



The Road Home

Tacoma / Lakewood / Pierce County Continuum of Care
In Partnership with Pierce County Human Services

Continuum of Care Meeting Minutes

April 15, 2020

Virtual Meeting

Members Present

Amanda DeShazo, Aff. Housing Consortium
James Pogue, Comprehensive Life Resources
Valorie Crout, Associated Ministries
Benjamin Feldbush, Young Adult Advocate
Cacey Hanauer, Tacoma Housing Authority
Dana Orr, PC AIDS Foundation
Dr. Eric Jackson, Bethlehem Baptist Church
Erica Azcueta, City of Tacoma (rep. Allison)
Kari Haugen, Workforce-Central
Larry Seaquist, Homeless Coalition
Marilee Hill-Anderson, Sumner Schools
Neal Rogers, Community Representative
Patti Spaulding-Klewin, CCS
Rachel Silis, Dept. of Veterans Affairs
Roxanne Simon, Domestic Violence Advocate
Sean Raybell, WSD of Corrections
Taneisha Lyons, Homeless Subpop. Advocate
Tara Newton, LGBTQIA Service Org
Tiffany Speir, City of Lakewood

Members Absent

Andy Rohr, TPC Health Dept. (EA)
Diane Powers, City of Tacoma
Ellie Ottey, Pierce County Housing Authority
Janice Pitt, Dept of Child, Youth & Families (EA)
Jeff Rodgers, Pierce County
Keith Galbraith, Family Renewal Shelter

Staff & Guests

Emily Mirra
Klarissa Monteros
Samantha Iverson
Vy Yun

Welcome

Amanda called the meeting to order at 9:03 am and introductions were made.

- Met with HUD TA at last Executive Subcommittee meeting.
- Suggested to get feedback from CoC Board on what the CoC would like to know from TA.
- Meeting will be led by Building Changes, Pierce County Human Services (PCHS) not present to encourage open dialog.
- Building Changes will help CoC move forward with goals of an equitable governance structure.

Approval of Minutes

Amanda asked for approval of minutes. Ben motioned, Neal seconded, unanimously approved.

Race Equity Subcommittee Update, Ben

Ben reported the Race Equity Subcommittee met on March 27 to go over roles of subcommittee. The following points were made:

- The disproportionality of people of color among the homeless population relative to the population at large mandates that racial equity be addressed in all decisions.
- Decisions for people of color should not be made entirely by people who have not had the same experiences (all white group).

- The racial equity lens can help address causes of homelessness and barriers to regaining housing, not just services for those experiencing homelessness.
- The Committee is needed to provide a racial equity lens to all decisions. This includes appointments to the CoC, policies set and priorities for funding.
- Having a racial equity lens can benefit all of the parties, including Pierce County, by providing a basis for additional funding.
- Racial equity can also provide a “check and balance” system.
- Investigation of how other counties are handling their Charters, CoC composition and racial equity issues would be helpful to analyze how to proceed.

The next meeting will be April 21. Meetings are held every fourth Friday of each month. Will be held virtually until in-person meetings are authorized.

Collaborative Applicant & Executive Team Goal, James and Valorie

James and Valorie reported the following:

- HUD TA will help define roles between PCHS, CoC, and applicants.
- Feedback from CoC members is that there is no identification of who is doing what and no buy-in about shared power, i.e. CoC Board and/or Executive Subcommittee are not sure if they can make decisions or if they should defer to PCHS.
- Pushing towards environment of shared power: all members would be heard and one body could not trump or derail another.
- Want to develop a guide that is in the charter that effectively supports moving toward equitable homeless system.
- Much work has been done to increase diversity.
- After strengthening the foundation, how do we build a structure with shared power?
- Talk of Equity Officer position to join Executive Subcommittee, having a POC being required for Chair/Co-Chair/Vice-Chair position, and weighted vote for POC.
- Clearly define roles – who has authority and where is the shared power in decision process.
- Ensure POC are part of the decision-making process.

Establish Group & Technology Norms, Emily

Emily shared a list of established norms that would help ensure all voices are heard and can manage the technology.

- Step up/step back
- Share time and space
- Grace and patience with technology
- Mute microphone when not speaking
- Signal when you want to speak
- Capture ideas in real time

CoC members are in agreement and no other norms were added.

Governance Charter/HUD TA Discussion, Klarissa and Emily

Klarissa explained how the CoC governance is composed of the collaborative applicant (PCHS), Executive Team, and CoC members. The three groups should be an equal continuum. She explains we want roles, but the power is shared because this results in ownership. If there is no shared power, it creates a heavy load for some entities to carry and only those people are held responsible or

accountable. With shared power, everyone in the group will feel they are influencing the decision and will take ownership.

What would you like prioritized during the HUD TA process?

- Focus on clarity for the CoC and governance, understanding relationship with HUD.
- How can we move towards an equitable system and what would those roles and responsibilities look like?
- What authority do we have? What decision making power do we have?
- How can public school systems be a viable partner in CoC work?
- What seats are needed to move us towards a more equitable system?
- We made funding priorities and goals in our 5-year Strategic Plan, but the CoC does not have the ability to implement or do anything. We can't make decisions and HUD tells us the priorities. We don't have funding flexible to make changes and do not have scope to make funding decisions that align with our priorities (perceived power vs actual power).

