



PY 2017 Ohio Consolidated Plan Supportive Housing Program Advisory Meeting Minutes

Date of Meeting: October 21, 2016

Location of Meeting: Creekside Conference and Event Center, Gahanna, Ohio

Advisory Committee Members in Attendance:

Fred Berry	Lianna Barbu
Erica Mulryan	Amanda Wilson
Roma Barickman	Alisia Clark
Beth Fetzer-Rice	Ruth Gillett
Linda Kramer	Jennie Dennison-Budak
Sue Villilo	Carrie Pettit (replacement for Jennie, who is retiring in January)
Jeannette Welsh	Kevin Finn
Debbie Tegtmeyer	Colleen Bain

Ohio Development Services Agency (ODSA) Employees:

Kimberly Alexander
Michael Burris
Scott Gary
Patrick Hart
Maura Klein
Bob Johnson
Matt LaMantia

The following is a summary of the major topics discussed during the meeting

Introduction

- Scott welcomed members and explained the meeting is to discuss policy issues and planning for the PY 2017, and possibly PY 2018, Annual Action Plan.
- Mike Hiler, Community Services Division Chief, announced that Matt LaMantia has been named the Office of Community Development's (OCD) Deputy Chief.

Program Update

- Bob provided an update on the PY 2015 Housing Assistance Grant Program (HAGP) awards and PY 2016 Supportive Housing Program (SHP) recommendations. ODSA hopes to announce awards soon.
 - SHP: \$9 million available as compared to \$11 million in PY 2014 funding cycle. Applicants requested approximately \$13 million with OCD recommending about 67 percent of total funds be awarded for permanent supportive housing projects and 33 percent for transitional housing projects. There were very few requests for new projects and a few very large permanent supportive housing projects no longer funded due to Housing First non-compliance.
 - HAGP: \$4 million available in PY 2015. \$4.4 million available in PY 2016 and approximately \$4.4 million available in PY 2017.
- Patrick provided an update on the PY 2016 Homeless Crisis Response Program (HCRP) recommendations. Applicants requested \$17 million total. OCD recommended funding 40 organizations to operate emergency shelters and 12 Regions for housing stability assistance for a total of approximately \$14.8 million. Housing stability awards are awarded on an allocation basis

with emergency shelters awarded 85% based on being in good standing with additional funds awarded on a competitive basis. The immediate impact of the overall reduction in the amount of funds available was partially offset by some grantees receiving one year of funding instead of two and very few requested increases being funded.

- The amount of funds available to emergency shelter programs is capped at 10% of the \$53 million allocated through the Ohio Housing Trust Fund and the 2010 level of funding through the Emergency Solutions Grant Program (e.g. \$3.5 million that includes \$300k of administration funds shared by OCD and emergency shelter projects).
- While it is difficult to know the impact that one-year awards will have on next year's awards, it will add to the renewal burden. We will look at the selected use of one-year awards in the future which combined with the possible future increase in amount of federal funds will help limit the impact.
- It was noted that Rapid Re-housing emphasis has continued to be a priority in housing stability assistance.
- ODSA anticipates award notification possibly in early December after the December 5, 2016 Controlling Board meeting for approval.
- Members expressed the need for notification of conditional approval sooner as agencies need to prepare if not awarded requested amount. Scott explained concern about sending conditional award letters before Controlling Board approval, but committed to looking into it further.

