



SOUTH CAROLINA INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS

Board Meeting Agenda
Thursday, September 14, 2023, 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM
Microsoft Teams Meeting

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|-------|---|------------------------|------|
| I. | Welcome and Roll Call | E. Ann Gowdy | (5) |
| II. | Approval of July Meeting Minutes (Action Item) | Bruce Forbes | (5) |
| III. | Financial Report | Bruce Forbes | (5) |
| | a. Update website RFP | | |
| IV. | Youth Experiencing Homelessness Taskforce (Action Item) | E. Ann Gowdy | (15) |
| | a. SC Department of Social Services Planning Grant | | |
| VI. | Nomination Committee | Lorian Crowl | (5) |
| VI. | State Report Committee | E. Ann Gowdy | (5) |
| VII. | Continuum of Care Updates | CoC Representatives | (25) |
| | a. Lowcountry Continuum of Care (LCC) | | |
| | b. Midlands Area Consortium for the Homeless (MACH) | | |
| | c. Total Care for the Homeless Coalition (TCHC) | | |
| | d. Upstate Continuum of Care (UHC) | | |
| VIII. | State Agency and Statewide Organization Updates | Agency Representatives | (20) |



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Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 14, 2023, 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

Microsoft Teams Meeting

Board Members in Attendance: Julie Ann Avin, Mac Caldwell, Heather Carver, Lorain Crowl, Bruce Forbes, E. Ann Gowdy, Renaye Long, Terre Marshall, Michele Murff, Chief Amy Prock, Norah Rogers, Dovid Rozelle, Chris Rubio, Joey Smoak, Spencer Thomas, Birley Wright

Other Attendees: Natalie Rivera, Stephanie Donaldson, Laquana Lee, Brenda Santiago, Christina Roberts, Russell Rich, Brenton Brown, Julie Miller, Steven Ferrufino, Emily Blackshire, Tierra McMillan, Margaret Tillman, Alexis Spry, Kimberly Humphrey, Mary Diggs, Aimee Dubé

I. Welcome and Roll Call

E. Ann Gowdy, SCICH chair, called the meeting to order at 10:30am and welcomed the group. The meeting was held by Microsoft Teams. E. Ann Gowdy took a roll call.

II. Approval of May Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Russell Rich to approve the July board meeting minutes. Terre Marshall seconded the motion. All were in favor, and none opposed.

III. Financial Report

Bruce Forbes provided the financial report. To date, the council has \$154,629.28 in its account. Lorain Crowl added that the Request for Proposal to redesign the SCICH website was sent out in August with a due date of Monday, September 18th. The board has received two proposals and hopes to finalize their decision soon.

IV. Youth Experiencing Homelessness Taskforce

E. Ann Gowdy provided updates. The taskforce has drafted a Request for Proposal to help coordinate the Statewide Youth Count, supported by a planning grant from SC Department of Social Services. This grant has an end date of May 31, 2024, so the implementation of the count will be on a tight timeline. The taskforce aims to have publicly released the Request for Proposal by September 14th. The Request has a due date

of September 28th. The taskforce hopes to finalize their decision by October 19th and launch the project by November 1st.

The Request for Proposal includes details on how the Statewide Youth Count will be conducted, including the development of working groups. The Planning Working Group will be comprised of CoC leads, youth providers and state agency representatives to oversee the count. The taskforce is looking for volunteers for the remaining three working groups: Communications, Survey, and Volunteers. All SCICH attendees are invited to participate.

A motion was made by Bruce Forbes to allow the Youth Experiencing Homelessness Taskforce to independently manage the Request for Proposal process and report back to the board, including the final approval of an applicant. Mac Caldwell seconded the motion. All were in favor, and none opposed.

V. Nomination Committee

Lorain Crawl provided updates. The Nomination Committee is forming to fill a few positions on the board, including a position for someone with lived experience of homelessness and an at-large position. Lorain mentioned that she is looking for five or six persons to join the Nomination Committee. If interested, please reach out to lorain.crawl@gmail.com.

VI. State Report Committee

E. Ann Gowdy provided updates. Every year, SCICH produces a statewide State of Homelessness Report, including demographic and system performance data from the four Continuums of Care, SC 211, the Department of Corrections, the Department of Education, and other state agencies. Ann mentioned that she is looking for persons to join the State Report Committee, particularly representatives from each Continuum. If interested, please reach out to ann@gowdyinitiativeagency.com.

VII. Continuum of Care COVID-19 Response and Updates

- a. Lowcountry Continuum of Care (LCC)** – Heather Carver provided updates. LCC has been focusing on their application for the 2023 CoC Program Competition (or NOFO). Additionally, their Monitoring Committee is finalizing monitoring on racial equity and reviewing their assessments for CoC and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funded

programs. Next year, they will be adding to their Threshold Requirements for these programs. LCC is also working on a Housing First monitoring assessment.

