



Metro Denver Homeless Initiative - Board Meeting August 8, 2019

Role	Board Member	Present	Absent
President	Benjamin Ryan	X	
Vice President	John Feeney-Coyle	X	
VP of Continuum Activities	Elissa Hardy	X	
Secretary/Treasurer	Claire Clurman		X
Board Member	Andrew Alsip	X	
Board Member	Brenton Hutson	X	
Board Member	Karissa Johnson	X	
Board Member	Renée Belisle	X	
Board Member	Lori Rosendahl		X
Board Member	Patricia Hall		X
Board Member	Cheryl Secorski	X	
Board Member	Alix Midgley	X	
Board Member	Eugene Wade	X	
Board Member	Ken Hayes		X
Board Member	Brian Arnold	X	
Board Member	Jennifer Biess	X	
Board Member	Rachel Vaughn		X
Board Member	Shelley McKittrick	X	
Board Member	Mike Malloy	X	

Staff: Matt M., Rebecca M., Ian F., Jas F., Bethany M., Jackie H., Diane H., Megan M., Mikah W.,

Guests:

- I. Welcome and Introductions (Ben Ryan):**
- II. Consent Agenda (Ben Ryan):**

Shelley M. moves to approve consent agenda, Andrew A. seconds.

Discussion: Jennifer asked about 2020 Census and opportunities for engagement. Matt M. indicated we've sent information to the State Demographer and will continue to communicate, Diane H. indicated that other counties are working on it and she is working with Aubrey Hasvold at CCH on strategies. Shelley is working on Aurora Census team and others who are in contact with census work connect with Matt M on plans.

Shelley was not listed on the Board Roster last month and she be included on future rosters.

Vote: All approved, no opposition, no abstentions.

- III. Color of Law Equity Training (Karissa and Shelley)**

Karissa: Karissa sent out an invite for a bookclub to discuss Color of Law to about 75 people, 30 people were interested, and the group that showed up was very engaged and had meaningful



conversation. Structure of conversation was around affordability, transitions to permanent housing and evolved organically.

Shelley: Encouragement as a must read for MDHI staff & board. Honest communication and reckoning with white privilege. Multi-generational impact, NIMBY-ism is the new redlining. Felt like she had sat in City Council chambers hearing similar conversations/dog whistles around housing. Opportunity coming up to continue conversation with Marc Dones.

Jennifer: Dense book, but everyone should read it. Origins of NIMBY-ism and stories about people of color, and then policy reinforces that. New insights and appreciated the discussion, Karissa's facilitation, taking optimism and solutions to impact community locally. Appreciative to Karissa for making it happen.

Karissa: Equity & Accessibility group is bringing Marc Dones who is a national expert on race & homelessness. They will be facilitating conversations in October 17 & 18, MDHI Board is invited and it will be very educational.

Shelley: Sign-up for both days is required.

Alix: What is the scope? Certain sessions?

Karissa: Still identifying details – Marc recommended two-days, breakouts targeted towards frontline/middle-management/Executive level. Wanting to know which agencies can make a commitment to do the work.

Cheryl: Will the training focus on address racial equity and fair housing, as that is a concern for many providers?

Karissa: I will explore that with them.

IV. NOFA Applicant Workshop (Rebecca)

Rebecca: We conducted annual NOFA grantee workshop on 8/1, to discuss with renewal and new applicants the process for the NOFA.

Potential funding: listed on slides. NOFA committee will rank renewal and new projects.

Tier 1 is considered safe. HUD takes remaining dollars nationally to fill Tier 2. Top scoring communities get full Tier 2, then complicated HUD formula determines how deep into our Tier 2 they will fund. On top of Bonus, there is a DV Bonus up to \$1M. DV bonus does not necessarily count against ranked number: HUD has a national \$50M pot of money to spend on DV, then if not funded with DV \$, it will be funded from Bonus dollars, counting against our bonus allotment. This risk means that we must be strategic. Tier 1 contains our HMIS.

Cheryl: If we get YHDP, what is the development of the ranking & criteria for gaining community input.

