



Continuum of Care Meeting Minutes

May 20, 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
Charlie Gray, Pierce County Housing Authority
Dana Orr, PC AIDS Foundation
Dr. Eric Jackson, Bethlehem Baptist Church
Erica Azcueta, City of Tacoma
John Barbee, Pierce County
Haili Cyr-Crow, Community Rep - Youth
Kari Haugen, Workforce-Central
Kirby Christopher, Substance Abuse Advocate
Marilee Hill-Anderson, Sumner Schools
Neal Rogers, Community Representative
Patti Spaulding-Klewin, CCS
Rachel Silis, Dept. of Veterans Affairs
RoxAnne Simon, Domestic Violence Advocate
Tara Newton, LGBTQIA Service Org
Tiffany Speir, City of Lakewood

Members Absent

Andy Rohr, TPC Health Dept.
Diane Powers, City of Tacoma (ex)
Janice Pitt, Dept of Child, Youth & Families Keith Galbraith, Family Renewal Shelter
Dr. Marcia Arunga, University
Sean Raybell, WSD of Corrections (ex)
Taneisha Lyons, Homeless Subpop. Advocate (ex)

Staff

Valeri Knight
Vy Yun

Call meeting to order/Introductions/Approval of April Minutes

Amanda called the meeting to order at 9:04 am and asked for a motion to approve the April minutes. Erica motioned, Valorie seconded, unanimously approved.

United Way – Dona Ponepinto (represented by KC)

KC, United Way, reported they are working with DSHS on looking at the social service system. He asked the following questions:

1. What has been working in the system in this environment? What did you not realize was powerful until we entered this environment?
 - Communication strand has gotten tighter. Do not want to replace in-person meetings, but quick daily communications can be kept virtual.
 - Connecting with clients better virtually than face to face.
 - Data is showing we are better serving POC through over the phone conversation.

2. What is not working? What are the challenges seen now that did not come up on daily operations before?
 - Serving people that do not have the technology to meet virtually.
 - In person check-in (i.e. wellness checks) have been hindered.
 - Non-scheduled conversations – not being able to talk or consult with colleagues that are right around the corner.
 - Not being able to share documents with clients in real time.

3. Are you seeing any inequities in the system?
 - Clients do not have access to technology to be able to communicate.
 - Clients that do not have independent transportation and are reluctant to expose themselves to commutable setting, such as the bus.
 - Students not engaging in online learning due to family experiencing trauma.
 - Staff cannot be reached by phone.

Community Update – John Barbee

John reported the following on the 5-Year Strategic Plan and County Funding:

- Council passed Pierce County's 5-Year Strategic Plan on May 12, and plan has now been submitted to WSDOC.
- All WSDOC dollars have been spend.
- CARES Act NOFA released last week
 - First round of applications due by today, 4:30 pm.
 - Low turnout of applications, unless more applications are submitted today.
 - Challenge seen – agency capacity.
 - If applications are not received today by 4:30 pm, they will be reviewed in next round of funding.
- Community needs
 - Homeless Coalition provided list of prioritized needs (James later mentioned the list is not ranked by priority).
 - John encouraged the CoC to also provide a list of needs. The following individuals volunteered to participate in the recommendations: Dana, Haili, Tara, Neal, Dr. Jackson, RoxAnne, Amanda, Valorie, and James. Valeri will send out a meeting invite next week.
 - Comment was made that if items on that list are important, to ensure fund are set aside for those categories.
- Mortgage assistance will be eligible under Affordable Housing NOFA.
- Capital projects are not eligible under CARES Act – Shelter Expansion. May be eligible under Affordable Housing.
- Seeing a heavy need for rental assistance. Currently, there is \$6m being put toward rental assistance. Reallocation of funds can/will change based on need.

Subcommittee Report Outs

Executive Subcommittee (James & Amanda)

James presented draft memo regarding Conflict Resolution.

- Goal is to address concerns, as conflicts arise, to bring concerns to Executive Leadership.
- Suggestion to add language on having an unbiased person present to mediate if necessary.

Amanda gave an update on HUD TA Update

- Meeting scheduled May 30 at 11 am will be open for CoC members to attend (members will be muted during presentation but will have opportunity to comment/ask questions – possibly via chatbox).
- Meeting will also be recorded for those that cannot attend.
- HUD will be presenting on roles and responsibilities.

Governance Subcommittee (Amanda)

- Would like Governance Charter Subcommittee to attend HUD TA meeting.
- Will debrief after meeting, Building Changes will be present for input on equity.
- Amanda asked members to send Valeri an email if they are interested in being part of the Governance Charter Subcommittee.

Racial Equity Subcommittee (Ben)

- Met April 24 (see attached minutes)

Membership Subcommittee (Valorie)

- Will hold off on proposal of positions until they've had a chance to talk to HUD on rationale about current seats.
- Paying close attention to attendance to ensure members are meeting 75% requirement.
- Governance Charter states each seat can be held for 36 months (unlimited terms). Will look at what seats will need to be reapplied.

Veterans Subcommittee (Rachel, Patti, & Dr. Hikida)

- VA grant received an additional \$1.4m to use by June specifically to house homeless Veterans in emergency housing.
- Struggling with personnel to case manage.
- Working closely with Seattle VA.
- Trying to see people in clinics, but most visits are done via phone.
- Resuming some outreach next week.
- Isolation/quarantine site on American Lake for Veterans.

