

## MDHI Coordinating Committee Minutes

Date: September 22, 2017

**Attendees:** Lindi Sinton (Co-chair; VOA), Rebecca Mayer (MDHI), Diane Howald (MDHI), Courtney Fischer (Irving Street Women's Shelter), Ann Gifford (RMHS), Kate Skarbek (Westminster), Cameron Shropshire (MCPN), Mandy Garman (DDRC), Tom Luehrs (St. Francis Center), Jim Boberschmidt (St. Francis Center), Kristen Baluyot (Salvation Army), Erin Iserman (Bayaud Enterprises), Kristen Baluyot (Salvation Army), Kimberly Fairbank (Salvation Army), Logan Robertson (Father Woody's), Missy Mish (VA), Diane Alumno (VA), David Riggs (ACHA), Jay Reszka (CWC), Renee Crews (Denver's Road Home), Ian Fletcher (MDHI), Allie Card (Family Promise), Alexa Wood (MCPN), Candie Madril (AHACO), Sarah Kinzer (The Gathering Place), Deborah Hopkins (Catholic Charities), Julie Smith (Office of HOPE), Sue Gilman (Bayaud/HAWC), Angela Bornemann (ACCESS housing), Laura Ware (Bayaud)

### Updates

- Cold Weather Care shelter – in Adams county, will open on October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 30-75 day winter shelter, screening/eligibility criteria.
- Family Promise – has a new diversion/prevention program, working out eligibility and referral process.
- St Francis – have storage units available on 14<sup>th</sup> Ave and Gilpin location in Capitol Hill; sign up at St. Francis.
- Father Woody's – received certificate of occupancy last week, and will open expanded Day site space for use on October 4<sup>th</sup>. Its an additional 6,200ft of program space. Open M-F 7am-1pm and offer breakfast shift and lunch shift.
- MDHI -Community launch for PIT is on October 6th. We need more people from outside Denver to join the event. We're transitioning from organizing everything through one county level coordinator to having more community involvement in planning and coordination. PIT is required, but it's also a very important number that is used by the media and by agencies and others. Challenges agencies face: not having a person specifically tasked with doing the survey; some agencies that don't receive funding from MDHI don't feel obligated to participate; JeffCo and Adams have a population that is very scattered across a large area, living in highly inaccessible encampments. Much time at the planning launch will be devoted to working on solutions to these and other concerns, and breaking into regional work groups.
- OneHome: next week is the Built for Zero annual conference here in Denver, focusing on chronic and veteran's homeless issues and convening with bigger communities like Toronto and Chicago. The RGC Retreat is next week: discussing what an ideal coordinated entry system would look like and what we need to do to make it happen.

	<p>The grant per-diem program: working on community referrals rather than having to go through the VA: bridge housing, low demand, clinical, hospital to home and service intensive TH. We're having a conference in November to convene PHAs and discuss the role they can play in ending homelessness, especially transitioning people that no longer need intensive services into other housing to open a place for people that do. We've started a Prevention Affinity Group to work on coordinating services across agencies. Similarly, we're looking at starting an Intersections of Homelessness and Disability group to address the challenges that can arise.</p> <p>-Next month, the Coordinating Committee will be held at Veterans Service Center at 1247 Santa Fe. Helpful parking info will be sent out ahead of time.</p>
<p><b>Denver County's Presentation</b></p>	<p>Presenter: Julie Smith, Denver Mayor's Office of H.O.P.E. julie.smith@denvergov.org</p> <p>-Coordinating housing across nine agencies to create more opportunities for growth.</p> <p>-Denver's Road Home was created in 2005, which led to much more coordination than before. In 2017, the Office of HOPE was created to increase cooperation among city agencies. Currently working under a <a href="#">5-year housing affordability plan draft</a>, which will be released this week on the website.</p> <p>-Future Initiatives: increasing PSH and supportive services; introducing shelter diversion pilot; expanding social impact bond (we've built 250 units of PSH for individuals); boosting property tax rebates for seniors, a new landlord/tenant guide -educating tenants on their rights; introducing a mediation program to prevent evictions, working to help people on 30-80% AMI</p> <p>-Recent Successes: improved investment in PSH, the implementation and expansion of OneHome, Denver Day Works has provided jobs for people and provided a forum for engaging with them about their needs and challenges. DDW has been very successful in restoring people's morale and improving their job experience--looking to expand it from 3 to 5 days per week, the new sidewalk storage space hasn't led to an increase in crime or any other reported issues</p> <p>-Challenges: 1000 people per month are moving to Denver, and 4500 to the metro area but we aren't building nearly that many new units and affordability continues to be an issue. Many of the new units last year were luxury units. Focusing on ways we can make</p>