Matt M: YHDP would have a few years to get up to speed on how a YHDP grant is ranked.



Cheryl: We should engage YAB to review and provide feedback.

Rebecca: This is the first year that other YHDP grantees are renewal. Expansion projects are an opportunity. Tons of NOFA materials on MDHI website including new elements and highlights matrix www.mdhi.org/2019_coc_nofa_headquarters

Matt M: Projects are allowed to reallocate as a transition, from RRH to PSH, for example. That has been allowed in other points during the year, but not NOFA historically. Form of reallocation means that project is not competing for new reallocated dollars, but specifically to transition that project, not a free-for-all.

Eugene: Are they graded as a new or renewal?

Matt M: They are graded as their previous project type, and given the year to transition the project. Only half of their funding can be used for the previous project type.

Shelley: I've been waiting for this change since 2013, do we think this change is indicative of not funding TH in the future? I think it is.

Andrew: VA GPD is still getting money.

Matt M: One project has indicated they are interested – they require CoC approval (it does not require Board approval, does not guarantee their ranking).

Cheryl: What are the factors that we would approve? OneHome identifying needs/gaps?

Matt M: Yes, what is their participation, or what are the reasons we wouldn't approve. We aren't looking at performance measures to decide whether or not to approve them, that will be done in the ranking process.

Ben: Who is providing approval on behalf of the CoC if not the Board?

Matt M: Matt M & the NOFA committee will provide the approval – we are saying we aren't opposed to the transition, and that project goes through the same ranking criteria. Without transitioning, projects can't change their program operations, so this allows them to evolve their project type. Is this a project type that we need? Are they filling a gap in the CoC? If they are moving into an area that isn't a project type we need, we wouldn't support the transition. We will post this information tomorrow so that all projects know this opportunity is an option, and we don't anticipate a huge amount of demand.

Rebecca: Timeline impacts the Board on internal timelines with NOFA Committee. August 23rd is the date that New and Renewal applicants will submit into the HUD portal. Week of August 26th will review applications and score them, then have committee make recommendations for a preliminary ranking to the Board on August 29th. That will be a very confidential email due to the timing.

Karissa: Can we send it encrypted? As a City or State employee we are subject to CORA so anything emailed is potentially available.



Rebecca: We will figure out how to communicate to non-conflict laden Board members, to review and approve preliminary ranking. Trying to give applicants time to put in a thoughtful application, and internal HUD timelines. Need a Board vote by September 6th – how do we proceed?

Karissa: This should be done in person.

Alix: It is the most important thing we do.

John: We shouldn't do an email exchange unless we are going to collect alternative emails.

Matt M: We will schedule an additional Board meeting to review.

V. NAEH Conference Take Aways (Bethany and Jackie)

Bethany:

NAEH attendees: Jennifer B., Matt M., Ian F., Bethany M., Jackie H., Diane H.,

- Data informed and systems based decision making; less about what my program/agency needs and more what our community needs based on data. Strong communities have a clear needs/gaps analysis and review this annually.
- The importance of problem-solving/diversion/rapid resolution as an intervention throughout the homeless crisis response system and especially the trend of digging into understanding inflow into homelessness and how to prevent that in the first place. This is a slightly new trend in the last five years and has become more and more important.
 - Shallow subsidies, preemptive eviction prevention, expanding prevention services, expanding "problem-solving case management", MTW PHA's (move to work) trying innovations to prevent next generation like targeting families at risk with kids in school, coordinating with young folks at risk b/f they are 18, etc.
- The homeless population is getting older and communities need to respond to that now, while of course not institutionalizing people, but instead providing tailored services that meet the needs of these highly vulnerable people in our community often with complex medical needs.
- Sheltering is not enough to serve people experiencing sheltered or unsheltered homelessness—there needs to be housing available and a systemic move-on strategy so that new resources don't become stagnant.

Jennifer B: Strong race & equity theme throughout the conference. A lot of when to expand shelters, how to think about encampments, the system as a whole. Shallow subsidy piece hasn't been as tested but the VA and other communities have seen improvement in high-cost markets (CA, Chicago, NY). Potential applications for RRH and HP for folks on fixed incomes.

