count*
- Counties/awardees need autonomy to direct funding to most critical areas of need and partners.

Benefits/Outcomes:

- Improved accountability to make homelessness rare, brief, and non-reoccurring.
- State level incentives to step up in proactive systems design and operations.
- Improved stability for vulnerable families.
- Improved access to shelter



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- Stronger supports in exiting shelter and entering long term housing.
- Clearer governmental accountability for delivery of effective homelessness services
- Ensuring target populations are equipped with the knowledge to uplift themselves through resource access and awareness.
- Strengthens the crisis response system while affordable and supportive housing are in development through the new Metro Housing Sales Tax and Statewide Affordable Housing Aid.
- Ensure existing programs can fulfill their intended purpose and are not expected to be reallocated outside of their scope.

Hennepin Sample Priorities:

- Single adults
- Families
- Emergency Shelter providers
- Unsheltered homelessness