



April 9 2020 - 2:00 - 4:00pm
Zoom call

Board Minutes

Attendees:

Due to Covid19 the meeting was held via video conference on zoom

John Feeney-Coyle, Elissa Hardy, Claire Clurman, Karissa Johnson, Jennifer Biess, Mike Malloy, Alix Midgley, Kelli Barker, Ved Price, Carla Respects Nothing, Brian Arnold, Rachel Vaughn, Karen Kreutzberg, Ben Ryan, Pat Hall, Eugene Wade, Andrew Alsip, Renee Belisle, Shelly McKittrick, Ken Hayes, Ayashe Cornelius

MDHII Staff:

Matt Meyer, Kelly Hellman, Diane Howald, Jamie Rife, Jackie Hernandez, Rebecca Mayer, Sae Hong

Administrative:

Ben called roll and thanked everyone for their flexibility to accommodate a Zoom call and called the meeting to order at 2:05

Ben stated that today's meeting would primarily focus on Covid19 and the status of the community.

Consent Agenda:

Ben covered the consent agenda which included the financials.

Financials

Kelly presented the financials to the board, once again showing how Flex Fund expenses affect our overall net income. Ken inquired if people outside of the COC can get Flex Funds? Rebecca answered the best way to apply for them is to go through their case manager. Ved asked if they can find information regarding Flex Fund on the MDHI web site and Rebecca state that yes and we will make sure it is updated

Kelly Introduced Sae Hong as the new Accountant for MDHI

Vote -Ben motioned to approve consent agenda, Alix seconded, no opposed, motion passes by acclamation

Topics:

Plan for Equity Discussion

Equity Update – Ben stated that the Executive Committee wants to keep the momentum going and wants to convene again depending upon how today's zoom meeting flows with so many participants. He also wants to plan for an extended work from home situation where video conferencing may be our only option for a while. Shelley said that she is concerned that the virus is affecting a disproportionate number of minorities and that we must continue our work on racial equity. Karissa sent Matt a draft statement regarding the COVID response that includes equity language. Karissa discussed the statement which includes calling for the state to appoint an Equity and Accessibility Committee along with an Emergency Response Team. Ben agreed that we need to craft a statement that will have the greatest impact for a call to action by the state and

local governments. Jennifer added that it should include clear and concise guidelines, with Brian adding that we need to put action behind it. Shelley asked if we need to work with the Metro Mayors Caucus to get their buy-in. Jamie has crafted an op-ed piece regarding racial equity and that piece is schedule to go out to the press. Karissa mentioned that the current statement does not include adding a task force. Ben asked if there was a current group or committee locally that has been formed to address the equity disproportion issue and Matt added that he did not know of any. Karissa said that the task force should be comprised of people outside of MDHI, because the current Equity Committee does not have the capacity to take this on. Ben agreed that a statement would be toothless without a task force and that we need to identify 2-3 categories that are a priority. Matt recommended that we start a subset group to discuss how we can move this forward. Ben asked that if anyone is interested in being a part of this subcommittee to email Matt. Pat suggested that she could take our statement to Adams County officials once it has been finalized.

Board Officer Succession:

John stated that we have a new targeted approach to board succession and recruitment. Recruitment will open on April 15th and will close on May 22nd for the application process. Reviews will take place after that date with the plan that as of August, the new members will be on board. He also added that if we do not get suitable candidates, the close date of May 22nd may be extended. Discussion ensued about recruitment including advertising in LinkedIn. Claire added that we should talk to Hispanic Metro Chamber of Commerce. Mike asked if COVID19 may pose a problem for receiving applications. John stated that he didn't think the application process would be affected. Claire said that she thinks we will get more applicants due to people wanting to help the community in crisis.

Ben referred to the board member application, specifically questions 11, 12 and 13. Alix asked of gender identity is a needed? Ben said that he will add that in the questionnaire. Ved asked if we wanted to add lived experience to question 13 since it is valued by MDHI? Matt answered yes and that we should put that in the first box. Carla asked if applicants had no experience to mark down for #13, and if that would be detrimental to the application. John answered no, it is not a prerequisite to join the board. Shelley added that perhaps we state it as lived or volunteer experience.

John called for submissions for anyone interested in being an officer. Allison congratulated everyone for their work especially on the Equity Committee. Ayashe said that the YAB meeting went well yesterday.

COVID 19 Updates

Matt provided an additional update on COVID19 and stated that we have a contact who can get KN95 Masks from China that we can distribute to the Network. MDHI has an order of 500, with plans to get more. He went on to say that MDHI is providing HMIS support to the National Western Complex and developing an alert system. Rebecca updated Coordinated Entry and referred to statistics in the Board Packet. She added that we continue to focus on people getting housed and supporting our partners in this COVID related time.

Jamie added that she has reached out to Rose Community Foundation for additional funding and is waiting to hear back.

Mike stated that CCH has reduced staff so that they can work from home and has closed services downtown. They are also working with other agencies and the city to open up 110 rooms at a local hotel and adding another hotel for people that are awaiting test results. They also are working with local officials setting up a triage area at National Western. Matt thanked CCH for their leadership and all that they are doing. Jennifer added that the state is working toward adding more hotel options and added that the Denver Rescue Mission is staffing the National Western Complex 24/7. The state also recruited 150 members from the National Guard for support.

Shelly provided an update on Aurora where they lost their first homeless person to the virus. Mile High Behavior Health set up tents that can house 50 people/day and includes a night shelter. They are working with hotels on Colfax to house people who lost their jobs and are having a tough time. Some of these people have left the hospital but now need a place to stay and recuperate. The city is also paying hazard pay to workers who are providing food and medicine. They continue to look for more space for people to stay.

Karen provided an update on Boulder County where Boulder Housing Authority is managing the rec center where they are housing folks.

Kelli updated Jefferson county where they are working to finalize a hotel block for rooms that they will be using

Ben encouraged everyone to keep up the good work and to reach out of anyone needed anything. The meeting was adjourned at 4:00

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