



Metro Denver Homeless Initiative Board of Directors Meeting

October 10, 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(phone)	
Board Member	Andrew Alsip		
Board Member	Brenton Hutson		
Board Member	Karissa Johnson		
Board Member	Renée Belisle	x(phone)	
Board Member	Lori Rosendahl		
Board Member	Patricia Hall		
Board Member	Cheryl Secorski		
Board Member	Alix Midgley	x(phone)	
Board Member	Eugene Wade	x(phone)	
Board Member	Ken Hayes	x	
Board Member	Brian Arnold	x(phone)	
Board Member	Jennifer Biess		
Board Member	Rachel Vaughn	x	
Board Member	Shelley McKittrick	x	
Board Member	Mike Malloy	x	

MDHI Staff: Matt Meyer (MDHI Executive Director), Rebecca Meyer (Deputy Director), Elizabeth Murray (OneHome Family Coordinator), Bethany Maynard-Mooney (OneHome Program Manager)

Ben called the meeting to order. He noted that he has been receiving feedback that board meetings dive into the weeds, that there is a lot of technical conversation. Matt and Ben have had conversations about diverting some of these technical conversations, or delegating them, to the councils and committees and staff instead of the board. Attempting to shift Board’s focus back to our strategic goals and vision. More around this process will be discussed soon—reach out to Ben if questions arise.

Consent Agenda:

Vote: Shelley moves to approve; Ken seconds the motion. All in favor, no abstentions. Motion passes.

ESG Signatory Vote:

Shelley moves to certify Matt Meyer to have full signatory authority regarding all Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) contracts and corresponding documents associated with agreements entered by Metro Denver Homeless Initiative. Ken seconds the motion.

Ben asks for any questions. Shelley asks if we must apply to the state for the ESG NOFA, and do we plan to apply. Matt responds 'yes' to both questions. Once we have been given our award, we will release our RFP to partners. Our letter of intent has been submitted for a \$2.2 million request, in order to add needed capacity for OneHome and to help backfill the RRH need due to the CCH project that transitioned from RRH to PSH during the NOFA competition.

Vote: All members in favor. No opposed. No abstentions.

Governance Update:

New members: Two new members joining—each has lived experience. They have been invited to observe the November meeting. Hope to have all four new members incorporated by January meeting.

Fall Recruitment: Fall recruitment to close October 12th, 2019. Please encourage interested applicants or to apply by this deadline. Feel free to recruit anyone who might be a good fit.

It was noted that board members should refrain from referring to new members with lived experience as "Lived Experience Board Member". One of the points made during recruitment is that that is part of what they bring to the table, but not all of it. There was a discussion regarding the need to recruit members with diverse backgrounds and experience, but not putting a label on people.

John was complimented for his efforts leading the recruitment process.

An update on Youth Action Board recruitment was requested. Matt stated that currently the YAB chair, Ayeishi, who attended and observed the last board meeting is still interested. YAB met the day before Board meeting so awaiting details.

It was noted that a few months ago the board discussed offering stipends for a YAB member or lived experience member. John has reached out for legal advice on this question. Rachel asked for some background on why this is being considered. It was mentioned during a previous board meeting that another community does this, and there was consensus to at least explore the idea. It was unclear whether this type of barrier had kept someone from joining the board in the past.

Regional Governing Council (RGC):

We are now engaging quarterly meetings of committees reporting to the Board. Rebecca provided a quick refresher on the Regional Governing Council, and its current committees and activities.

The RGC is currently working to develop a OneHome Logic Model, this will allow us to determine the gaps in OneHome/CE. We've had a small group meet to discuss Logic Model. The first draft stretched beyond coordinated entry. The group will hone it to focus on coordinated entry but will also work with the System Performance Council which is charged with building a logic model for the full system, in which coordinated entry will be a part.

RGC is recruiting 2020 membership for RGC and needs to be strategic in expanding the role of RGC past OneHome.

Focus of Current Committees:

CDT: For the rest of the year CDT is focused on reviewing and implementing our inactive policy and how to implement that in our new database. CDT is making recommendations for ongoing improvements to the OneHome processes and developing goals for next year.

RRH Affinity Group is now an RRH Committee: Identifying a chair and new members. Charged with aligning providers with RRH written guidelines and using data to guide recommendations.

