

Coordinating Committee

Date: October 27, 2017

Scribe: Jared Kebbell

Attendees: Isabel McDevitt (Boulder Bridgehouse, Co-chair), David Riggs (ACHA), Kristen Baluyot (Salvation Army), Candie Madril (VISTA), Dani Paulk (Open Door Ministries), Logan Robertson (Father Woody's), Lisa Searchinger (HOPE of Longmont), Tom Luehrs (St. Francis Center), Jennifer Biess (Boulder County), Kristin Baluyot (Salvation Army), David Cornish (Salvation Army), Jared Kebbell (MDHI/AmeriCorps), Karissa Johnson (Denver's Road Home), Ilyas El-Amin (CCH), Ann Gifford (Rocky Mountain Human Services), Angela Bornemann (ACCESS Housing), Megan Morales (OneHome/VOA), Shelley McKittrick (City of Aurora), Alix Midgley (Adams County), Deanne Witzke (CCH), Lenny Ford (Denver Rescue Mission), Kathryn Messer (Jewish Family Services), Kathryn Svoboda (Catholic Charities, Marisol homes) Diane Howald (MDHI), Rebecca Mayer (MDHI)

Agency Updates

-Boulder County: they've started their new coordinated entry process and have so far screened 375 people. The assessment questions they use are tailored to the HUD guidelines so they should be compatible. They've secured a space on 30th (was Rob's Music) to be the home of their 24-7 assessment and Navigation center.

-Family Promise: prevention program started, families can call main number for screening.

-Earthlinks: participants are making gifts that are excellent for the holiday season, also looking for gift markets where they can sell. Their location is at 13th and Decatur - [Earthlinks website](#). They provide a stipend for people that work with them, persons experiencing homelessness or recently housed. They've built a community for participants, and they make honey and craft for sale to support the programming. They also have a community garden and sell the produce.

-Adams County: Alix Midgley is now working as the Homeless Liaison and is forming partnerships with other agencies in support of Adams County.

--St Francis Center – new housing project at Washington and Colfax is opening at the beginning of December and will have 50 units of supportive housing.

-VOA received a CAHBI grant funded by SAMHSA, which will help provide supportive services to match with housing.

-OneHome Youth meeting is today. OneHome Family is 11/14 at 2100 Broadway.

-CCH - 100 unit building opening soon, downtown on Broadway, part of the Social Impact Bond. They're not a part of Coordinated Entry because it serves a specific population, though they are still VI-SPDATing people.

MDHI Updates

-HMIS: vendor has been selected and things are moving along. A formal announcement will be forthcoming. Statewide governance structure is coming together. Adsystem has updates and issues are being addressed--MDHI is aware that there have been many problems. Any further issues should be reported through a ticket. CCH is issuing a report on these issues with Adsystem.

-PIT: the community launch was on 10-6, over 60 people attended. The launch went really well. MDHI shared best practices from last year, had regional breakout sessions. Efforts to map the CoC's PIT locations and discussions regarding a mobile app for conducting surveys are underway. We're doing a "blitz count" this year to improve data collection. A specialized point of contact training is needed and will be held in December.

Discussion:

Shelley – Utilized the mobile last year in Aurora. The mobile app is really easy because it doesn't have any extra cost, it can be used on people's phone and people can be trained to use it very easily. Would like to see it used CoC-wide, and there has been considerable interest.

-OneHome - Veteran data should be ready for the Salesforce platform by January. Salesforce is a bridge to the new HMIS. One Home is changing prioritization criteria for families and will discuss this at the next Family Meeting (November 14th). Also, CCH will be adding 34 units of PSH to OneHome Family. OneHome Youth meeting is today.

Discussion: Question – what is working in regards to housing searches?

-Boulder has had success with Craig's List in finding roommates for clients. They're concerned that landlords are getting saturated with the various voucher programs, especially at well known locations such as the Nest. Boulder Shelter is Housing First. There's interest in pursuing grants through the Marijuana Tax fund.

-Aurora is focused on RRH for families. They have a great landlord recruiter. The King's Inn crisis led to a pilot program for flexible housing dollars. They're spending some on paying move-in costs for people that have recent new jobs but can't get into housing, as well as some prevention, especially outside of the family focus already covered by Aurora@Home. They need to advertise the flex funds program more to Aurora providers. Amazon is doing a lot of hiring, and has been at the Day Resource center.

-Adams County: they're focusing on relationship building with landlords so that when they start to get RRH vouchers they'll have somewhere to send people.

Salvation Army: Housing Now Launch next Wednesday – a rebrand and update to the FSHI program. They focus on seniors and families with move-in assistance, folks who have income. They're also moving towards prevention and diversion. Prevention works well with proper case management.

