SMAC Governing Board Minutes

December 18, 2020

Attendees: Liz M, Ann L, Barbara S, Betty N, Daniel LS, Denise S, Doreen F, Jenelle S, Kristen B, Matt L, Michele Reid, Rochelle W, Rebecca B, Dana D, James B, Jen R, Kelina M, Trisha CK.

1. Introductions

1. Approve November minutes

Motion Doreen,

Second Dana

1. Update
   1. Coordinated Entry
      1. Chronic numbers for Youth and Families- numbers of chronic is less or equal to exits.
      2. Centralized Access- Directors Council idea. Met with Carver/Scott and Washington. Plan to meet Anoka and Dakota in January.
   2. SPARC
      1. Met with Anoka and Dakota local groups. Plan to meet with Carver/Scott and Washington to share findings and recommendations.
      2. Looking for committee members – we recognize that moving forward we need a larger team to support the recommendations.
      3. Group will start meeting again in January to put together a work plan for 2021
   3. CHAP
      1. CHAP applications closed 12/7.
      2. TSA and HousingLink are continuing to work to process applications and get payments out. Agencies can continue making payments through the end of January.
      3. $6 million for requests from the TSA program. Unsure what may be left unpaid at the end of January. Both agencies will be working as quickly as they can to get as much of the money out to people as possible.
      4. Any update from Dakota’s program
   4. NOFA
      1. No official update to share just likely there will not be a NOFA this year. Need Congress to act on legislation to make that official. Assumption is all grants will be funded at the level of 2019 awards.
2. Governing Board Infrastructure progress report
   1. Bylaws changes are being reviewed by all local groups in December/January
   2. Bylaws changes will be voted on by the board in the February meeting
   3. Application materials for new board members were sent out early last week. Encourage BIPOC and those with lived experience.
   4. Applications are due January 11 and new board members will be announced at the January Governing Board meeting
   5. Joint meeting of current and new Board in February and new Governing Board will start in March.
3. Point in Time Discussion and Vote
   1. As briefly discussed last month, HUD is giving CoCs the option to request an exemption from part or all of the unsheltered count in 2021. After the last Governing Board meeting a SMAC team from local groups met to discuss SMAC’s approach to the PIT for 2021.
   2. Overview of SMAC specific discussion. All SMAC counties had already agreed to NOT do an unsheltered count of any kind.
   3. Following the SMAC conversation, the State also made the recommendation that we put in a statewide exemption request to HUD.
   4. This board needs to approve a motion to allow us to participate in a statewide exemption request. If the statewide request does not move forward for some reason then the motion should also include the ability for SMAC to submit an exemption request on its own.
4. Jen makes motion to not do unsheltered count, go with the statewide exemption. If the state does not go forward SMAC would submit and exemption. Second from Dana. Motion carries.
5. The sheltered count will still take place. There is work being done right now to figure out how to accurately capture all of the COVID specific shelter that has been developed over the past few months both on the PIT and the HIC. More to come as we move forward with that planning.
6. We will be trying to figure out other ways to get a count of unsheltered homelessness using HMIS data, outreach data that may not be in HMIS and CES data but again, more to come on what that will end up looking like.
7. What happens in January?
   1. Community specific
      1. Anoka County – hotel program handed off to the shelters in January. Applied for 100,000 for UCARE to mirror CARES dollars. Was approved. Will be rolling out to provide direct financial assistance to those impacted by COVID.
      2. Washington County – continuing shelter with ESP 100,000 grant. Through at least March but have a plan that should last until the summer months. Currently at 55 rooms. Will need to slowly reduce that. Rental assistance will also continue. Trying to stretch those as well.
      3. Dakota – Went to Board to continue rent assistance (both landlord and tenant programs). Hotel Shelter will continue, Board approved more money to support this program to expand capacity. Ally has long wait list. Matrix has 40 rooms and will be increasing to 50 rooms.
      4. Since hotel shelters came on, drop in need for SRO and some have left their housing to go to hotel shelter. Matrix have let guests know that they cannot deny referrals or apartments unless they have a valid reason.
      5. In Washington County, families are preferring hotel shelter model. Good reminder to design a response system that meets what people need and want.
      6. To the county staff, the funding made available to housing providers, thank you for your hard work.
      7. What can we be doing to targeting these resources to those that need them the most, including those disproportionately impacted?
      8. Expecting a cliff where more people will be impacted and the funding the counties have will not meet the need. Eviction moratorium will result in more people needing assistance.
      9. Additional concern that leases will not be renewed.
      10. Liz will look at data to see how racially diverse outreach clients are.
   2. Funding options
      1. UCARE