

PORTLAND CONTINUUM OF CARE

Wednesday, January 21, 2015

MEETING MINUTES

Present:

Dawn Stiles	City of Portland, Health & Human Services Department
Aaron Geyer	City of Portland, Health & Human Services Department, Social Services Division, Home to Stay
Jeff Tardif	City of Portland, Health & Human Services Department, Social Services Division, Family Shelter
Rob Parritt	City of Portland, Health & Human Services Department, Social Services Division, Oxford Street Shelter
Jon Bradley	Preble Street
Virginia Dill	Shalom House
Cindy Namer	MaineHousing
Vickey Rand	CHOM
Cullen Ryan	CHOM
Norm Maze	Shalom House

I. Introductions

Aaron welcomed everyone and brief introductions were made. Aaron addressed the issue surrounding a missing co-chair. Jon offered to remain as co-chair, but declined the role as Chair, stating it should be someone from the City. Cindy stated MH will still be helping in the ways they always have with HMIS, PIT, HIC, etc.

Jeff motioned for Aaron to sit in until a new Administrator is up to speed. Jon seconded. Unanimously agreed.

II. 2014 CoC Application Update

There were no significant updates.

III. HUD Technical Assistance with ABT

Aaron handed out the minutes from the meeting with ABT Associates. Bell St. is moving on with using market rate for their beds, even as LearningWorks is still trying to sell the property. 22 Park Avenue will open a few units for PH vouchers. Dawn stated management plans on moving forward with this, including shifting programming to ensure all remaining funding is utilized correctly.

Aaron spoke to Lynn regarding utilization rates and how to best utilize the funding. Lynn stated that unfortunately, not a lot can be shifted at this time.

Cindy addressed HMIS and the lack of funding from Portland (\$28,500). According to the governance, there is a fee, up to 3% of their admin fee. CoP has a lot of licenses due to the scanners, but she suggested the topic be revisited. Aaron asked the group if they would like a conference call to discuss the mixed messages from HUD regarding HMIS. Jon agreed, citing Portland may just be the beginning of a cut in funding across the board. Cindy stated she will go back through the grants and HICs to determine who needs licenses.

Ginny asked if ABT indicated whether we could reapply for HMIS in the next grant cycle. Vickey stated that at the training in Boston, CoCs were told HMIS is not an eligible administrative cost, and would have to be built in to the program budget. Cindy stated that this will need to be addressed with Lynn on changing the line items and will determine the amount that will be billed based on the 3%.

Aaron addressed the issue of bonus money and how that funding would only cover those previously enrolled in the Employment Assistance program, not new clients. Jon stated his grant cannot help, as it is primarily funding for chronically homeless. Cindy stated Federal Home Funds cannot be used in shelters, but suggested using CDBG/ESG funding. Jon backed the idea, as CEI has allotted \$15,000.

Aaron asked whether HUD takes into account the fact that programs were defunded and will they count against the Continuum in the next grant cycle. These are topics to be addressed by ABT in a future conference call.

Action Item: Aaron will set up a conference call with ABT and send out an invitation.

Action Item: Cindy will gather an outline of funding required for HMIS.

IV. Point in Time Survey Changes 2015

Next Wednesday is the PIT for OSS. Aaron asked for volunteers, please RSVP to Rob (rwp@portlandmaine.gov).

Jon stated that he and others had discussed adding a few questions to the PIT survey surrounding their reasons for coming to Maine, and where they came from. He sent a draft to Rob, but he is not sure where it is on his end. This is not for the actual PIT survey report, but rather for internal use to report for consolidation. Jeff stated this is already asked at the shelters, but Jon stated this will include those not in shelters and just for out-of-staters.

Action Item: Jon will follow-up with Rob to say where those questions are in the process.

V. Betterment Fund

Aaron discussed the receipt of the Betterment Fund to hire a part-time employee to work specifically with the planning grant. He has drafted a hiring letter and will send to Dawn for approval for a part-time (20 hours per week) position to work on the planning grant. Jon suggested some of this be redirected to HMIS, as you cannot do coordinated assessment without HMIS. Cindy pointed out this position was supposed to be part-time, half-year, so Ann planned on applying for another grant mid-year. This other, mid-year grant should include HMIS in the application. Aaron and Cindy stated they will look at the parameters of the Betterment Fund so determine what it can be used for. Jon cautioned against applying for too many program-specific grants, recommending individual programs apply for their grants, rather than waiting on the Continuum.

Regarding Coordinated Assessment, the group wanted to ensure there is transparency and teamwork with both Continuums with the No Wrong Door approach. The goal of this is to ensure that if a Portland client moves to Lewiston, they receive the same services. Cullen stated there is full backing from the MCoC.

VI. Mainstream Resources Committee Update

Aaron stated that Julie Glassock will be doing her SSI/SSDI overview on February 19. Kira at Maine Community Health will be doing a presentation on the Affordable Care Act in the coming months as well. He asked for more training ideas, as he is still a committee of one. Participation is also low, so he is asking for more to attend. Jon stated this may be because the trainings are repeats and his staff has already attended. He suggested Substance Abuse training, including treatments, methods, and how to determine the difference between Substance Abuse and Mental Health, and diagnostic items. Peggy Acres and the India Street clinic have offered to do these trainings. Another issue is the reentry collaborative, including employment assistance. Vickey stated that the Maine CoC used a Region II meeting as a time to do training and Jon indicated there is a statewide forum coming up, which may serve as a place for this training.

VII. Other Business

Jon stated they are having issues determining what their Safe Haven qualifies as in HMIS. Previously, they are listed as Permanent Housing, but now they are determined as homeless. This changes their reimbursement and housing numbers. Cindy stated this adds them to the Long Term Stayers initiative and then inflates numbers. Cindy stated we need to look at the “effective date” of these changes to determine whether reports need to be updated. If Lynn doesn’t have an answer, ABT should be questioned.

Jeff asked about the VI SPDAT and MaineHousing funds. Cindy stated it is in HMIS and the Family Shelter can use it. Cindy stated it is mandatory for Home To Stay (Kelsey) case managers, but not the shelter as a

whole, and only on clients there for one week or more. It is currently in the testing phase, and they are receiving feedback from various entities in how they use the program.

Next Meeting:

February 18, 2015

10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

REFUGEE SERVICES CONFERENCE AREA

190 Lancaster Street

Please contact:

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Health & Human Services Department

Social Services Division

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if you have any questions