



Metro Denver Homeless Initiative - Board Meeting
January 9, 2020 - 2:00 - 4:00pm
Mile High United Way, Busse Board Room

Board Minutes

Attendees:

In Person

Ben Ryan, John Feeney-Coyle, Elissa Hardy, Claire Clurman, Karissa Johnson, Jennifer Biess, Brian Arnold, Shelly Mckittrick, Rachel Vaughn, Mike Malloy, Andrew Alsip, Ken Hayes, Alex Midgley, Eugene Wade. Patricia Hall, Kelli Barker, Ved Price, Carla Respects Nothing, Ayashe Cornelius, Kristin Toombs

By Phone:

Renee Belisle

MDHI Staff:

Matt Meyer, Rebecca Mayer, Kelly Hellman, Jackie Hernandez, Bethany Maynard-Moody, Diane Howald, Mikah Wagner, Layla Said, Alex Rigberg, Brenn Anderson-Gregson

Administrative:

Ben called the meeting to order at 2:00

John introduced Ayashe Cornelius who was recommended from the YAB to serve on the HDMI Board of Directors.

Vote – John motioned to nominate Ayashe for the board, second by Eugene, no opposed, no abstentions, passed by acclamation

Matt introduced new MDHI staff member Brenn Anderson-Greyson who has joined the MHIS team

Consent Agenda:

Ben covered the consent agenda minus the financials. Matt stated that we wanted to pull the financials out of the consent agenda since we are not comfortable about a few things and how they have been booked. This was a result of the finance committee and Kelly reviewing the financials. Matt went on to say that we expect to have the financials analyzed in a few weeks and will present an update to the Finance Committee. Claire added that in the future, Kelly will present a board level education on our financials, spending a short amount of time in each meeting going over different aspects so the board can further understand the makeup of revenue and expensed to assist with their fiscal responsibility. Ken asked about revenue being under budget and Matt explained that the HUD revenues are based on incurring the expense first and then drawing down our grant from those expenses. Matt went on to say that we want to come up with good projections for the second half of the year so that we are will not underspend the grants.

Vote -Alix Midgley motioned to approve consent agenda minus the Financials, Shelley Mckittrick seconds no opposed, Andrew Alsip abstained, motion passes by acclamation

Topics:

Updates- Governance & Continuum Activities

Board Officer Succession - John stated that there is a need to provide successors for officer positions for those that will be terming off this year and asked that the members let him know if you want to nominate anyone, or if you are interested in becoming a board officer

Board Compensation Working Group - John also announced the formation of the Board Compensation Working Group. He had discussed the compensation issue with an attorney who said that it is something that we can do but we need to consider some parameters. Any compensation must be tied to service to the organization as an example, a bus pass to commute to and from is fine but only if it is a day pass for that meeting and not a monthly pass. There are other things to consider such as our D&O coverage. Does compensating a board member affect that coverage? He went on to say that an attorney would have to approve any policy. John will serve as a liaison, but Jennifer Biess will lead the working group. Reach out to her if you are interested in participating.

Board member committee assignments – Elissa stated that included in the board packet is a spreadsheet which has suggestions for committees and the people that we want to get involved. The board members have been loosely assigned to committees and she would like you to email her if you are good with your assigned committee or if you would like to participate in a different one. New board members are only required to participate on one committee. She stated that we would like to get people assigned by February. She also thanked Alex and Layla for their work on the charters. Ken said that it would be helpful to continue to keep this chart in the board packet that gets sent out. Ben confirmed that the bylaws state that every board member is required to serve on a committee.

Ben also stated that the conflict of interest forms should be sent to Kelly either vial email or hard copy.

Transition Survey – Discussion ensued regarding different questions on the survey. Claire stated that this is a tool that we can use to improve the organization. Mike added that we should split question #7 to include subcommittees and not just focus on the board overall as it currently reads.

Vote – John Motioned to approve the transition survey, second by Ken with the action of splitting Question 7 into two categories (Board and subcommittees) No Opposed, No Abstentions, approved by acclamation

John gave an update on the spring recruitment cycle. In 2020 we will be faced with 4-6 members leaving the board and it is important that we look for diversity. We currently have a lot of service provider representatives, but we need other representatives who have a different prospective in the community. Matt added that this is an opportunity to expand to influencers in the community, growing allies in the political arena or property developers, as an example.

Equity and Accessibility – Ben opened by saying that he is confident that we will have a cordial but difficult conversation and reminded all that we all share a common mission and asked that we be respectful of other viewpoints and positive intent.

Lived Experience Advisory Board – Eugene began by asking if there are other committees who currently have this type of authority? The answer was not to this extent. Karissa stated that the best way to influence change is to make sure people with lived experience have voice and power. John asked about the decision-making chain and what that would look like. Karissa stated that some things would go through the LEAB and other things wouldn't, for example items pertaining to policy would be run through the LEAB, while items that pertain to MDHI operations such as budgets, staffing, or other internal operating decisions would not be run through that Board. Other examples Jennifer provided would be the OneHome policy decisions. Ben added that it would be advisable that we balance this by not putting too much pressure on these boards. We must challenge ourselves to find items and develop parameters around what we send through the boards. Alix mentioned that things such as ESG decisions need to be more inclusive, which Jackie agreed with and would like that as well. Ved reminded the board that this is experimental and that we can modify guidelines as we go. Karissa wants to continue to be bold and innovative and wants to keep the momentum going. Andrew thought that a good idea would be for a gradual level of responsibility but then asked about how this would be monitored. Mike cautioned that outside optics are something we want to consider and how this will be perceived in the community.

Funding or compensation for the LEAB and YAB were discussed. Examples were given for boards or committees that have worked with or without any form of compensation. Karissa thinks that this is necessary. Ved added that it would show that we valued them. Carla gave an example of where it works in her community talking circles where they provide food and a bus pass. Megan added that the YAB board members showed up for the compensation, but they continue to show up

because they have the power to make decisions. Karissa verified that the meeting frequency would be monthly. Ayashe added that her board does not allow for compensation and that it works fine.

Ken added that as we make decisions, it is ok to be wrong on a few things and this will apply to the LEAB board as well. It is a learning process for all of us.

John added that we must make sure that we follow federal and state regulations as we grant decision making authority to another board. We will also have to review our bylaws to ensure compliance.

Ved asked about funding this recommendation and if we had the money. Matt stated that we would have to go out and get it, but he welcomes the challenge. Karissa added that the Denver Foundation has expressed interest in funding this group

Ben stated that we will move forward with this recommendation and figure out next steps. We will need to process the feedback with more detail and Ben asked if the Equity Committee could take on this role to define things with more detail. Claire added that we need to drill down more on funding and defining more aspects before we can vote. Shelley said that we can take back the message to the Equity Committee that the board's message was positive and that we can move forward.

Diane closed by reminding everyone about PIT and encouraged people to get involved.

The Meeting was adjourned at 4:06

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