Diane H: Big focus on inclusion for folks with lived experience. We are in process for feedback mechanisms, City of Baltimore has a structure where all committees with lived experience operated only below the Board, but above other committees. Advice to change by-laws to compensate Board members that aren't paid to do this work (likely someone who is currently homeless). Feels unreasonable to have a YAB member to come for 2+ hours for just the good of the order. Will reach out to get more information.

Karissa: I'm sold.



Ben: Surface level research on non-volunteer members, opens up a lot of regulatory requirements and liability such as insurance. I got the sense it wasn't feasible, but we should dig in more.

Shelley: In my days working on HIV, 30-50% of the council, absent remuneration we could pay for food or bus passes, etc. That is saying that you are valued and potential ways of skirting around actual payment.

Diane: Keeping in mind economic justice.

Karissa: By-laws change how? What is it going to take to explore that option? Timeline?

Ben: Typically By-Laws go through governance committee. Governance is two Mondays before the Board meeting. What Shelley is talking about don't run afoul of current by-laws, so that can happen sooner without changing by-laws. Making a change to By-Laws allowing us to compensate Board members, separate from question of do we want to, is can the Board do that? Invited to join Governance committee call.

John: As someone who has prosecuted charity fraud, it can get dicey especially when the community has known us not to be paid.

Karissa: Baltimore is doing this at the committee level, and we pay our YAB, so can it live there?

Eugene: On a State Board, every committee has to adopt the rules of the Board trickle down.

John: That may make them employees of the organization if they are paid.

Shelley: This is the hard work of Equity.

Cheryl: All YHDP grantees have a YAB member on the Board, so I can explore with those national grantees.

Ben: This is an important topic, I've heard at least 3 folks, so let's form a working group in association with Governance committee.

Karissa: Is this helpful to be tied to the lived experience working group?

Alix: Happy to liaise, but I think they should be separate.

Matt M: This properly lives as a working group out of the Governance committee per the regulatory needs. This has fiscal issues, as we have a budget that is not reflective of this impact. If it is the will of the Board, we will make it work for the Board.

Alix: What is the timeline for adding someone from the YAB?

Matt M: There isn't a timeline, and I will proceed with YAB, as it is taking a bit longer. We will discuss it this coming week.

Brian: Where are we at with folks with lived experience?



John: We are setting up interviews now, with 3 candidates for 1-2 open seats.

Mikah: Anecdotally, the YAB isn't lacking interest in participating in MDHI Board activities, the hard selling point is that the Board isn't compensated but the YAB is, and the MDHI Board has more work.

Cheryl: When did we vote to have the YAB? Because we should problem solve that.

Matt M: This is too long a delay, but this is the first I'm hearing of the barrier. I agree that there have been some process issues.

Cheryl: If there are legal ways to compensate, can we provide a bus pass or other options while we are problemsolving?

Matt M: Diane and I had a conversation just before this meeting, so we'll be looking for creative ideas that don't run afoul of regulatory.

Shelley: A dedicated donation would be useful, it doesn't have to be a lot.

John: That could help if it is donor-directed.

Alix: The Denver Foundation has the Strengthening Neighborhoods grant which is typically \$5,000 seed money.

VI. Stakeholder & Resource Council
a. NOFA Scoring Tool (Ian)

Ben R: – No one needs to excuse themselves from the discussion because we aren't voting, unless it's about their agency. But they should identify conflicts of interest for voting.

Mike M: CCH

Cheryl S: Division of Housing

Brenton H: VOA

Karissa: VOA

Matt M: We have two items for Board approval, and vetted through NOFA committee.

- 1) Renewal. We researched to find national benchmarks, and it was confirmed at NAEH that they don't exist. You will see that we are moving towards that direction so that when they come out, hopefully by next year's NOFA.
- 2) Reallocation policy is required.

