SMAC Governing Board Minutes

July 17, 2020

Attendance: Abby Guilford, Liz Moen, Alyssa, Ann Lindquist, Anne Applebaum, Barb Sopp, Betty Notto, Bradley Legrid, Dan Lauer-Schumacher, Doreen Farrell, Eric Gentry, Heather Duchscherer, James Baron, Jessica Hering, Kristen Brown, Lindsay Bacher, Matt Lewis, Michele Reid, Mike Manhard, Natalie Engelmann, Peter Goldstein, Rebecca Bowers, Trisha Cummins-Kauffman, Marsha, Jenelle Schmidt, Jen Romero, Rochelle Washington, Denise S.,

1. Introductions

* Alyssa Paulson started yesterday in Priority List Manager role, used to be at People Inc.
* Qualified Allocation Plan Public Comment Deadline is July 22, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. Minnesota Housing will review and consider feedback and public comments submitted during the public comment period.

1. Approve June minutes

* Eric Motion, Dan Second, motion carried

1. Update
   1. Executive Committee
   2. Coordinated Entry Committee
      1. Don’t’ have the monitoring report back yet, hopefully talking about it in September.
   3. SPARC
2. Housing Stabilization and Coordinated Entry

We are hoping HSS can become an important part of our homeless response system, and SMAC is working with DHS to prepare for the following goals:

* Allow as many people as possible to access these services
* Utilize services to further assist people with Rapid Resolution

DHS is providing training on Housing Stabilization Services remotely on July 8th, 16th, 22nd, and 29th.

1. Eviction Prevention Rental Assistance Coordination

SMAC is committed to submitting a regional response to the RFP for the 2020 COVID Housing Assistance Program (CHAP).  SMAC will be supporting the coordination for one region wide application that will fulfill all roles needed to implement a rental assistance program to prevent homelessness across the region.  The roles that need to be included in the application include:

* SUPPORT SERVICES TO HELP HOUSEHOLDS APPLY FOR THE ASSISTANCE (OUTREACH) AND/OR TO PROVIDE LANDLORD MEDIATION SUPPORTS
* ACCESS--ONLINE APPLICATION TOOL AND/OR PHONE SUPPORT (this includes converting application responses into a sorted prioritization tool)
* CHECK CUTTER (light verification and determination of need)

1. Governing Board and Committee Structure

Recommendations from SPARC:

* Diversify voting members on the SMAC governing board and every committee with in the CoC.
* Assess policies and procedures, including any implicit biases and barriers preventing access to governing board by POC/N persons, as well as those with lived experience.

Current Structure:

* 15 Voting Members
  + 3 elected from each of the 4 Local Homeless Planning groups
  + 3 at large members that were voted on by the other Governing Board members

Proposed Structure:

* 15 voting members
  + 2 representatives from each of the 4 homeless planning groups
  + 7 at large representatives
    - 2-3 are seats for Directors Council members
* All voting members should be selected in the same way:
  + Must submit application/interest form
  + Directors Council makes all board appointments
* Comments:
  + This structure leaves very little room to increase diversity. Most of the Local Homeless Planning group membership is white, making it challenging to diversify at a SMAC level if the majority of the members are direct appointees from the local groups.
  + Scott/Carver going down to only 2 voting members is a concern

Next steps:

* Local Discussion
  + Executive Committee members will bring results of local discussion back to executive meeting
* Executive Committee to finalize new structure recommendation
  + Governing Board to vote at August meeting
  + Executive Committee will recommend timeline for board transition to be shared at August meeting