

Three County CoC Ranking and Evaluation Committee Meeting Notes

April 23, 2021

9-10:30am

Present: Justine Dodds, Kim Scammon, Michele LaFleur, Deb McPartland, MJ Adams, Brooke Murphy, Keleigh Pereira

committee recruitment -

- Health care folks – health care for the homeless or Community health Center
- Youth groups/YHDP process
- Franklin Regional Housing Authority
- Folks with lived experience of homelessness – not currently participating in our projects
- Is there a way to simplify some of the work/hiring evaluators?
- MHSA representative, Spfld CoC, steering committee members from the WMNEH.
- Hampshire Hope or DV providers – but tough for really outside resources who may not fully understand the whole system.
- What about staff from agencies who sit in roles and positions that work more directly with participants? It seems this committee in particular generally has executive level participants from agencies vs a variety of position types and levels

Have to keep in mind that we are both mandated by HUD to evaluate specific things and need some planning for what is also actually helpful to this community.

Any final questions on YHDP Demonstration Period evaluation

- Final plan for the YHDP projects based on the YYA committee's, YAB's, TA Provider, CoC Ranking and Evaluation committee, and CoC staff feedback. The first full evaluation will be conducted in **October of 2021 and then again in the summer months of 2022.**
 - o *Notes from meeting: in October 2021 will complete evaluation of projects and need to bring to YYA committee. YYA Committee listed in structure of CQI Plan. Your thoughts on how do we involve Rankin and Evaluation and YYA Committee? Does CoC staff do it and inform you?*
 - o *Interim step for next two years that happens just during demonstration period of projects*
 - o *Think about how this committee is involved in evaluating YHDP Projects... this committee will have role in deciding which projects stay in the CoC so want to keep involved in the process*
 - o *YYA Committee also does not necessarily have experience with evaluating projects in this way so would be great to have this committee's lens*

- there are three areas of evaluation - **program policies, data, and youth and young adult surveys**. the surveys will be implemented asap. The CoC is ordering each project tablets to perform the survey's on and will be in touch about providing them, along with some expectations for their use, in the coming weeks.

Pre survey (to obtain system evaluation): <https://forms.office.com/r/ZmSkZd33DF>

Post survey (to obtain program/project evaluation): <https://forms.office.com/r/vXhg5F9GGP>

these surveys ideally would be **taken by youth within 30 days after entering a project (Pre) and 30 days before or after leaving a project (post)**.

- **Discuss trouble shooting for increased funding use**
 - *Projects started in November. Slow to start. Just obtained Transitional Housing building.*
 - *YHDP Includes: Transitional Housing site, Rapid Rehousing, Youth Navigator project, Permanent Supportive Housing Project*
 - *Real areas of struggle are finding housing and finding staff*
 - *Use of funding is very limited*
 - *Dave: If want to get these things moving, may want to reach out to state – DHCD/EOHHS/MHSA because they may have people in need of housing and housing relationships/connections already started. Check in with Gordy*
 - *Justine: Everyone's struggling with staffing, everything is stalled*
 - *Keleigh: Other two rounds have been able to apply for and have been given extensions on projects*
 - *Springfield also has YHDP but have more connections*
 - *Largest two YHDP subrecipients are from outside the area and are in Springfield and they've had more success running their projects in the Springfield area*
 - *Dave: Are they limited to Franklin County? Keleigh: No. Expectation is that they will house Franklin County first but can house outside of area*
 - *Keleigh: The higher percentage of folks need to be in Franklin County*
 - **Can there be building/reconstruction funding? No, but we wonder about whether we could get this approved by HUD since we are so underutilized. Repurposing the funds? - could work with the tech school, the town, or the CDC with on this.**
 - **less housing units and even when housing unit is found it might not be that the youth wants to be housed there**

Update on FY20 CoC HUD agreements and planning:

*(Not discussed during meeting, but sharing here..)*Hearing that we will receive grant agreements in order of start date.

- **HUD has provided an agreement for February grants – 3**
 - Includes 2 project agreements – LH LH and Wayfinders Paradise Ponds, PSH
 - Includes HMIS grant funding – use of funding supports staffing (Keleigh, Michele) and the beginning of implementation for our new HMIS data system – Bitfocus

- Going through CAPV signing process and updating SNAPS requirements
- **Awaiting July grant start agreements from HUD, there has been communication around this**
 - Includes 2 project agreements – CHD – PSH, Dialself – PSH
 - Includes CA and Planning grants for the COC – supports planning staff (Keleigh, Brooke, Shaundell) and coordinated entry evaluation, consulting, materials, office space for housing resource coordination.

finalize application/scoring form for new projects & planning/FY 2021 application process

Keleigh will send this to the committee members for feedback (no need to detail further in this meeting based on updates were made from this meeting's recommendations previously), much of this needs to wait for completion at the time of the NOFA release. We are working on creating a draft RFP to be updated with timelines for response and new project information if there is available funding, as well as

- **New project funding suggestions:**
 - In greenfield, been discussing SR0s on the second floor of the Wells Street Shetler, but would really like to turn into more permanent housing. Currently this is Shelter, and we want to revert to shelter beds. Part of the challenge is how do we get there? Landlord is cooperative and open to this and is a contractor. Can be helpful or challenging. Program for licensing versus leasing set up. Is there money in this funding stream for this? Discussed the possibility that CoC funds could do this, but also discussed the new Federal dollars coming.
 - Could we increase the funding for our providers in Berkshire area.
 - RHH
 - Population specific?
 - Likely will include DV – CoC is moving towards deeper engagement with the DV shelter and service providers with consultation funded by the WMNEH.
 - Better approach to supporting sex offenders
 - People leaving incarceration

Discussion of CoC site monitoring plan/ranking timeline

Project site monitoring

- is beginning and will be held over a 5 week period in May/June 2021.
- Will include some data quality response and various specific data element tracking, fiscal monitoring, and client file documentation – new format adjusted through this committee.
- Will inform the ranking structure for FY21's funding competition.

next steps/next meeting planning.

- Plan for middle of June meeting - determined we would meet at 2pm June 14th– with expectation of earlier meeting with NOFA release? Likely a need for regular meetings over the summer.
 - Site monitoring outcomes/update
 - Initial ranking structure
 - Any NOFA updates