Employment Committee: In recent NOFA, significant increase in focus on employment. There is a charge to be even more collaborative with providers than we have been. Recent NOFA score cards indicated poor employment outcomes. MDHI will focus attention on this outcome and widen efforts.

MDHI is working to expand the capacity for these committees and councils, including a new MDHI interns and new VISTA members focused on supporting councils and committees.

Open discussion/questions:

Matt: RGC has been well known in the community. It's a great resource for the board to tap into some of those weedier discussions. This is a group that really know the nuts and bolts of this work. RGC is an important vertical for the board in terms of understanding the mechanics.

Rebecca: We are updating charter and recruiting for this year. Jennifer and I discussed what do we want to adopt from original RGC charter vs. where to align other councils.

What is the charge for the board regarding committees? Guard rails for making decisions; RGC representation; staffing support for councils/committees. We want to focus on when we make regional decisions and initiatives, who do we want at the table to open doors. Do we want to change this to align it with other committees? We need some general direction from the board not necessarily direction on the nuts and bolts.

What is the goal of the recruitment for 2020? What are the term limits? Rebecca: We are at 3 one-year terms. We have nine voting sub regional members. Someone from lived experience from each region.

Ben: Rebecca you have a unique perspective on RGC, what is your thought around structure?

Rebecca: I think bringing in committee co-chairs is good; we need to make sure we have expertise on what we are working on. Also, having one liaison to the board on each committee—do we want one or three? The current RGC calls for three board members, where other councils have one board member.

Shelley: From my perspective, one of the reasons to chair or co-chair a committee, I think is to have a leadership voice and so I think that is important to consider.

The direction from the board was to have the RGC and staff develop a revised charter which will come back to the board for approval. The board requests a draft charter from each of the councils for review by the board—including charter for each committee. Charters will help define scope of each group. Matt encourages robust conversation around these drafts from the board.

The new council/committee chart will be printed on the back of each board agenda for easy reference. Background information will be provided during board presentations to ensure that discussions are launched from a place of clear understanding. It was noted that board members interested in joining councils or committees reach out to Ben and John.

Alix suggests thinking about RGC representation and recent discussions during the NOFA process, reminder to be strategic in setting up these committees to provide avenues for us to move forward with our goals.

Coordinated Entry Access Points:

There is significant focus on access points as key to a successful coordinated entry process. An access point is a place where someone can come to be assessed and appropriately directed for housing and resources.

In our region, providers are concerned that people visit agencies, get assessed, but don't get engaged—leaving a gap between being assessed and connection with housing/enrolled. This makes it difficult to reconnect with folks when matched—increasing the time between assessment and match and lease up—and, ultimately, time homeless. Access points would allow for dedicated people to do assessments and stay in contact with the clients until they are matched.

Matt noted that what is being presented to the board for discussion is a need for additional OneHome resources. Development of navigation centers in our community and expansion of coordinated entry at the level the region requires, OneHome needs at least 4 additional FTEs—a total of approximately 6 coordinators, including managers—possibly assigned by region--then we would identify locations for navigation centers overseen by OneHome coordinators. The navigation centers contract would be held by MDHI but subcontracted to other agencies. Structure of navigation centers in communities vary across the country, examples were included in the board packet. We would also propose to increase street outreach efforts regionally and explore a call center partner as an access point. Matt has discussed idea with Division of Housing, Office of Homeless Initiatives. They have asked for a draft of a concept paper as a next step.

Shelley asked if the Coordinated Entry project put forth in this year's CoC NOFA include navigation centers. It did not. Shelley noted that in some communities, it might take some financial supports, but we could augment current resources, such as the Aurora Day Resource Center. Ken asked if the regional coordinators would be MDHI staff. They would be MDHI staff and would collaborate with the region's navigation center to which they are assigned. Mike noted a need for a robust communication strategy around the navigation centers. There was discussion around communication for persons accessing services as well as the larger community. Matt noted that we would want to look at the navigation centers having core similarities, and then being attentive to the needs to the specific area—some counties have different needs than others. Alix stated that we could do some high-level analysis of our existing navigation points and the average length of time it is taking to complete an assessment then locate a person then match and house the person. Then we can see who is doing this well already. Board members expressed enthusiasm for exploring navigation centers and discussed the positive effect this will have on our homeless crisis response system.

Ben: Wrap up. Any comments or announcements?

Rebecca asked who would be attending the upcoming Racial Equity in Housing and Homelessness Summit and several board members indicated they would be in attendance.

Meeting Adjourned