What questions do you have for HUD TA around the governance charter?

- Embed in the governance charter an equitable system, so moving forward, no matter who is in the seat, an equitable system will be maintained.
- How are we going to use non-bias data to make equitable decisions? How will data be disaggregated so we can make data-based decisions?
- When we incorporate equity, how do we make sure all bodies are being valued and seen so that decisions aren't made by a sympathy point of view, but empathy.
- What are best practices? Does HUD look at what other CoC's are doing and what other sectors bring to the table?
- Shared data agreement with PCHS.
- How do we carry things out on the list of roles and responsibilities? - Wanted leadership from collaborative applicant. If we wanted to start doing these things as a CoC, how do we get there? i.e. reviewing applications as a CoC. The County decides who's on the committee. Who decided the rubric for applications? Would like more control over application as parts are already predetermined. Feels like agencies awarded are already decided on when going into the grading process.
- Information should be visible to general public.

What do you need from the collaborative applicant, executive team and/or Building Changes in order to trust this process and feel confident moving forward?

- Need transparency to work collaboratively together.
- All documents and meetings should be open to the public, including subcommittee meetings.
- What the nature of the Leadership group? No changes have been proposed. The charter declares the Leadership group consist of Chair/Co-Chair, Vice-Chair and team leaders. It appears a smaller leadership team is meeting with PCHS and assume they have authority to make decisions for the whole group. Suggestion was made to refine charter to establish rules and procedures for Executive Team.
- Clarify the Executive role and HUD's role.
- Do CoC members want to be involved with HUD TA?
 - o Would like HUD TA meetings open to whole group.
 - o Nice to have more structured meeting with questions in advance so there is time to prepare and work on answers.

- o Would like to see specific action items that need to be done. Where are we going and what direction?
- o Maximize time with HUD – structure meeting with what HUD *can* do and maximize time by asking questions on what we can get from them (experience is that HUD TA could not answer a lot of questions asked).
- Are there any other CoC that are doing the work well that we can model after? Pull pieces of what each CoC is doing well and piece together.

Comments/questions made via chat:

- As an agency that does not receive funding through the CoC (VA), sometimes the discussion is around funding more than system performance. I would benefit from more sub population report outs to discuss challenges serving specific populations (Veterans, LGBTQ, DV, etc.)
- CoC must play the role it was created to play in relation to HUD, the State and its legal foundation. Making sure the correct people who represent the populations being served are involved is key. Also key is to ensure that the CoC accomplishes what it is legally required/established to accomplish.

Finalize Vote for New CoC Seats

- Quorum was not present to vote on new CoC seats. Agenda item tabled until next meeting.
- Concern was made that new seats would make it more difficult to have a quorum but bringing in new seats will add a more equitable distribution among the CoC.
- Request was made to vote on each individual seat, and not the entire list as a whole.
- Noted that a quorum was not present at the last meeting. How do we ensure we have a quorum? Do we change the % of a quorum or make people accountable?

| Proposed Seats 2.19.20 | |
|--|---|
| Community Stakeholder Group | Target Population |
| Fair Housing Provider or Expert | |
| Criminal Justice System | |
| Lived Experience | Intersectional Identity (PoC and LGTBQ) |
| Lived Experience | A person of Color with lived experience |
| Advocate group led by Persons of Color | |
| Case Manager at a Homeless Shelter | |
| Agency led by Latino American | |
| Agency led by Asian American | |
| Agency led by African American | |
| Agency led by Korean American | |
| Tribal Government | *representation of all tribes |

Public Comment/Good of the Order & Next Steps

Al Ratcliffe made the following comments:

- Advertise to the community what the CoC is as flow charts and data do not communicate to the wider public – this CoC is invisible.
- Add public relations to Board.

- Communication is a huge issue with Board.
- Authority is delegated by County Council – they can override anything the CoC recommends.
- Recommendation to Building Changes: instead of open-ended questions, select something you want to address. This may be more productive.
- Open Public Meetings Act applies to this organization so how do we make information available to the public?
- Al wonders if his participation is of any value to this group or if being part of the Membership Subcommittee is adding any value.
- Al submits his resignation from the Membership Subcommittee.

Larry made the following comments:

- We have a real-life homeless crisis. Is there a way the CoC can meet sooner to talk about planning for the probability that we are going to have a lot more homeless? We need to jump in right now.
- What are the numbers? What are the forecasts? What are the decisions ahead?

Klarissa – we need to know if we have control over COVID-19 dollars.

Maureen – invites members to join the Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness. She is leading a group and has reached out to 2 credit unions and is close to finalizing process for bank accounts, and paper checks to direct deposits. The more input from providers, the better chance to design a banking process. Please contact maureenhowardconsulting@gmail.com.

Meeting Adjourned

Amanda adjourned the meeting at 11:16 am.