



**Metro Denver Homeless Initiative - Board Meeting
November 14, 2019 - 2:00 - 4:00pm
Mile High United Way, Busse Board Room**

Board Minutes

Attendees:

In Person

Ben Ryan, Brenton Huston, Karissa Johnson, Jennifer Beiss, Pat Hall, Brian Arnold, Shelly McKittrick, Rachel Vaughn, Renee Belisle, Mike Malloy, Andrew Alsip, Ken Hayes

By Phone:

Elissa Hardy, Alix Midgely

Community Guests:

Community member Richard Henson from Native American ICD

MDHI Staff:

Kelly Hellman, Jackie Hernandez, Bethany Maynard-Moody, Diane Howald, Mikah Wagner, Layla Said, Alex Rigberg

Administrative:

Ben called the meeting to order at 2:03

Before voting on the consent agenda, Ben gave mention to a book written by former board member Jamie Rife titled "Journeys out of Homelessness" It is a highly recommended book with stories from people with lived experience. It is available through Amazon. Shelly mentioned that Jamie will be having a book signing event at the Tattered Cover bookstore soon.

Consent Agenda:

No questions were raised as Ben asked the group for comments

Vote -Shelly McKittrick motions to approve consent agenda, Brian Arnold seconds no opposed, no abstentions, motion passes by acclamation

Topics:

Governance

Ben mentioned that after the December board meeting on the 12th, we will have a "Holiday Happy Hour" to celebrate the year. This will take place in the same boardroom as the meeting

BOD Nominations:

Two spaces for January Board appointments. Nominees – Kelli Barker (Jeffco Human Services), Karen Kreutzberg (Boulder Housing Partners).

Discussion. Ben stated that we had four outstanding candidates to choose from and it was a tough choice. Brian commented that as we fill future positions on the board, we make sure we reach out to people of color. Ben stated that as a matter of recruiting new board members, we can get people involved in committees first and use that as a farm system to fill future board positions. Shelly added that at the present time, the need for representation from different geographic areas was key in this decision.

Vote -Pat Hall makes a motion to accept the presented nominees, Mike Malloy seconds No opposed, no abstentions, motion passes by acclamation

Ben will reach out to the two people not selected to see if they would be interested in getting involved in committees.

Finance Committee Nominations (Vote) Charles Levinson – Financial Advisor at Wealth Strategies group, and Dawn Marshall – members of SVP

Ken Hayes motions to add Charles and Dawn to finance committee – Rachel Vaughn seconds. Before the group could vote, Brenton raised concerns over a conflict of interest and whether Charles and Dawn have been vetted. This led to a further discussion and questions were raised, and more than one board member had concerns.

Vote - 5 in favor, 7 opposed, no abstentions – motion does not carry. Action item for Ben was to email the resumes for Charles and Dawn to the board for review.

Vote - Shelly McKittrick motions to take an e-mail vote for adding new members finance committee – Shelly, Mike Malloy seconds, approved by acclamation.

MDHI employee Kyla Moe to join the HMIS Collaborative Board:

Vote -Brenton Huston moves to appoint Kyle Moe to the HMIS collaborative board – Karissa Johnson seconds. no opposed, Andrew Alsip abstains, motion carries

Racial Equity Training

Karissa, Shelley, Brian, Elissa, Jennifer & Alix all spoke and provided feedback on the Racial Equity training seminar held on October 17th and 18th which was presented by Marc Dones and his staff from National Innovation Service. In summary, 250 attendees were at the seminar which was an unprecedented turnout and Marc was a fantastic facilitator. There is a great need to address racial equity on a systems level that will take generations of work to fix. It will be important to take the current momentum and keep the ball rolling. Shelly provided examples of how she sees racial inequities in Aurora that lead to homelessness because of federal policies being carried out on the local level, along with ongoing issues with the way law enforcement is handling certain situations in the community. Brian stated that we need a concerted effort to get people of color in decision making positions and that this includes in the workplace and in the community. MDHI staff (Diane, Jackie, Bethany and Mikah) all spoke of what they learned which included stats and information, next steps, and how they can incorporate what they learned to the workplace. Karissa spoke of how people of color don't have the support system that others do, which can immediately stress out a situation and lead to homelessness. She also spoke on the issue of how income, or lack of it does not equate to homelessness, and is especially disproportionate for people of color. Shelly and Karissa both stated that they are planning follow-up work that will include planning meetings and focus groups. They would also be happy to provide more information to those who did not attend the seminar.

Ben thanked the board and staff for attending and dismissed the staff and non-executive level board members for an executive session that focused on Policy Governance for the last half hour of the meeting

Policy Governance Discussion (Ben):

Executive Session – Minutes are separate for Executive Council

The Meeting was adjourned at 4:00

MISSION: *Leading and advancing collaboration to end homelessness in our region.*