MDHI Board Meeting Minutes
July 13, 2017

Board members attending: Melanie Lewis Dickerson, Brenton Hutson, Shelley McKittrick, Maryjane Carr, Brian Smith, Lu Horner, Shehila-Rae Stephens, Dr. Jamie Rife, Timothy Pemberton, Benjamin Ryan
Board meeting attendees via phone: Bob Munroe, Andrew Alsip, Claire Clurman, Daphne McCabe
MDHI staff & volunteers: Will Connelly, Rebecca Mayer, Justin Russell, Diane Howald, Oanh Vo, Jared Kebbell, Sam Brooks
Guests attending: Lauren Bernstein – Volunteer of America, Kate Waldinger – Denver Office of HOPE, Vanessa Quintara – City of Aurora

Welcome and Introductions
Melanie Lewis Dickerson called the meeting to order and welcomed the new board members and guests. Melanie asked the board and staff in attendance to introduce themselves.

Consent Agenda – Melanie Lewis Dickerson
Brenton Hutson asked Will Connelly about the section in his ED report mentioning improving a crisis response system. Will responded explaining MDHI's role in a seven-county housing crisis response system.

Shehila-Rae Stephens asked if there is a NOFA committee role description in writing. Will responded that there are updates about NOFA committee roles which will be sent to the entire board.

Will discussed the Social Venture Partners project overview document and what it will mean for the board in the coming months. He shared the tentative timeline for the board retreat and the engagement with SVP.

Melanie entertained a motion to approve the consent agenda. Brenton motioned to approve the consent agenda, Shehila-Rae seconded the motion. The vote to approve the consent agenda was approved unanimously and there were no abstentions.

Board/Executive Committee Priority Areas – Melanie Lewis Dickerson
Melanie opened the discussion about the goal and priorities for the coming fiscal year. Melanie shared a quote about problem solving in homelessness sector.

Melanie challenged the board towards action and working to end homelessness as a priority for the year. She provided an overview of the major goals of governance review, stakeholder management, fiduciary responsibilities, and HMIS vendor selection.

Melanie shared that the board needs to be prepared for the upcoming Point-in-Time count and the new Coordinated Entry requirements from HUD. She shared the goals for the SVP grant and asked the board to start thinking about what should be included in the strategic plan project following the board retreat. She also shared that the governance committee will be revisiting the CoC committee structure before the next stakeholder meeting. She emphasized the need for board members to elevate work by staff by creating more effective committees.

Developing a Leadership Council – Will Connelly

Will presented an overview of the work to develop the leadership council and the engagement with Focus Strategies to engage in system performance evaluation. He shared that a major goal is to provide interventions less than 30 days and ensure high needs users can get into permanent housing. He added that we will work to target eight performance measures for CoC improvements utilizing Focus Strategies' System Wide Performance and Analytics (SWAP) tool.

Will explained the need to ask grant recipients for their full budget to help determine the major funders for the housing and the relative cost-effectiveness. He gave an overview of costs for program exits and said that MDHI will create graphs to show the costs per exit comparison across programs of the same intervention type.

Melanie asked if we are starting with all housing across the region or just CoC funded projects. Will responded that initially the analysis will only cover HMIS and CoC funded projects.

Shehila asked if we are going to use this data to influence future funding strategy. Will responded that yes, this is the goal. The goal to share data with funders and help our CoC become more cost-effective. This process could change the future NOFA committee and NOFA awards process.

Shehila asked how far in advance we are going to inform programs about these expectations. Will responded that the goal is to roll out these changes slowly and gradually to programs before adjusting the NOFA scoring based on performance.

Shelley shared how this process happened with ESG funding in California and how this process would be hard to cope for programs without prior notice. She advocated for the goal of year over year improvement.

Will shared the timeline for developing a leadership council and creating funder alignment around the work to end homelessness. Shehila asked what a member interview for this council looks like. Will responded that we would ask about their priorities related to homelessness and how engaged they are with those issues.

Daphne asked who is on the target list for the funders/leadership council. Will responded that he's crowdsourcing the list with a small group of people assisting with identifying these agencies.

NOFA Ranking Tool and MOU – Will Connelly

Will shared the new NOFA ranking tool and explained the purpose of the changes. He walked through the NOFA process from the initial HUD announcement to the response from the agency.