Planning Issues/Recommendations

- Continuing discussion today on topics which began during a planning meeting on September 8, 2016.
- Homeless Youth-focused planning: ODSA is seeking feedback on how programs are addressing homeless youth in their area, thinking about the possibility of utilizing HCRP funds and/or creating a set-aside or Target of Opportunity funding for this purpose.
 - Beth described that Region 10 uses HCRP funding for Rapid Re-housing targeted to homeless youth. Children's services programs are serving emancipated youth but have expanded to serve those youth coming "from the land". Salvation Army is also working with Chapin Hall in Chicago on point-in-time count to focus on improving numbers. Franklin County is planning a youth-focused project.
 - The youth Rapid Re-housing project provides assistance for six months to as much as a year (rare due to little funding). Have many referrals but resources are limited. Longer-term subsidy is absolutely necessary as well as a dedicated case manager as the work is very intensive.
 - Cincinnati: Lighthouse progression from 2001 to current stage providing shelter diversion, case management, crisis center, drop-in, rapid re-housing, and permanent supportive housing.
 - Columbus is working towards applying for the Youth Homeless Demonstration Program (YHDP). Implementing plan to address youth homelessness, even if not funded will still have a plan to address youth homelessness that they can use to apply for additional funding opportunities.
 - Star House in Columbus (partnership with OSU) providing drop-in services to youth, many of whom meet the definition of homeless. Many homeless youth do not access the adult shelter system. Data is difficult to gather on this population. Many youth not necessarily meeting HUD's definition of homelessness that affects how this population can be served. State needs to look at other options that may not be in strict conformance to current program requirements.
 - Linda Kramer stated the Dayton youth shelter is licensed by OHMAS, not ODJFS. Expanding shelter so staff can better separate minor-aged youth. The shelter has been full since March when Daybreak opened the new wing with 54 housing units, 24 congregate housing units, and 34 scattered-site housing units. A 12-unit house serving youth with mental illness funded by ODMH was cut after the fiscal year started, but boards worked together to transition kids into regular programs (were not made homeless, but did lose program). Greater focus on employment a few years ago since most older kids do not have GEDs, is fastest-growing program. Have new program and drop-in and education center.

Partnering with Goodwill and YouthBuild. Pulling in mental health services so they can wraparound, peer educators, etc. Integration is key for them. OHFA-funded study states longer kids are engaged the better they do. Mental illness and addiction are a major issue and must absolutely be addressed.

- What can be most helpful for the YHDP? Small group of people who are most involved with this population. According to Erica, drop-in centers are not as helpful in rural areas; those types of programs do not end homelessness and numbers are not there in rural areas. Other ways of making funding available using existing programs that can serve homeless youth such as including financial incentives to providers to serve youth and making rapid re-housing resources available for a longer period of time.
- Scott: On the Housing Stability Program (HSP) side, an allocation methodology with set-aside is something to be considered for next year. ODSA is considering creation of a set-aside or possible separate award. This could take the form of incentive within the HSP category to target homeless youth with rapid re-housing assistance.
- Linda Kramer: drop-ins are helpful in urban areas because otherwise, this population will not engage, but rural areas most likely will not be helpful. A set-aside or funding available should be more open and flexible; every community is going to have a different need. The lack of engagement is consistent with the research conducted by Natasha Slesnick, OSU and founder of Star House.
- Kevin: Street outreach can't be funded thru CoC, is like lead weight but it's how we bring kids into the system. Services cannot be paid for thru Continuum funding.
- Beth: Most helpful when funding is fluid and case management needs to be flexible, too.
- Scott: While it is desirable to do things that are consistent with HUD, ODSA is not interested in becoming a mini-HUD. The OHTF exists but no new funding is coming into it at this time. The idea is to look at populations where the state hasn't yet had much influence, but don't want to start from square one. The state may have the ability to fund services that it can do easily, but to what extent, if at all.
- Linda: I would recommend not taking a lesson from HUD. HUD doesn't serve youth very well, if at all. In fact, it's against best practices at serving youth. If there is flexibility at all, I would encourage the state to be open and being as flexible as possible.
- Scott: This is actually echoed in the YHDP application materials.
- Ruth: It is, though, important to work with other systems and maintain that line of communication. ODSA should not take on a model that ODJFS is not shoulder-to-shoulder with.
- Debbie: Child Welfare, Education and local juvenile justice system seeing increase that housing wasn't necessarily aware of. I tend to agree with Ruth, that the state should keep a broad perspective, whatever work we do because rural and urban needs are different.
- Scott: The core team will go back and do some coordination at the state level. Get a group together some time in December, after November 30th YHDP due date.
- Lianna and Fred: Both are unsure about cuts to their programs for this purpose. There is no 'new' OHTF money so funding for this set-aside may potentially come from currently funded programs. Fred suggests using potential overstock of PSH meant for families that can be used for youth. Amanda suggests supporting existing programs for new purpose. Scott explains there ODSA may be able to repurpose funding since some program models may no longer be consistent with requirements.
- On a related matter, need to consider whether to make effective programs that lost funding from other sources whole instead of funding new?
- It is possible to look at better targeting of homelessness prevention assistance rather than reallocating or trying to find new money.
- Jeannette: What about the National Housing Trust Fund? Matt says working thru OHFA where there is a combination of tax credits and gap financing projects. It is such a small amount that there is not enough to do a new program or expansion, perhaps 5-6 projects this year. It is possible that we could receive more in future years but feedback is mixed on that.
- ODSA shared performance measures as reported by the nine Continua of Care in the state. If and entitlement CoC has not established a benchmark for a specific performance measure or required

