

PORTLAND CONTINUUM OF CARE

Wednesday, December 04, 2013

MEETING MINUTES

Present:

Bob Duranleau, City of Portland, Health & Human Services Department, Social Services Division
Jeff Tardif, City of Portland, Health & Human Services Department, Social Services Division, Family Shelter
Tammy Butner, City of Portland, Health & Human Services Department, Social Services Division, Family Shelter
Aaron Geyer, City of Portland, Health & Human Services Department, Social Services Division, Home to Stay
Matt Pryor, City of Portland, Health & Human Services Department, Social Services Division, Home to Stay
Amy Grommes-Pulaski, City of Portland, CDBG
Joni Boissonneault, Portland Housing Authority
Ginny Dill, Shalom House
Vickey Rand, CHOM
Bob Dodge, LearningWorks
Shana Pike, Stepping Stones
Jon Bradley, Preble Street
Kendra Danse, Opportunity Alliance
Pat McKenzie, Opportunity Alliance
Brookes More, Avesta Housing

I. Introductions

Bob welcomed everyone and brief introductions were made.

II. HUD Program Changes for 2013 Operating Year

Bob addressed the program changes for FY 2013 and pointed out that they are very different from previous years'. HUD is focusing on chronic homelessness and is strongly encouraging transitional housing programs to change their approach and serve those who are in shelters and chronically homeless by changing to:

- Rapid Re-Housing permanent housing for families
- Permanent housing for chronically homeless
- Reallocation of funds back to CoC

See Continuum of Care power point slides. Bob pointed out changes (*highlighted by a "NEW" graphic*). The new mandate that Shelter + Care funds must be distributed by a government was addressed; Vickey pointed out that there isn't a lot of movement forward with that at the federal level, as it is still in committee.

Bob pointed out the allowable supportive services and encouraged everyone to keep the list on page 5, as many items were dropped and the match requirements. All matches must be accompanied by an MOU. Bob suggested a future training on the rental assistance formula by TA. He pointed out the definition of disability now includes drug and alcohol abuse and documentation of disability now includes SSDI and VA payments.

III. Changes in the FY 2013-2014 Continuum of Care Application Process

See attachment: Changes to the CoC HUD Application. HUD has acknowledged that there is not enough funding for all applicants for FY 2013, which is one reason they are focusing on elimination of funding for transitional housing. In addition, unless a collaborative is high-scoring, the Tier 2 agencies in the collaborative will most likely not receive funding.

Bob pointed out that those individuals counted in transitional housing are considered homeless, causing AHAR homeless numbers to shoot up. This is in addition to the additional 200 BRAP vouchers, which caused an increase in numbers for homeless.

Bob addressed the fact that new projects will not be funded, but reallocation is allowed to restructure programs to permanent supportive housing and rapid re-housing. Project applications are much simpler this year, as everything will be calculated at the collaborative application level.

IV. New Budget Match Requirements

Bob discussed the Project Application Renewals and asked for feedback on changes or updates for each program description.

V. NEW- Consolidated Application Scoring Criteria based on 150-point Scale

Bob discussed the CoC HUD Scoring Sheet and how points are much more broken down now. CoCs will be able to see where each point comes from. He went through each category and the point structure, pointing out where the collaborative will need to focus.

VI. eSnaps Changes

The entire consolidated application has been changed. Each project will have a much simpler process, with only a few pages of data and narrative.

VII. Portland CoC Timeline

Bob discussed the *Timeline* handout. At the next meeting, Anne will come in and go through the process, step-by-step. Each meeting with Anne will be imperative to ensure the collaborative receives the highest amount of points. Bob discussed the APRs and how they will be combined to look at the application. He also stressed the deadlines for each step of the process.

VIII. Other Business

Jon discussed HUD's focus on the chronically homeless and the need to focus and reallocate funds. All agencies should look at their programs and reallocation. He stressed that every program needs to help empty shelters and how funding may not occur if changes are not made to the process and reallocations. He sees a future of cuts to supportive services. Jon and Ginny discussed the definition of chronically homeless v. long-term stayers and the need for accurate documentation throughout the state to prove services are being provided appropriately. Bob agreed that the CoC will not receive funding next year if changes in the application process and focus on reducing chronic homelessness are not made. Jeff pointed out that there are no permanent supportive housing for families in Portland and the need to change some of the vouchers and homeless placements. Joni pointed out that the Portland Housing Authority has a service coordinator and grant funds to provide supportive services. Jeff stated it would all help with the application process for families. While the families not receiving the transitional housing vouchers (BRAP, STEP) may have limited eligibility for other vouchers, they will have permanent supportive housing vouchers.

Vickey and Jon suggested a meeting to discuss match funding and the limitations and allowances. It was suggested to have a sample MOU. Bob suggested that financial representatives from each agency attend, including those who handle timesheets. Pat asked for a draft of an MOU to be provided as soon as possible so each agency's legal department can review for HIPAA, etc. requirements. Bob will schedule this meeting.

Jon pointed out that all transitional housing programs need to reassess *soon* and decide whether they need to redefine who they are targeting by focusing on either rapid re-housing or permanent housing for chronically homeless. Vickey suggested finding other CoCs who repurposed their programs and how they went about the process. Jon stated that Memphis, Delaware, and Columbus, OH are CoCs that have different structures, including a separate entity making changes and choices on who receives funding.

Finding a third party to fund and make these decisions could prove more difficult than a small committee, where Portland is smaller and already has a strong collaborative in place.

The committee agreed to hold a follow-up meeting on December 11 at 11:00am, immediately after the CoC workshop with Anne. Each transitional housing provider has been asked to consider changing to **rapid re-housing for families, a permanent housing program for chronically homeless, or reallocating their funds back to the CoC.**

Next Meeting:

December 11, 2013

9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

REFUGEE SERVICES CONFERENCE AREA

190 Lancaster Street

Please Contact Robert Duranleau, City of Portland, Health and Human Services Department, Social Services Division at 482-5124, or rmd@portlandmaine.gov if you have any questions.