Brenton asked about lumping together RRH and TH models into the same scoring rubric. What would be the timeline for scoring these independently? Will responded that the new data analysis project will help with the scoring and ranking for the next year (not the coming NOFA). Will explained that MDHI is working to develop written standards for RRH which will help with the monitoring and evaluation process.

Brenton asked whether our CoC even wants TH programs given the less cost-effective model. Knowing that there is only one TH program, is there a plan to ask the questions to better evaluate the TH programs before the next NOFA. Will responded that our CoC will evaluate our programs and scoring to determine the efficacy of our programs objectively. Brenton asked if there is a specific timeline to make this happen and asked if this will happen in the next year.

Shehila asked if we could have early conversations with the poorer performing programs to help prepare them for the changes. Will responded that once the evaluation is complete, then TA and individual conversations will take place.

Melanie asked if the programs will receive notification of their scoring and rank one on one. Will shared that each program would receive their score prior to publishing any de-identified community report.

Daphne McCabe asked if we could share best practices from the best scoring programs with the lowest scoring programs. Will responded that creating peer learning opportunities for best practices is one of the main goals of program improvement and technical assistance.

Melanie Lewis Dickerson entertained a motion to approve the NOFA Ranking Tool and MOU. Brenton Hutson motioned to accept the ranking tool and MOU, Brian Smith seconded. The vote carried unanimously with no abstentions.

New Website – Will Connelly and Justin Russell
Will Connelly presented the new MDHI.org website hosted on NationBuilder and walked through the new site content. Justin Russell presented the new dynamic content and introduced the MDHI blog as a resource for sharing best practices and comments from the board with the CoC. He gave an overview of the event RSVP system, location of meeting minutes for the board and committees, educational resources about the work of a CoC, and the section for external resources/links.

HMIS Vendor Transition Update – Will Connelly and Rebecca Mayer
Will discussed our current timeline for the vendor evaluation and the current state of the evaluation process. The committee for evaluation is now all staff led.

Brenton shared that he and Leanne's attendance for that committee had become contentious and they have recused themselves in favor of MDHI staff to help with the progress of the vendor selection. Will and Rebecca Mayer shared that they have joined the committee to represent MDHI.

Daphne asked if the vendor demos would be online. Will responded that these have all been provided online and recorded. The links will be shared with the board when they are available.

Brenton asked about the timeline for transition and when does the current HMIS contract end. Will responded that the timeline is still within the quarterly timeline initially presented to the board. Will responded that part of the contract with Focus Strategies will help with the onboarding process and expedite the onboarding of the CE module.

Brenton asked about the reference check process stated by Mandy and Gary during the board meeting. Will responded that some of the missing reference were due to scheduling conflicts.

Brenton asked whether the committee is addressing his concerns sent in email previously. Will responded that he can provide these answers in writing and send to the board for review.

Melanie asked if any of the board members were able to attend the HMIS demos. Brian Smith stated that his staff was excited about the ability to access and share medical case records with certain vendors.

Melanie stated that she is focused on the efficacy of the Coordinated Entry module during the demonstrations.

Daphne asked if the current vendor can work with e-health records. Rebecca responded that some of the vendors do have this capability.

Melanie asked if additional info will go out before the August board meeting. Will responded that the HMIS vendor consensus meeting will happen on August 1st and the results of that meeting will be shared with the board.

Open Forum for Comments and Community Announcements
Shehila asked for labels to be added to the monthly data dashboards. Will agreed to share this request with Joe Baker who was not in attendance.

Shelley McKittrick shared the announcement about the day center opening in Aurora.

Melanie asked Shelley about the Aurora motel displacement of residents. Shelley responded that the city approved $40,000 to help rapidly house any displaced residents. As a result, 16 families were housed in under 4 weeks until the money was exhausted. MDHI helped to cover one pending lease during the wait for the next release of city funding. Shelley plans to ask for $200,000 in flex funds to manage future requests like this though it won't be enough to cover case management support. She may seek other funds to supplement case management support for those affected by the displacement.

Claire Clurman asked about funding for the 100-day youth challenge and where our CoC stands currently. Rebecca responded that we should be a strong contender for the 2nd cycle of funding, which starts in Fall 2017.

Daphne McCabe shared that the coordinated system for Boulder will go live soon.

Meeting Adjourned - Next meeting: Thursday, August 10, 2017