Philadelphia Continuum of Care Board
Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, January 18, 2017
Time: 2:00 – 4:00pm
Location: Municipal Services Building
            1401 JFK Boulevard, 14th Floor, Room 1450

Voting Members in Attendance:

Community Stakeholders:
     Traci Nesmith   Resources for Human Development

Nonprofit Homeless Housing Providers:
     Zachary Weiss   Action Wellness
     John Ducoff   Covenant House PA
     Steve Culbertson/ Casey O'Donnell   Impact Services Corporation

Government Agencies:
     Michele Wexler   DBHIDS
     Gary Tumolo/ Sharee Heaven   DHCD
     Stephanie Pastula   Philadelphia Housing Authority
     Casey McCollum   US Department of Veterans Affairs

Persons with Lived Experience:
     Katherine Champlin
     Sheila Armstrong
     Emmalee Smith

Non-Voting Members in Attendance:
     Rachel Yoder   CoC Advisory Committee
     Donald Jackson   Young Adult Leadership Committee
     Elizabeth Hersh   Office of Homeless Services

Office of Homeless Services Staff in Attendance:
     Roberta Cancellier   Michele Mangan
     Lauren Whitleigh

Voting Members Absent:

Community Stakeholders:
     Susan Sherman   Independence Foundation

Nonprofit Homeless Housing Providers:
     Rob Harrison   Stenton Family Manor

Government Agencies:
     Mitch Little   CEO

Proposing a New Schedule
Lauren Whitleigh presented that the Wednesday, 2-4pm meeting time is not conducive for all Board members to attend. Lauren handed out a weekly calendar, asking Board members to identify days and times that work for them as she attempts to identify a new meeting schedule. Preliminary results indicate Wednesday, 2-4pm is currently the best time for Board members. A potential alternate meeting time is Monday, 3-5pm.

Welcome and Introductions
Steve began the meeting with welcome and introductions at 2:10 p.m.

Approval of the November 9th Meeting Minutes
VOTE: John Ducoff (Covenant House PA) made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 9th meeting, with the following corrections: Rachel Yoder was absent, and Robert Greco was present. Gary Tumolo (Division of Housing and Community Development) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Community Updates
- Point in Time Count: Lauren Whitleigh reminded the Board that the Philadelphia Point-in-Time Count is taking place in the middle of the night between January 25th and January 26th.
- HUD Youth Homelessness Demonstration Award Announcement: Lauren informed the CoC Board that Philadelphia was not selected for the HUD Youth Homelessness Demonstration and that HUD will be providing each community with a debrief of how they scored in the competition. Lauren presented that Philadelphia can request HUD Technical Assistance to support efforts around youth homelessness.

Young Adult Leadership Committee Update
Donald Jackson (Young Adult Leadership Committee) presented an update on the work accomplished to date by the Young Adult Leadership Committee.
- Accomplished to Date:
  - Meeting bi-weekly Thursdays 5:30-7:30pm
  - Conferred with Homeless Services and other community stakeholders on YHDP application to HUD
  - Participated in interview process for Youth System Coordination
  - Drafted job descriptions and rules of participation
  - Brainstorming vision for the committee and goals for the year
- The Future:
  - January 26th Meeting
    - voting on approval of job descriptions and rules of participation
    - 100 Day Challenge Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice Subcommittee sharing their extension and resumption of care recommendations to the YALC for input
  - 100 Day Challenge Youth Team Sub-committees to attend meetings to share their work with YALC for input
  - Extend an invitation to CoC Board members to attend YALC meetings to build relationship for working together to prevent and end homelessness
  - Advise Quality Improvement and Evaluation Subcommittee on evaluating youth providers for cultural competence in annual renewal competition
  - Education/ training: housing, terminology, HUD policy, research on ending homelessness, what other communities are doing, LGBTQ, trauma informed care, etc.

- o They are working on establishing Committee goals, roles, and job descriptions.
- Katie Champlin reported to the Board that the YALC would like to invite CoC Board members to their meetings to get to know one another.
- Lauren Whitleigh to send to Board members the YALC meeting schedule.

