

Alliance to End Homelessness in Suburban Cook County
Board Meeting Minutes
January 27, 2006

Meeting Location: Harris Bank, 111 W. Monroe Street, Chicago, IL 60603

Members Present:

Officers Present:

Chair Ken Schmitt; Secretary Susan Shimon; Treasurer Raul Rodriguez; and Past Chair Richard Koenig. Vice Chair Eileen Higgins was absent.

Board Members Present:

Beverly Christmon; Gerry DuPaty; Doug Jones; Kelli Moore; Khen Nিকেle; Nancy Radner; Patrick Rodgers; Mary Ann Romeo; Cynthia Schilsky; Lynda Schueler; Mary Schurder; Fred Shannon; Marie Vesely; Edwin H. Walker IV; Mike Wasserberg; and Sandy Williams.

Board Members Not Present:

Mark Enenbach; Yvonne Griffin-Bland; and Lenoris Perkins.

Other Members Present

Jennifer Hill, Amy Ernestes, and Shaun Pyron (Alliance Staff). Barbara Hyshaw - CEDA Central; Millicent Ntiamoah - Catholic Charities; Karyn Perkins - CEDA Bloom-Rich; Jennifer Shimp - Harris NA; Courtney Suchor - Sanctuary/SS Family Shelter; Jill Valbuena – Thresholds; and LaTonya Walker -WINGS

- I. Alliance Chair Ken Schmitt called the meeting to order. Participants introduced themselves.
- II. Approval of the Minutes - Edwin Walker moved and Mike Wasserberg seconded that the minutes of the December meeting be approved with the following corrections: Project Review and Prioritization Committee report reference to Option A “had at its crux selection of only one new project **to be ranked #1.**”
- III. Treasurer’s Report – Raul Rodriguez reported no significant variances to the budget at this time. Financial reports illustrate our oft-stated disadvantageous cash flow.
- IV. Director’s Report – Jennifer Hill reported that the next Alliance meeting will be at a west suburban location in February; Mac Minnick has resigned due to health reasons; Chicago Community Trust awarded \$25,000 for our HMIS (!); the strategic plan summary presentation is scheduled in the February AHAND meeting (contact Jennifer if you wish her to present in the west or south); the 1/20/05 SuperNOFA training was well attended;

Board action requested: Jennifer requested a resolution authorizing the \$175,000 request for CDBG funds. She read the resolution, Patrick Rodgers moved and Fred Shannon seconded that the Alliance authorize the application on its behalf. Motion passed.

- V. Committee Reports
 - A. Executive Committee – Ken Schmitt summarized the committee’s discussion of the CDBG application, SuperNOFA orientation, and Alliance committee reports.
 - B. HMIS Committee – Doug Jones reported that its ad hoc report design group has made significant progress in defining those reports.
 - C. Continuum of Care Committee – Sue Shimon reported on its discussion of strategic plan executive summary distribution, stakeholder engagement and prioritization, and Chronic Homelessness Committee’s request that it re-examine its decision to wait until 2007 to conduct a sheltered count. The committee agreed to produce a condensed strategic plan version. Jennifer Hill and Tom Hinchy will seek an appointment with the Cook County Planning Department Director. The committee concluded it could not recommend a 2006 sheltered count, though it may have no choice, depending on the AHAR requirement outcome.

D. Project Review and Prioritization – Cynthia presented the 2006 ranking tool, pointing out the following changes:

* Category 1 - Project Meets Need of Continuum

Categories and point values were adjusted based on data from the homeless count done in January of 2005.

* Category 2 – Participation

Participation in CBSA and Alliance committees was decreased to a point value of 1.

* Category 3 – Collaboration

After much discussion it was determined that collaboration within projects is still valued, but since efforts to quantify leveraging as a measure of collaboration were still unclear, it was decided to reduce the number of points for leveraging in this section and make it more straightforward. If all leveraging comes from one source, then no points are awarded. If it does not all come from one source, then 1 point will be awarded.

* Category 4 – Funding

Two criteria were removed from this category because they were felt to be redundant. The deleted categories are “Costs are reasonable in relationship to objectives” and “Budgets reflect adequate support”. The point value for the category is reduced to 9 from 13.

