SMAC Governing Board Minutes

February 19, 2021

Attendees: Alyssa, Barb, Carla W, Denise, Doreen F, Eric G, Kamaria T, Kristen B, Matt L, Michele R, Jen R, Ann L, Liz M, Jarahia, Kelina M, Daniel LS, Rukhsana G, Heather D, Kesha B, James B, Betty N, Corey S, Rochelle W

1. Introductions

1. Approve January minutes – Dan mad motion, Doreen 2nd, minutes approved
2. Update
   1. Coordinated Entry
      1. Chronic numbers for Youth and Families
         1. Benchmark 1
            1. 2 new families but had 3 people exit
            2. More youth entered homelessness than exited
         2. Benchmark 2
            1. 15 chronic families but 14 have referrals
            2. 7 of 8 chronic youth have active referrals
         3. Benchmark 4
            1. Families up to 163 days vs 154 July – Dec
            2. Youth down to 114 compared to 126 July - Dec
      2. Eligibility Review
         1. CE committee reviewed all programs that take referrals through CE.
         2. Decided that the new board will review eligibility for each supportive housing project.
   2. SPARC
      1. Presentation with Shakopee Diversity Alliance on 2/22
      2. Need to schedule time to present SPARC findings with Washington County
      3. Continue to look for opportunities to connect with communities including Police Departments, Landlord, groups etc. to address the disparities on a larger scale.
      4. Open to other groups focused on diversity events. Reach out to Kelina.
   3. CHAP/New funding
      1. CHAP officially ended accepting applications 12/7/20. Program administrators ended their work at the end of January. MN Housing is working on the remaining 2000 submitted applications.
      2. New money in the amount of 375 Million across state with Dakota, Washington and Anoka receiving their own allocations. RFP to assist people access the new money. CERA (COVID Emergency Rental Assistance) there are a couple avenues for tenants and landlords to get caught up on rent. Can go back to March 2020 for rent and some utility assistance. Only available to renters. Webinar on 2/22 and application is due 2/25
   4. NOFA/PIT/HIC/SPMs
      1. NOFA – Application that HUD puts out for continuums to apply for federal dollars to implement supportive housing.
         1. All 2020 grants were renewed at 2019 levels without having to apply
         2. Registration for 2021 NOFA is due in March. So there will be a
         3. New Board will need to establish a Project Monitoring and Evaluation Committee (formerly ranking committee) to finalize scoring tool and score applications
      2. PIT – Point in Time Count done every year.
         1. Requires by federal government to count number of unsheltered and sheltered count of individuals. The shelter count is being done all in HMIS. Information not in HMIS was due into the PIT live tool by 2/16. Operations committee went through COVID shelters to find projects not in entering shelter stays in HMIS. Abby is working through complications with Domestic Violence shelters to get accurate count of SMAC individuals staying in those shelters
      3. HIC – Housing Inventory Chart
         1. Submitted to HUD to see if we are increasing capacity.
         2. Abby will be working with providers in mid-March to collect the data
      4. System Performance measures
         1. 7 performance measures
         2. Data due to HUD in early March
         3. Abby will share SMAC results in coming governing board meeting
         4. If you are a new board member and would like more information, this will be coming in new board member orientation or you can reach out to Abby for more information
3. Overview of 2020 Accomplishments
   1. Directors Council – started in 2020. Made up of leaders who have lived experience of homelessness. Goal is to help shape our response for those experiencing homelessness and hopefully one day end homelessness.
   2. SPARC- started training, reviewed HMIS data, qualitative data gathered by holding listening sessions. Used this to develop priorities to address racial disparities in SMAC:
      1. New board infrastructure that is diverse and incorporates the Directors Council
      2. Add a navigator to help BIPOC individuals access the system
      3. Re-prioritization of CES (youth as a proxy for race equity)
   3. Veteran Declaration – SMAC received the declaration that shows that we have a procedure in place that assists a veteran if they are in transition, in need of housing or at risk. The process ensures that if a veteran does experience homelessness it will be brief and non-recurring. Proof that is possible to end homelessness in our community.
   4. CHAP Regional Planning – Group of providers worked together to help keep people housed by paying rent and utilities. Came together to support people at risk of homelessness during the pandemic.
   5. COVID survival – plans for 2020 workgroups and continued work were put on hold as we transitioned to virtual planning and meeting to keep each other safe during the pandemic. COVID was a catalyst for change.
   6. Increase shelter capacity – resources were available to increase shelter capacity. All counties came together to plan and meet the needs of people in our communities
   7. Influx of resources and collaborative planning
4. Priority Setting 2021

* Governing Board
* Youth Needs/Gaps Analysis and Planning – Based on youth numbers in the CES Priority Pool, Abby will be starting a group in March
* Expanding Move On – move people onto PSH to section 8 or Housing Choice Vouchers
* Mapping a Plan for Affordable Housing Development – have a shortage of affordable housing in Metro. Where does SMAC play a role in increasing affordable housing in the region.
* Coordinated Entry
* Centralized Access Development – Directors Council had idea and brought to CE committee and counties. Need to simplify how people get connected to housing resources across the region. Would like one access point to so anyone experiencing homelessness would only have one place to look
* Housing Stabilization Services Integration – new service through Medical Assistance for people with a disability. Gives person a case manager to obtain or maintain housing.

1. Bylaw Updates

* The bylaw updates allow for the infrastructure changes to take place. Voting on the updates allow for new voting members to take on their voting roles at the March Governing Board meeting.
* Heather moves, Dan 2nd, motion carries

1. Communication Plan

Purpose: To develop a more intentional process for connection between local heading home groups and the SMAC Governing Board and committees.



Expectation for ALL SMAC Governing Board members –

* Must develop a connection with each local community that you report to represent. This could include:
  + Attending local meetings monthly
  + Getting on to the local meeting distribution list and reading meeting minutes each month
  + Building a relationship with the local chair and/or county staff lead and connect monthly for relevant updates

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| Group | Updates | Upcoming work/agenda items | Decision Points |
| SMAC Governing Board |  |  |  |
| Coordinated Entry Committee |  |  |  |
| Directors Council |  |  |  |
| Operations Committee |  |  |  |
| Project Monitoring and Evaluation |  |  |  |
| SPARC |  |  |  |

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| Local Group | Updates | Upcoming work/agenda items | Decision Points |
| Anoka  (Heading Home Anoka) |  |  |  |
| Dakota  (Affordable Housing Coalition) |  |  |  |
| Carver/Scott  (Heading Home Scott-Carver) |  |  |  |
| Washington  (Heading Home Washington) |  |  |  |

1. Reflections and acknowledgment of outgoing board members (Matt/Rochelle)