Chronic Homelessness Update
Rachel Yoder provided an update on progress to date made by the 100 Day Challenge Chronic Team:
- 100 Day Challenge 2.0 Goal: By Dec 2017, Philadelphia will end chronic homelessness, as outlined in the Federal Criteria and Benchmarks. To reach that goal, 40 individuals will be housed each month, in order to ensure more people are being housed than are becoming chronically homeless. The team will chip away at the total number and reach no more than 3 by Dec 2017.
- Since October 2016 launch of 2nd 100 Day Challenge, 89 people have been housed.
- The team is still working through the by-name list to confirm who is chronic vs. who is not chronic to finalize Philadelphia's by-name list.
- We are closer to data sharing agreement and closer to rolling out the VI-SPDAT at Bethesda Project.
- Team meets every Wednesday 1pm-2pm; the focus of the meetings alternate weekly between system and case conferencing
- The consent form and manual for administering the VI-SPDAT have been completed.

Mayor launches Task Force on Shared Public Spaces:
Mayor launches Task Force on Shared Public Spaces: The Mayor's Office and the Managing Director's Office are working to formalize a structure that allows the leadership team of the 100 Day Challenge to engage in developing sustainable short and long term efforts to address panhandling, homelessness, and outdoor meal service. Working together, the City aims to make sure that our Shared Public Spaces are safe and clean while also providing various services with dignity to those who need it. The four foci of the Task Force are:
- Codes of conduct: Developing clear sets of expectations for the behavior of individuals, food providers, the government and businesses.
- Housing: Improving access to emergency and permanent housing opportunities for individuals experiencing homelessness.
- Food access: Build off the current work of the Food Access Collaborative.
- Marketing and public relations: Strategies to engage the public in how to approach panhandling and homelessness, including strategies on how to interrupt the economic activity.

Youth Homelessness Update
Lauren Whitleigh presented an update on progress to date made by the 100 Day Challenge Youth Team.
- 100 Day Challenge 2.0 Goal: Create a sustainable infrastructure wherein every youth and young adult who seeks shelter can receive and be connected to a safe and stable place to stay.
- Team meets bi-weekly Wednesdays 2-3:30pm.
- 6 Subcommittees:
  - o Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice: Extension and resumption of care recommendations
  - o Shelter Engagement: Supporting shelters improve their services to young people
  - o Communication: Exploring resource database and app for youth options
  - o Expansion of housing and resources: Research promising models: outreach, drop-in, housing, family engagements, etc. to prepare a report with recommendations for implementation in Philadelphia
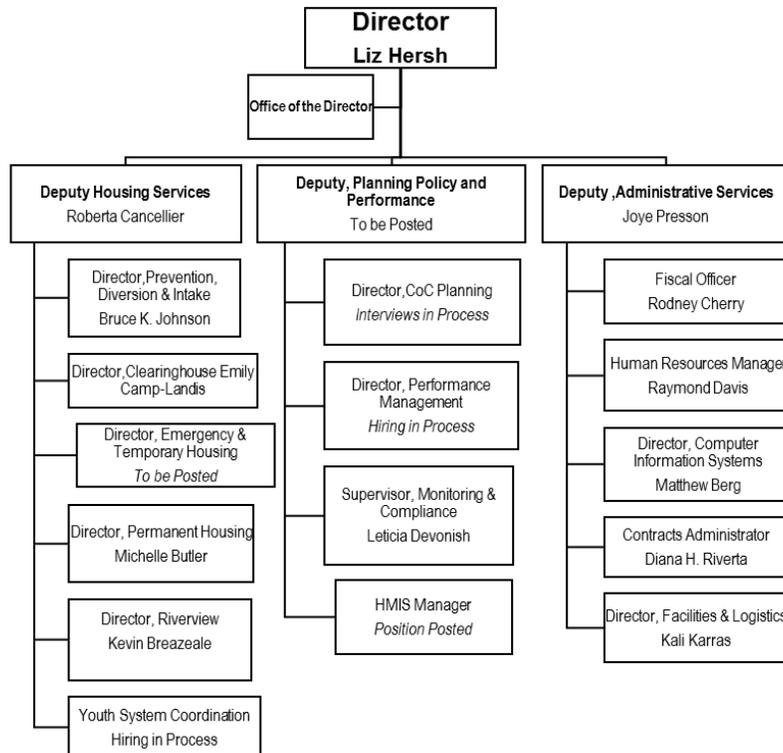 - o Assessment and Data Sharing: VI-SPDAT training, consent form and manual in development, VI-SPDAT online