LCC was awarded funds in the 2022 Special NOFO to create projects that serve persons experiencing unsheltered homelessness and persons experiencing homelessness in rural counties. They are working on implementing these projects with biweekly technical assistance from HUD.

b. Midlands Area Consortium for the Homeless (MACH) – Brenda Santiago provided updates. MACH has also been focusing on their application for the 2023 NOFO and have been updating their policies to adhere to the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). Julie Miller shared that MACH is also preparing for the upcoming Point in Time Count that will take place in January 2024.

c. Total Care for the Homeless Coalition (TCHC) – Joey Smoak provided updates. TCHC has also been focusing on their application for the 2023 NOFO.

TCHC was awarded funds in the 2022 Special NOFO to create a Rapid Rehousing project in Sumter County. They are working on implementing this project with technical assistance from HUD. TCHC is also receiving technical assistance on utilizing their funds from the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP). YHDP agency grants have been awarded with condition and will start October 1st.

Joey mentioned that TCHC still receives a high volume of calls from persons in need of rental assistance or facing eviction. All meeting attendees shared the same challenge as homeless prevention programs across the state are decreasing. Heather Carver from LCC shared that their Homeless Eviction Program is still operating but is funds to offer rental assistance.

Joey asked if any of the CoCs will be encouraging the use of HOME-American Rescue Plan (ARP) funding for acquiring and rehabilitating housing. Julie Ann Avin mentioned that Richland County, covered by MACH, will be using HOME-ARP funds to develop a home for female youth.

d. Upstate Continuum of Care (UCC) – Natalie Rivera provided updates. UCC has also been focusing on their application for the 2023 NOFO. Additionally, their Planning Committee has been preparing for their Fall 2023 Training Event. This training will cover the Point in Time Count, debrief the NOFO, and will include a session on diversity, equity and inclusion in the CoC. UCC also held an Homeless Management

Information System (HMIS) Webinar in September to prepare for the 2024 Data Standards from HUD.

Natalie shared that UCC has a new interim Chair. United Housing Connections, the UCC Collaborative Applicant, experienced a change of leadership in June. Their current interim CEO is serving as the interim Chair of the CoC. UCC hopes to have a permanent Chair in place within the next few months.

Bruce Forbes added that UCC will be looking for further guidance from HUD on the implementation of the new National Standards for the Physical Inspection of Real Estate (NSPIRE). UCC will be prioritizing relationships with landlords to transition to these new standards and help provide solutions for housing barriers. Bruce reported that he has seen new requirements of tenants in the Upstate, like a second security deposit or additional fees at application, that are serving as barriers to housing and are resulting in difficulties for both clients and case managers.

VIII. State Agency and Statewide Organization Updates

Margaret Tillman with the SC Commission for Minority Affairs introduced herself as filling in for Cynthia Haddad. Margaret shared that the Commission is working to connect their clients with SCICH agencies and is sharing information about housing assistance with the community. She also added that the Commission has a research team that can help supply agency data.

Russell Rich with the SC Department of Social Services shared that they will be holding a multidisciplinary meeting, sharing information about Adult Protective Services. More information to come. Reach out to Russell for more information or if you are interested in attending: russell.rich@dss.sc.gov

Emily Blackshire with Equal Justice Works Housing shared that they are partnering with legal services and One80 Place to implement a housing court in Richland County. The first hearing will be on October 31st and will reoccur every other Tuesday until 2024, when a more frequent schedule will take place.

Mary Diggs with the Head Start Collaboration Office, a sector of SC Department of Social Services, provided information about their available programming. Mary reminded the group that children who are experiencing homelessness with their families are automatically eligible for Head Start supportive services. There is no application process

required for homeless families. These services are also available to children with an incarcerated parent(s). Mary also shared that 231 children in the Head Start program across the state are experiencing homelessness. Head Start programs use the McKinney-Vento definition of homelessness, which includes families that are “doubled up”.

Alexis Spry with the SC Department of Veterans Affairs (SCDVA) shared updates from their Governor’s Summit on Veteran’s Affairs, hosted on September 7th. SCDVA is working to establish partnerships with multiple organizations on a grant initiative, more information to come. Additionally, SCDVA’s End Homelessness Working Group will be meeting on September 27th and will be compiling data on the state and federal level.

Terre Marshall with the SC Department of Corrections shared that their grant funded SOAR position will end on September 30th, but the Department will be creating a permanent position to carry on the work. They will be hiring two SOAR specialists in the following weeks. They are also training volunteers on how to complete SSI and SSDI applications for incarcerated persons nearing release. Terre added that she is having a hard time finding handicap accessible units for persons upon release.

Michele Murff with the SC Department of Mental Health shared that the SOAR State Team achieved a 72% approval rate on SSI and SSDI applications in the past year. They also achieved a 73-day average decision time, which is much quicker than the national average. The Department hopes to expand this team with new partners in the next year.

Tierra McMillan with the SC Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services shared that they are having a hard time finding housing for registered sex offenders. Tierra mentioned that they are seeing success with their emergency hotel program, which funds a temporary hotel stay, but they need more permanent housing solutions.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:50PM.

Next SCICH Board Meeting: November 9, 2023