	<p>an impact on affordability right away. Lower Income Voucher Equity (LIVE) Pilot Program: establishing the market value of a given unit, a low-income family pays 30% of that amount and the program buys out the remainder. Plus, 5% is put into savings for the family.</p> <p>-Denver required affordable housing (inclusionary housing ordinance) by either: 10% of new units must be affordable or developers can opt out by paying a fine. Many chose the latter, so Denver is focusing on raising funds to build more units and leveraging private developers to build some on their own.</p> <p>-Older shelters are being modernized</p> <p>-Working to improve training of shelter staff for LGBTQ issues to combat subtle, unspoken or unintentional discrimination</p> <p>-Criteria for success: Denver being good partners for the other metro counties and taking a regional approach, focusing on other issues such as improving health issues and finding jobs as well as focusing on housing.</p> <p>-Transportation is a real barrier for people finding and keeping jobs. How do we hire more people from Day Works program and coordinate better between agencies?</p> <p>-Reorganized commission on homelessness, applications are open now, everyone is encouraged to apply. We want to incorporate lived experience into the commission and so are looking for at least 4 people with lived experience to join. We aim to have the first meeting by the end of October.</p> <p>-\$15 million Housing Fund: 30-40% of funds going to &lt;30% AMI and below and the rest going for 30-80% AMI for the initial year.</p> <p>-Substance Abuse: increasing access to treatment, <b>“How do we make treatment as accessible as the substance”</b>. Opioid abuse is very serious, but meth is just as bad.</p>
<p><b>Hepatitis A outbreak presentation/discussion</b></p>	<p>Presenters:  Jennifer Chase, Tri-County Health Dept; jchase@tchd.org  Nicole Comstock, CDPHE; nicole.comstock@state.co.us  Carol McDonald, Denver Health, carol.mcdonald@dhha.org.</p> <p>-The number of people suffering from Hepatitis A has increased this year. So far, there have been 57 reported cases in CO. In San Diego, infections were reported in homeless and injection drug user populations. Men who have sex with men were the population</p>

	<p>most at risk historically. There have been large increases in San Diego, Utah and Los Angeles. There have been 16 deaths so far. Hep A is a viral disease transmitted through fecal-oral route, person-to-person through sexual contact, or infected needle use.</p> <p>The vaccine is also recommended for people that are serving at-risk populations. They distributed a survey for homeless service providers to better understand how we can fight this outbreak among people experiencing homelessness. We need to find housing solutions for people who are infectious to prevent the spread. They are looking into available funding to address this issue. Porto-Potties and mobile hand-washing stations are proactive strategies that have been tried with success in other cities.</p> <p>They are utilizing three-pronged approach to handling this: (1) Education/outreach, (2) vaccination, (3) environmental control measures. It has an incubation period that delays notice of infection. People are often hospitalized, but there is a low death rate with treatment. People with liver problems such as cirrhosis are at greater risk of death. They in the planning stages for releasing the vaccination. Vaccinations will likely need to be prioritized based on risk. They'll be partnering with organizations to distribute the vaccine. It is a two part-vaccine, though is effective even if only the first dose is given.</p> <p>Discussion: Events such as The Stand Down event for homeless veterans is coming up and would be a great forum for vaccinations. St. Francis Center, Denver Rescue Mission, Father Woody's were all mentioned as forums for reaching at-risk populations as well as other service providers.</p> <p>Coordinating Committee agreed to review draft materials prior to distribution for feedback</p>