



Board of Directors

Meeting Minutes

February 24, 2006

I. Call to order

Chairman Ken Schmitt called to order the regular meeting of the Board of Directors of **Alliance to End Homelessness in Suburban Cook County** at **10:00 AM on Friday, February 26, 2006** at BEDS, in the First Presbyterian Church of LaGrange, 150 S. Ashland Avenue, LaGrange, IL.

II. Attendance

a) Directors present

Ken Schmitt, Eileen Higgins, Raul Rodriguez, Lynda Schueler, Khen Nickele, Edwin Walker, Mike Wasserberg, Pat Rodgers, Fred Shannon, Beverly Christmon, Cynthia Schilsky, Mary Schurder, Marie Vesely, Sandy Williams, Gerry DuPaty, Kelli Moore, Mark Enenbach

b) Members present

Jennifer Hill, Tom Hinchy, Amy Ernstes, Suzanne Hopkins, Shaun Pyron, Terri Chalmers, Nick Kusceovich, Courtney Suchor, Millicent Ntiamoah, Magalie Oscar, Molly Salisbury, Jose Alvarez, Farrah Ferrel, Beth Nabors, Daphne Head, Darci Redmond, Jere Teed, Karen Stunkel

III. Approval of minutes from last meeting

Edwin Walker moved and Fred Shannon seconded that minutes of the January meeting be approved with the following corrections: *The South Suburban Council report also discussed the Governance Report.* Motion passed.

IV. Treasurer's report

Raul Rodriguez reported no significant variances to the budget at this time. Update since the end of the reporting period: We have received several grant payments and have paid off the line of credit.

Edwin Walker moved to accept the Treasurer's report as presented. Eileen Higgins seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

V. Director's report

Jennifer Hill reported that we have received a \$3,500 grant from United Way in addition to the \$25,000 Chicago Community Trust grant. We have paid off the line of credit, which previously had a \$70,000 balance. Reviewed the list of Letters of Intent received for SuperNOFA project renewals, and described the new project letters received. Reminded the group that only one of the new projects will be selected and submitted to HUD with our application. There is an open meeting on March 2 regarding the bonus

project selection criteria. All Alliance members are welcome to attend and give input. The PRP Committee will bring its recommendation to the next Board meeting. Voluntary cuts to budgets of renewal projects have freed up about \$95,000 of pro-rata need share. Cynthia Schilsky suggested that \$60k of the \$95k of the prorata share be set aside for services for the bonus project, and the balance saved for next year (i.e., those projects that volunteered cuts in excess of the \$60,000 will be encouraged to apply for their full eligible amount this year and cut that amount next year). Significant discussion ensued about the 20% limit on supportive services in the bonus project budget. Beth Nabors advised that Journeys is withdrawing their letter of intent for the bonus competition as they plan to seek funding elsewhere.

Cynthia Schilsky moved that the Alliance set aside \$60,000 of the “hold harmless pro rata share” to supplement services within the bonus project. Edwin Walker seconded. Motion passed: 16 aye, 0 nay. Eileen Higgins abstained.

Jennifer reported on the HUD debriefing on our SuperNOFA application last year (2005). Indicated that provider participation in HMIS is critical. Tom Hinchy pointed out that our score (84) was very close to the funding limit (82) and urged all to consider the impacts of their project applications and activities on our Continuum score.

VI. Committee reports

- a) **Executive Committee:** Ken Schmitt reported that the meeting was cancelled as there was no a quorum present. Next meeting is March 13 by conference call.
- b) **HMIS Committee:** No representative present. Jennifer Hill referred all to the written report included in the packet. Mike Wasserberg asked about the Alliance’s AHAR obligations, and Jennifer reported that we can fulfill our 2006 reporting obligation by getting information from 4-5 agencies only. Those agencies will be notified shortly.
- c) **Continuum of Care Development:** Sue Shimon is on vacation. Jennifer referred all to the written report in the packet.
- d) **Project Review and Prioritization:** Cynthia Schilsky stated that there is an open meeting on March 2 regarding the selection criteria for the bonus project. Executive Committee will review Bonus RFP before its release.
- e) **Chronic Homelessness:** Committee recommends we begin work soon on the January 2007 unsheltered count. Also recommends another committee be formed (or assigned to discuss) the rental support program.
- f) **Homeless Prevention:** With a base of members of the Chronic Homeless and Prevention Committees, an ad hoc Rental Assistance Work Group was formed to begin working on housing voucher issues. Tom Hinchy suggested looking beyond that program to all rental assistance issues. Lynda, Marie, and Khen will talk after Board to schedule a meeting. [Meeting was scheduled for March 24, subsequent to next Alliance board meeting.]

IDHS application is due March 10. Total allocation more than doubled, and all of it is coming from the state’s housing trust fund, rather than coming from a combination of general revenue and TANF funds.

Marie Vesely moved that the current arrangement remain in place; that is, use the same four “banker” agencies (which can invite additional agencies to participate as

portals) and the same distribution ratios (South: 36%, North 35%, West 29%). If needed before the March 10 deadline, any modifications will be brought to the Executive Committee. Pat Rodgers seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

- g) **Governance:** Richard Koenig is not present.
- h) **Advocacy:** Nancy Radner is not present. Ken Schmitt reported on Housing Lobby Day activities.
- i) **Evaluation:** Karen Stunkel referred all to the first report included in the packet. Committee will be contacting the CBSAs to seek input on outcome evaluation. Magalie Oscar volunteered to join that committee.

VII. Other reports

- a) **Regional Roundtable:** Cynthia Schilsky reported that there is no meeting until next month. Mike Wasserberg suggested the RRT have a comparative discussion of HUD application debriefings so area Continua can share information.
- b) **Mainstream Resources:** Mary Ann Romeo is not present.

VIII. CBSA reports

- a) **South:** Fred Shannon reported that Jill Valbuena of Thresholds presented an excellent video on mental illness; a meeting to follow up the Summit was scheduled for 03/14; encouraged support of expanding Metra services in the southeast, if anyone has a helpful contact, please help.
- b) **West:** Cynthia Schilsky indicated that WSCH is considering hosting a Summit in October, the focus of which would be engaging stakeholders in the Alliance plan. Initial planning meetings are taking place now. Jill Valbuena will present the mental health video to WSCH at their meeting next week.
- c) **North:** Marie Vesely reported that AHAND's 02/03 training workshop went well.

IX. Old business

- a) Jennifer Hill reminded everyone to sign in on the attendance sheet.

X. New business

- a) Marie Vesely had an experience wherein HUD rejected a request by her project to increase the number of people served. She would like to know if anyone else may have dealt with this issue.
- b) Suzanne Hopkins reminded all that Board Meeting information is available on the Alliance website www.suburbancook.org. Some members have reported difficulty in receiving notices by email. Please add the Alliance to your safe senders list to ensure all communiqués come through your server.

XI. Adjournment

Edwin Walker moved to adjourn the meeting; Pat Rodgers seconded the motion. Chairman Schmitt adjourned the meeting at **12:10 PM**.

Minutes submitted by: Suzanne Hopkins.