data field, ODSA will default to BoSCoC standards. Not all Continua have standards for the items listed here. ODSA will be working with entitlements more closely so ODSA can better understand this.

- Ending Homelessness Plan. Housing and Homelessness Collaborative contracted with the Corporation for Supportive Housing (which partnered with Barbara Poppe Associates) to complete Phase I of Statewide Plan to End Homelessness, which should be released to the public soon. Phase I is a collection of quantitative and qualitative data which describes the current state of homelessness; Phase II will focus on developing specific actionable and achievable strategies to end homelessness.
 - Concern from Continua that end of homelessness as declared is not here, numbers will affect LIHTC negatively. Feedback was given to Katie and CSH. Other part of conversation was as the state looks ahead, what else is needed from OHFA for specific target populations (seniors, IDD, youth, families with child welfare interaction). Phase II should have more CoC interaction. How can the state position itself thoughtfully when moving forward so as few unintentional consequences as possible?
 - Ending chronic homelessness different than ending homelessness. So many high need people still out there. Don't stop just at numbers game achievement. Keep focus on homelessness.
 - House Bill extending services aging out of foster care. Some kids will choose not to continue to participate, some who have mental illness/substance abuse/additional complications will not be engage with this system anyway. But it may be helpful for some.

Application Documents and Instructions

- Summary of 2017 HAGP, SHP, HCRP applications: Reminder that this year's many 2016 applicants lost points because of non-compliance with Housing First. There are no significant changes to the rating criteria for this year's programs with the SHP and HCRP applications still including the community's involvement in the Ohio Human Services Data Warehouse developed and administered by the Ohio Housing Finance Agency as part of the HMIS/Outcomes scoring. .
- Basic eligibility: Income requirements, Housing First requirements are most commonly reason for programs not qualifying for an award this year. Not proposing changes for next year at this time. Not talking about HOPWA as this program has its own meeting and met yesterday. ODSA continues to support transitional housing for projects that target homeless persons who experienced domestic violence, youth, and persons in early recovery or with mental illness.
- Discussion of altering APR data submission re: TH vs PSH for youth data. There was lengthy discussion about some measures in the APR for youth oriented programs being considered negative (e.g. exit from scattered site TH to a facility-based model to allow for greater 'community'). Since there is greater emphasis on youth, this is an issue that will become more prevalent so some relief is suggested. While applicants have the ability to 'communicate' the uniqueness of the population being served and the impact it may have on specific performance measures, it is a time consuming task so agencies may want to work with their HMIS system administrator to seek an alternative. ODSA will also work with the Balance of State HMIS team to explore possible alternatives, but commits to affording applicants the ability to explain variations, as needed.
- Tentative date of SHP and HCRP applications may be moved forward by a week or so depending on coordination with other ODSA application requirements.