Ian F: Our goal is the every renewal applicant uses these 10 metrics and is scored this way. Everything is the same except the % of adults receiving not cash benefits. Including proposed metrics for 2020 per Matt M. Not scored this year, but will be scoring next year. This is Data Timeliness, are agencies entering data within 10 days. This is to prep agencies for scores next year. NOFA comm is recommending a change in our methodology in where these metrics are pulled from. All metrics are being aligned with



HUD's metrics. Also recommending a Max Point methodology. Eliminating the previous calculation and moving to a high performer for each metric and everyone that scores within the accepted score gets points. This allows to see categories that have no high performers and allow the committee to adjust performance in those areas. Number of points allocated to each metric is adjusted to weight based on HUD's prioritization.

Matt: For MDHI CoC we see that we score well on CoC functions but score low the average due to SPM. MDHI is not expected to see an increase in SPM for this year and Matt is not optimistic to score in Tier 2. MDHI needs to focus on aligning our metrics to HUDs metrics Moving forward to benchmark to highest performer will elevate the CoC as a whole and is a positive move for the community.

Andrew A: NOFA committee was unanimous in support of this move.

Brenton H: Who was on the NOFA Committee and how was that formed?

Matt M: I was not here when the comm was formed, but I expect that it was people that we not conflicted.

Andrew A: There is regional coverage as well.

Brenton: Per last year we broke everything up by project type. Why is that changed?

Ian F: Not changed, just an example template to send to providers so project types compete only among themselves

Brenton: Has there been a discussion around the amount of resources we're allocating, are we most impactful, how are we measuring that?

Matt M: What is our strategy and how are we using resources to meet our goal of ending homelessness? I don't know how strategic we can be, we need to be and it will be useful, but looking forward to making these decisions in the future.

Brenton H: Is there something we can do as a board to direct the NOFA comm to take action that will result in answers? There are concerns that Housing First compliance and OneHome compliance points are lowered

Ian F: Housing First compliance had to have points and trying to keep in line with that. Previous tool scoring was not reflective of housing first measure. Change in the scoring was due to HUD's new measure.

Brenton H: Can you explain the definition of Housing Retention?

Ian F: We have a lot of spread around housing retention exits, and it is based on the denominator of all people exiting, versus a numerator of how many were permanent/positive v. temporary/negative.

Andrew A - Move to have board accept recommendations from NOFA committee and scoring tool

Shelley M – Seconded



Brenton H: Shouldn't OneHome be a threshold requirement instead of a scored metric if it is 100% required participation. We've been discussing this for a while and it seems like renewals shouldn't be able to apply.

Vote: Yes (Shelley M, Alix M, Andrew A, Brian A, Elissa H, Renee B, John F.), No (N/A) Abstentions (Brenton H, Karissa J, Mike M, Cheryl S),

Motion Carries.

b. Reallocation Policy (Matt)

Shelley M: Move to accept Reallocation Policy for CoC.

Andrew A: Second.

Matt M: This is designed to be consistent or in alignment with the Monitoring Plan, which takes precedence. That policy predates this policy and that policy outlines due process. If we are getting to this point in the NOFA process, and we are just now finding out about (for example) a project didn't spend down their grant, it should be made aware of earlier in the process. We are now setting a threshold 20% below top score to move the bar up for projects.

Alix M: Where does 20% come from as a numerical value?

Matt M: In the absence of having national benchmarks, we are using 20% as a rule of thumb that a program that is achieving 80% is performing well-enough. The committee may change those percentages based on the metric.

Vote: Yes (Shelley M, Alix M, Andrew A, Brian A, Elissa H, Renee B, John F.), No (N/A) Abstentions (Brenton H, Karissa J, Mike M, Cheryl S),

Motion carries.

VII. Open Forum for Stakeholder Comments and Community Announcements

Cheryl: S I want to make sure we stay on top of ongoing issues raised at previous Board meeting, such as Access Points, as an ongoing agenda item. We don't have Access Points and as a Board, that means we are missing one of the pillars of coordinated entry.

Rebecca M: We will add that to RGC's upcoming

Shelley M: Matt Bennett sessions filled up here, and Shelley has booked him for Trauma Informed Care in Aurora. See Shelley for information.

Meeting adjourned.