	<p>-Prevention Affinity Group has started meeting and had the second meeting just this week. Next meeting is: 11/29 at MDHI – contact jared.kebbell@mdhi.org if you have questions or would like to join.</p> <p>-re: those who lose vouchers due to not finding housing - There isn't a good way to track people who lose their voucher because they can't find a place to use it. Megan reports the longest vouchers have been extended she's seen so far was 1 year for housing search.</p> <p>-Jewish Family Services is holding a resource fair 11/3 including eviction prevention, food pantry (same day registration), laptop giveaway, sign up for free phones</p> <p><u>Action Items:</u></p> <p>-MDHI is going to explore using the mobile survey CoC wide for PIT this year.</p> <p>-Volunteer trainings will be held throughout January.</p> <p>-MDHI is collecting PIT point of contact information for each site and how many volunteers each will need.</p>
<p>Cold Weather Shelters</p>	<p>-MDHI has updates about what resources will be available this year and is interested in getting further information from each community. The information will be compiled and put on the website. Gaps identified during this conversation: Families in Denver, Adams County severe weather, older adults, those with pets or couples.</p> <p>-HOPE of Longmont: Having difficulty finding a navigation center in Longmont. They have found some landlords that are willing to rent, but the 24-7 model has been a challenge. They're working with several faith-based groups. They currently will only have cold weather shelter until March 31st. They will be doing street outreach every day, including at night. The 24-7 navigation center will include laundry, showers and storage once it's completed. Boulder Shelter being open during the day is also something they're working on, as will be resource case management.</p> <p>-Comitis: they will drop their lottery system and fill up their space as much as possible when cold weather services activate. They will activate the day center for overnight use when big weather events happen. Aurora Warms the Night activates when the temperature drops below 20 F. ACOT (aurora street outreach team) deploys during really cold night to find people to bring to the shelter or to drop supplies for people to help them survive. They also transport people wherever they want to go, without questions. This is operated by volunteers from the police department--they check only for violent crimes warrants and overlook everything else.</p>

-Denver County: they have changed their procedure. They changed their eligibility requirements. You used to have to be able to prove you've been in Denver for 30 days. Now, presenting in Denver is enough, but this looser definition led to them spending a lot of money very quickly, and there is concern over availability of cold weather sheltering for families to meet the need.

Samaritan House takes single women after 5 pm with no conditions, gives them a meal and a bed for the night. There's also a four-month program for them that operates as a lottery, but women who were in the program weren't having successful outcomes. To address this, they've recently opened a transitional shelter program on Smith Road that is less pressure and women that are successful there can be transferred to the four-month program.

-Denver Rescue Mission: the facility at 48th and Colorado Blvd. has 215 beds available, with space for another 100 mats during a weather emergency. There are also plans for built in bathroom and shower facilities. The Holly Center in Smith Road will have another 216 beds for single men, showers and laundry will also be available. They're also trying to introduce a self-sufficiency program at the downtown shelter for the 300 beds for men. Crossroads has 465 beds and that will be the maximum going forward. The Rescue Mission requires IDs, and they can have scan cards they make there.

-Pets are welcome at Crossroads. The Humane Society has a foster family program for people's pets. But the lack of shelters that accepts pets is a gap that needs to be addressed.

-Tom Luehrs suggested working on a metro-wide program for busing people to different areas to fill some of the gaps, such as shelter space for families.

-Delores Project is building housing and are looking for a location from March to October that could offer shelter for 50-60 women and trans individuals while that is completed.

Cold Weather space: Comment regarding churches as an untapped resource that could fill the gaps – info was offered that Women's homeless initiative utilizes 40 churches, Family Promise 25 churches. Douglas county, Cold weather care in Adams, and severe weather network in Jeffco also utilize churches.

Comment - People experiencing homelessness need to be part of the conversation, especially about their barriers.

-The situation with family shelters in general seems to be an issue, apart from just cold weather shelters. The meeting was going over the expected time and it was agreed this is an issue will to be discussed more thoroughly at the next OneHome Family meeting.

	<p><u>Action Item:</u></p> <p>-MDHI will collect and publish information on Cold Weather Services available this year (email Diane at diane.howald@mdhi.org) once all the info is collected.</p>
Next Meeting	<p>-A combined November/December meeting will be held due to the holiday season. A date will be finalized by the MDHI team.</p> <p>-MDHI has a weekly community update email and they're hoping this could serve as a community wide forum for updates from agencies</p> <p><u>Action Item:</u></p> <p>-MDHI will finalize a date for a November/December meeting</p> <p>-The MDHI Weekly Roundup is a valuable forum for sharing news of your agency and keeping up to speed with the rest of the community--subscribe and read every week!</p>