* Category 6 – Program Outcomes

APR’s will be used for each project to determine if they are reaching the goals they have established for their own projects since the Alliance does not yet have standard goals.

* Category 7 – Renewals Only

Points in this category will be given on Housing/Services Ratio and not based on type of program as in the last few years.

Total point value is now 70 points for renewal projects.

After clarifying discussion Cynthia Schilsky moved and Richard Koenig seconded adoption of the 2006 Project Ranking form as presented. Motion passed.

The Letter of Intent will be emailed to every Alliance participant. Patrick Rodgers moved and Ken Schmitt seconded that only the projects for which a Letter of Intent is received via email, fax, hand delivery or postal service by 5:00pm on February 15, 2006 will be accepted for consideration by the Alliance. Motion passed.

Cynthia Schilsky moved and Mike Wasserberg seconded that the HMIS project be ranked #2 as in the past. Motion passed. The amount requested for HMIS may be decreased.

Concerns to address as we move forward: The decrease in points for CBSA/Alliance committee participation stemmed from the current lack of reliable monitoring, variables in meeting frequency, etc. We must plan how we can keep participants engaged at the CBSA/committee level. The importance of Supportive Service Only projects in serving the chronically homeless group was highlighted.

The PRP chair will recruit 12-14 eligible Alliance members without conflicts of interest to assist as 2006 NOFA project reviewers. Suggestions from CBSA chairs are welcome.

E. Chronic Homeless – Lynda Schueler reported its discussion of a 2006 sheltered count and the possibility that AHAR data requests may serve their objective. The committee reviewed the Homeless Prevention/Family committee’s definition of chronic homelessness as relates to families. It planned its presentation for the 1/20/06 Alliance training, and it gave feedback on training ideas to be coordinated with the Chicago Continuum of Care.

- F. Homeless Prevention – Marie Vesely announced the next committee meeting date: 2/24/06 immediately following the Alliance meeting. This committee is tracking the homeless prevention funding advocacy efforts and watching the Rental Support bill implementation. She recommended ordering the document “Strategies for Preventing Homelessness” from HUDuser.
 - G. Governance – Richard Koenig reported that by-law revision will commence in the February meeting of this committee.
 - H. Advocacy – Nancy Radner requested guidance on how the Partnership to End Homelessness (PTEH) can help advocate to address HUD’s priority ranking change with regard to Featherfist’s Chicago and Suburban 2005 applications. She encouraged all Alliance participants to join the 2/23/06 Springfield Housing Lobby Day & the Legislative Breakfast co-hosted by the Supportive Housing Providers Association and PTEH.
 - I. Evaluation – The committee held its first meeting to plan achievement of our goal to develop a tool to measure the effectiveness of our current projects. Next meeting is 2/1, and additional committee members are welcome.
- VI. Other Reports
- A. Mainstream Resources – Mary Ann Romeo reiterated her recommendation that mainstream resources not be addressed via a committee process. Marie reported that Real Benefits continues to be a free service for her agency.
 - B. Regional Roundtable – Cynthia Schilsky reported the roundtable discussion of discharge planning, priority ranking methods and the distribution of the groups’ summary report of 2005 activity, and a handout called “Plans to End Homelessness in Northeastern Illinois.”
- VII. CBSA Reports –
- South – Fred Shannon reported this CBSA’s discussion of attendance at the 1/20/06 Alliance training. Fred reinforced attendance at the Housing Day; two south suburban state representatives are sponsoring housing legislation.
- West – Cynthia Schilsky reported this CBSA’s discussion of local housing vacancies and review of the Governance Committee’s recommendations. Next meeting is at the IDHS office.
- North – Marie Vesely encouraged Alliance members to attend the North-sponsored Program Evaluation training on February 3. The Housing Action Committee-produced video on engaging people who are homeless and have mental illness will be shown in the March meeting.
- VIII. New Business – Guest presentation: Daria Mueller of the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless summarized the recent publication “Homeless Youth Study” (available at www.chicagohomeless.org) and described the Homeless Prevention Campaign efforts.
- IX. *Edwin Walker moved (multiple seconds) that the meeting adjourn. Motion passed.***

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Shimon, Secretary