Policy and Program Issues

- Housing First Compliance: Housing First compliance is becoming a greater focus due to recent incidents with discrepancies between application and results of monitoring visits. ODSA expected some amount of a learning curve when programs made significant changes, but it is a matter of making the programs aware that programs need to comply if they are going to continue to seek funding. Increased monitoring over the past several months has revealed some issues such as requiring participation in services, drug/alcohol treatment, etc. New grantees next year may have

special conditions attached to them with many being due to Housing First non-compliance. The following exchange between participants covered a myriad of issues:

- Fred: When ODSA comes out to monitor, would a participation agreement in the file be considered a violation? ODSA looks at it each case contextually.
- Jeannette: Weren't some of the non-compliance cases based on exits, too?
- Bob: Yes. ODSA looks at the rental agreement and the reason for discharge/eviction.
- Erica: Can ODSA share monitoring results with the BoSCoC so it can help to improve programs? Scott: ODSA may not be able to since the grant agreement is with agency and not the CoC, but this can be looked into.
- Linda: Could ODSA disseminate a listing of examples of Housing First-related findings so programs can do internal checking before a site visit to make sure those things are occurring? Everyone interprets Housing First differently.
- Can ODSA do a Housing First type of training similar to what is done with HMIS? Follow-up with TA?
- Cincinnati COC is trying to figure out how to tie ODSA compliance into funding.
- If a finding is CoC-related and requires CoC involvement to resolve, ODSA will copy the CoC on it (e.g. HMIS-related issue). There may be an option to do this with Housing First-related findings as well. However, the best solution would be for the agency to communicate the finding with the CoC and to seek out TA from them directly.
- Will take discussion back to the State.
- Updated monitoring tool
 - Looking to incorporate more outcomes and Housing First
 - HF: client rights and case files to see why the person left the program
 - HUD issued monitoring tool for ESG yet? Ruth reports yes, it is on website. ODSA will get in touch with Ruth re: monitoring and tool.
- Transitional Housing trends: Reallocating as HUD indicates. Cleveland has brought up to ODSA that this is more 'temporary housing' as opposed to Transitional Housing, but has Housing First philosophies. Can we change nomenclature? This is still functioning as Transitional Housing, but called something different. Also, remove the time-limited element. Many communities have been grappling with this.
 - Kevin: What is role of this particular housing that makes it so essential? Ruth: Taking them away limits access to people who need them. Beth: Why not make them PSH? Ruth: Has to do with requirements of the CoC.

Training Needs/Recommendations

- Technical Assistance at Region level. Ohio has 26 regions with Regions #2 and 3 just combining to form a new Region #2, effective January 1, 2017. Region 18 will be come Region 3 next year as of January 1, 2017 to minimize the need to change Region numbers. Program Managers will be out to the Regions' homeless planning meetings as much as possible over the next year.
- Last year COHHIO did several Housing First trainings. Not planning on doing them again this year but they may respond if requested.
- Any coordination among regions or entitlements? Cincinnati doing Coordinated Entry in Kentucky, applied for funding with Kentucky BoS. This may be something to consider with Phase II Statewide Plan to End Homelessness as Regions/Continua express interest.
- Jeannette: Many persons who have disabilities have not yet been connected to SSI, COHHIO has a grant to do this. Not discontinued, but is not statewide. Access this benefit while possible before it's gone.
 - Debbie: SSVF SOAR for vets has been a priority.
 - Lianna: SOAR is requirement in CoC application so everyone needs it.
 - Roma: There is an online training requirement component as well to be aware of.
- Scott: It's clear from CSH outreach meetings which were conducted for Phase I of the Plan to End Homelessness that a lot of folks just don't know about all the resources available. The more that can be done through trainings to make information available will be beneficial.
- Amanda: ODVN network has reported hearing in the field that advocates don't always refer to homeless providers because program staff isn't informed about what can and can't be entered into



HMIS. Strong message needs to be passed along as to what can remain anonymous in the HMIS system. This is not a new problem, but conflicting messages to providers continue to cause problems.