5-Year Strategic Plan – James Pogue

James reviewed the 1-Year Action Plan, and the following changes were made:

- Amanda will replace Tonya as Chair on the Housing Subcommittee with help from RoxAnne.
- James is looking for a partner in the Stability Subcommittee.
- Benjamin will replace Valorie as Co-Chair on the Racial Equity Subcommittee; Erica will remain Co-Chair.
- Racial Equity Goal 3.1 will be moved under Stability Subcommittee goal.
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By-Name List Subcommittee (population specific):

- James would like a Co-Chair for Chronically Homeless Individuals Subcommittee.
- Rachel will be resigning as Co-Chair for the Veterans Subcommittee and will be looking to find someone to replace her spot.
- RoxAnne will replace Tonya as Co-Chair on the Domestic Violence Survivors Subcommittee; Keith will remain Co-Chair.

Good of the Order

- Dr. Jackson suggested another virtual (pizza) party – might be a good time to a check-in.
- Neal suggested using one software for communication (i.e. Zoom, go-to-meeting) – the software that has the feature most appropriate for our needs.
- Marilee says families on unemployment are being denied opportunities to rent apartments and asks who she can contact to help families build bridges. She will reach out to James.

Public Comment Period

Al Ratcliff provided the following comments:

- Instead of leasing facilities, purchase a facility that can be an ongoing homeless shelter.
- City and Human Rights Commission formed a subcommittee on equitable housing. Their intent is to look at planning and zoning for equitable housing distribution. Al suggested we connect with them.
- Community partnership – central place for everyone to access particular issues i.e. housing. Al suggested touching base with Ben Cheney Foundation.
- Lived Experienced Advisory Committee – recruiting homeless people to observe/comment on proposals to ensure they will be responsive.

Gerrit Nyland provided comment that members that are not attending meetings are hindering the work of the CoC and should be purged.

Neal provided comment that direct agency owned housing puts more resources into the hands of case managers and agency to provide services.

Meeting Adjourned

James adjourned the meeting at 11:01 am.

CoC RACIAL EQUITY COMMITTEE

April 24, 2020

Meeting Notes

Participants:

Mike Crow
Valorie Crout
Dana Dorr

Ben Feldbush (Chair)
Taniesha Lyons
Carolyn Weisz

Meeting called to order at 1:12 p.m. via Zoom. Members introduced themselves with a statement on something positive happening in their lives.

1) Mike Crow Research on other CoC in Washington State Update

- **Key findings and themes**
- **Suggestions on how the RE committee should move forward.**

Mike spoke with Klarissa Monteros at Building Bridges about the research they conducted for the Pierce County Continuum of Care and about how other CoCs in the Pacific Northwest are integrating racial equity into their governance and decision-making processes. Mike is continuing to research this issue and hopes to report out on findings at the racial equity subcommittee's May meeting. Valorie suggested that Mike also contact Amanda with the Balance of State Continuum of Care.

2) Racial Equity Committee for the Balance of State Update

- **How people of color are being negatively impacted by COVID**
- **Data shared agreement with PC and Building Changes**

--- A question was raised about whether diversion funds are available for category 3 households (e.g. "couch surfers") in order to better address their needs under Covid-19. Even with diversion funds, however, resources may not be adequate to address these needs. Possibly it may be worthwhile to reach out to Erica at the City of Tacoma for information.

--- Homelessness continues to rise in Pierce County even with the current suspension of evictions as part of the state's Covid-19 response.

--- Pierce County Continuum of Care's five year strategic plan prioritizes "those most in need". But how is this defined and assessed? In particular, is the CoC's definition of this informed by a racial equity lens? Note that much of Washington State's racial equity language for CoCs got removed from Pierce County's five year strategic plan.

--- Covid-19 may open a policy window that draws attention to homelessness issues in Washington. How can we capitalize on this opportunity?

--- The RE committee has made a data sharing request to Pierce County for access to the data compiled by Building Changes.

--- Mike reviewed the variables available in this data set. Survival (or event history) analysis of this data could be used to measure the impact of an individual's race on the length of time it takes for a person to transition to permanent housing, controlling for other factors.

--- The RE committee may want to invite Pierce County's HMIS data manager to one of our upcoming meetings to brief us on the HMIS system, data available through HMIS, and how the county analyzes that data.

3) How the CoC Charter should define this Committee

- **Should we develop a draft of ideas?**
- **How do we see this committee as an official CoC committee?**

Final Purpose for this Committee

- **Are we ready to move forward as a committee?**

--- A potentially important role for the RE committee is to provide a racial equity lens on key CoC decisions. For instance, the RE committee might compensate for racial "blind spots" in the full CoC meetings.

--- RE committee can also play a role in grantwriting, particularly in seeking out funding opportunities that can support a racial equity mission or providing a racial equity component to CoC grant proposals.

--- Another potential role for the RE committee is to make recommendations to the full CoC that will keep the CoC in compliance with HUD expectations and requirements for racial equity. At present, HUD is not requiring racial equity be addressed explicitly in CoC governance, but HUD appears to be moving in this direction.

--- In incorporating the RE subcommittee into the CoC's governance, it will be very important that its purpose and role be described in clear and precise language. The RE subcommittee should be careful not to over-reach in describing its mission.

--- Membership on the RE subcommittee should be inclusive of the CoC board membership. It is important for RE membership to include skeptics on the CoC board so that these views become part of the RE subcommittee's deliberations.

--- Another consideration is including one or more funders as part of the RE subcommittee's membership.

--- A suggestion was made to include a staff member from the Pierce County Health Department as part of the RE subcommittee membership.

--- Carolyn indicated she could work to identify potential other members of the RE subcommittee.

--- Mike indicated he could work with Cynthia to develop a draft statement of purpose for the RE subcommittee.