

GOVERNANCE BOARD MEETING MINUTES



Date: 2/22/24

Time: 11:00am

Facilitator: Stephen Gruver

Location: Oak City Cares

In Attendance

John Niffenegger, David Harris, Priscilla Batts, Nicole Stewart, Nicole Wilson, Danielle Butler, Sheryl Cromedy, Stephen Gruver, Kathy Johnson, Barkley Sample, Kelsey Mosley, Eric Braun, Johnnie Thomas

Absent

Richard Averitte, Cheryl Cozzi, Wendy Clark, Chaundra Hyacinth, Ann Oshel, Derwin Willoughby

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Nicole Stewart to approve the minutes from our January CoC Board meeting. The motion was seconded by John Niffenegger. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Lead Agency Discussion

Stephen Gruver led a discussion about our Lead Agencies. He began by explaining that thanks to our community partners stepping up to take on the Lead Agency roles in the interim, the CoC Board now can plan for the long term. He iterated that the goal of the discussion was not to make a decision today, but to have a conversation where members can share their hopes and concerns. Several Board Members expressed gratitude for partners who have stepped in to provide a short-term solution. Their efforts have allowed time and space to identify and coordinate a new and more effective system.

One option presented was to partner with Wake County Government to provide all three Lead Agency functions. Duane Holder, Deputy County Manager, was in attendance to answer questions related to the role Wake County could potentially play in a long-term solution. He began by emphasizing the commitment of the Board of Commissioners to ending homelessness and their willingness to partner with the community to make that happen. He shared that they have staff and resources they can make available to support this effort. Additionally, he assured the CoC Board

that the communication line with his counterpart at the City of Raleigh is strong and will allow for leveraging collective resources.

Mr. Holder communicated that the current Housing Director will be leaving the role at the end of June. Fortunately, the Department has resources with expertise to continue advancing existing initiatives. They will engage in a nationwide search for a replacement.

Below are some of the discussion points brought up by various Board Members:

- Comprehensive solutions have not been coordinated due to a need to focus on addressing gaps.
- The CoC's actions have been reactive rather than proactive.
- Our community/the CoC needs appropriate funding (HUD, County, City, business community, and philanthropic sources)
- We need a cohesive vision and strategy across the CoC, City, and County.
- MCO's need to be a part of the solution.
- The best option may be to create a new entity from the "ground up" with dedicated funding (need to identify lessons learned).

Per Mr. Holder, Wake County is open to a role as a "growth partner." The County believes the best practice is to have a Lead Agency that "lives" in the community (as a 501(c)3). The County is willing to assist in a temporary capacity to stabilize our systems until a permanent solution can be identified and implemented. The County is not interested in the Lead Agency work becoming a Department or Division of the County. Mr. Holder was asked to give an estimated timeframe for "stabilization." He recommended utilizing predetermined benchmarks as better criteria for stabilization.

Mr. Holder reiterated the importance of placing accountability on the CoC Membership to be engaged. A potential solution to satisfy the HUD requirement for a dual accountability system between the CoC Membership and the Governance Board would be to designate a member of the CoC Board to sign a contract with Wake County. With any agreement, Wake County would be obligated to fulfill identified requirements. The CoC Board would delineate specific measures by which to monitor their progress. This would allow the County, as Lead Agency, to work directly with the CoC Membership without the requirement to filter all decisions through the CoC Board. In turn, the CoC Board would work with the partners to create a strategic plan and the Lead Agency would be responsible for implementation.

A potential transition strategy outlined by Mr. Holder would involve identifying leadership for each Lead Agency function. This would likely require the recruitment of contract personnel, which would line up with the goal of a temporary stabilization approach. Staffing would entail a combination of these contract staff and in-house employees who would function as leads. Each lead would then work with the partners to coordinate the transition.

A Board Member recommended creating a strategic plan to guide the creation of an agreement and the subsequent transition process. It was reiterated that this plan could be in sync with Wake County and the City of Raleigh's homelessness plans.

There is still an open HMIS RFP without a submission from Wake County. Effective communication is important to ensure transparency with the HMIS RFP process. Nicole Stewart explained that the goal was to initiate these discussions with the CoC Board during today's meeting, make a decision

at the March meeting, and then bring it to the Membership. Both of the current HMIS applicants are nationally-based organizations. Board members spoke of the benefits of working with a local agency.

Agency Updates

Haven House

- Completed Point-In-Time (PIT) count. .
- Contracted with an external agency to assist with data analysis.
- Partnered with Durham and Orange counties on grant for youth homelessness.
- Hired a coordinator that will start 2/26/24.
- Placed hiring of director position on hold due to lack of qualified candidates. Staff are finding a way to fill in the gaps.
- Creating a list of needs to be addressed – will request feedback from the Board.

Urban Ministries of Wake County

- Contract with Urban Ministries ends June 30th; they are willing to extend on a month-to-month basis after that time.
- Privacy, security, and release of Information remain the key concerns.
- 86% of staff have completed training.
- Estimating cost of data migration - quotes were available for review.
- Not 100% confident in the quality of the data to be migrated.
- Would like to work with Wake County to identify what functions can be done by Bitfocus.

Oak City Cares

- Oak City Cares (OCC) is still awaiting the transfer of the SSO-CE grant from HUD
- Posting for the CE Specialist role soon
- Contracting for the CE Manager role

Inactive CoC Board Members – Vote for Removal

Two Board Members, Mary Mosley and Melody Battle, have not responded to multiple attempts to contact them regarding their continued membership on the CoC Board. Per the charter, 3 unexcused absences can be grounds for removal. Both members have missed in excess of this requirement. Eric Braun made a motion for their removal, Kathy Johnson seconded. The CoC Board unanimously approved their removal. Both are members with lived experience which will result in a gap in this category. It was brought up that stipends should be evaluated as a way to increase participation within this category.

Conflict of Interest Policy

The policy has been submitted to HUD Technical Assistance and the draft should be available soon for review.

HMIS RFP Update

The Data Advisory Committee (DAC) has received 2 applications in response to the open RFP. They are seeking to form a Scoring Review Committee to get assistance with scoring the applicants. DAC will help create the scorecard. The CoC Board agreed to create a new scoring workgroup. Haven House will send an invitation to identify who may be interested in participating.

Charter Review

The Charter Workgroup continues to meet. The group has sent a draft to HUD Technical Assistance for their review on the document's compliance with HUD. After the group receives this feedback, they will also share and seek feedback from City of Raleigh and Wake County leadership.

Next Meeting

March 21st at 11:00am

In Person at The Salvation Army