- o Education: School District and Community College identifying ways to improve their outreach and identification of youth experiencing homeless and connecting those youth to education opportunities
- Housing for Youth Project funded with City of Philadelphia funding
  - o Covenant House expansion of 25 beds at its emergency shelter
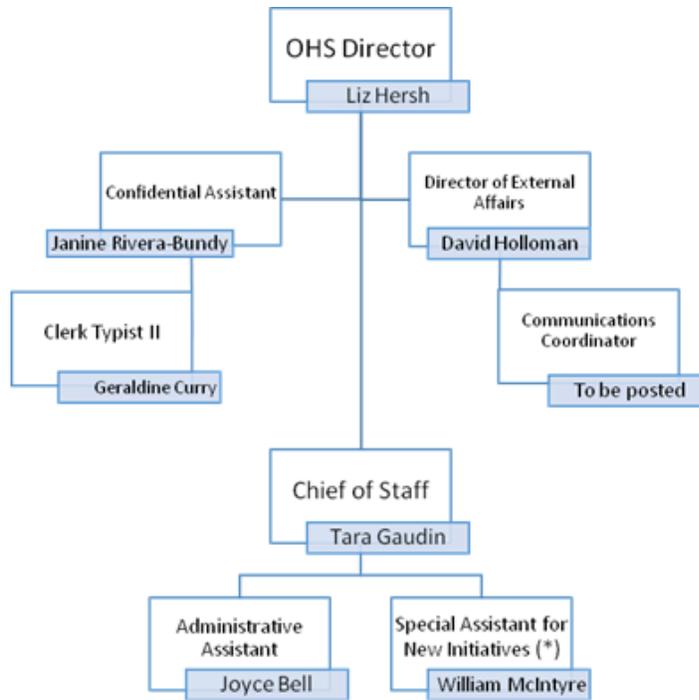 - o Valley Youth House expansion of 25 units of its PRIDE Rapid Re-Housing program

Family Homelessness Update
- Office of Homeless Services has contracted with Focus Strategies to gather, review, analyze, and summarize local data on families experiencing homelessness to identify goals and action steps to make family homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring.
- Focus Strategies met with Family Service Provider Network on January 10th to present the work they do with communities to support them meet the following System Performance Measures:
  - o Reduce rates of homelessness
  - o Increase exits to permanent housing
  - o Increase entries from literally homeless situations, reduce entries from housed situations
  - o Decrease lengths of stay / adopt housing first approach to quickly re-house people
  - o Reduce recidivism/ returns to homelessness
  - o Increase cost-effectiveness/ decrease cost per permanent housing exit
  - o Improve data quality to inform strategies

Office of Homeless Services Re-Organization
Lauren Whitleigh presented that in the summer of 2016, the Office of Homeless Services contracted with a consultant to work with Homeless Services staff to identify an organizational structure that supports Homeless Services operate more efficiently and effectively. Lauren shared the new organizational chart, displayed below:

FY 2016 HUD CoC Competition Award Summary
Lauren Whitleigh presented information about Philadelphia's FY 2016 HUD CoC Award.
- Philadelphia received the 7th largest/ highest CoC Award.
- We were awarded a total of $33,542,976 in renewal, new, and CoC planning projects.
- We were awarded 96 of our community's 97 renewal projects, which provide 2,500 units of transitional and permanent housing.
- We were awarded 6 of the 9 new projects we applied for, which will provide 113 units of permanent housing.

	Requested Amount	**Awarded Amount**
Renewal Projects	$30,696,181	$30,628,495
New Projects	$3,567,116	$1,935,530
CoC Planning Project	$978,951	$978,951
TOTAL	$35,242,248	**$33,542,976**

Local Population Data Review
Lauren Whitleigh presented demographic data on households with children and households without children in emergency shelter, transitional housing, and permanent supportive housing generated out of HMIS that represents data for projects in HMIS from 10/1/15 to 9/30/16. *NOTE: This data was generated out of HMIS for the purpose of this exercise; it is not a formal report. This data does not represent the universe of emergency shelter, transitional housing, safe haven, and permanent housing projects in the city of Philadelphia. This data includes data migrated from the old system and from a time period when there was no HMIS. Philadelphia's current HMIS launched August 2016.*

Lauren asked Board members to share their reactions to the data.
- The number of people who report identifying as transgender is low. Potential explanations for low transgender number include:
  - data represents ~50% of the universe of projects in the city; the data is incomplete.
  - people who identify as transgender may not feel safe staying at traditional adult shelters because of real and/or perceived threats to safety.
  - demographic data is collected at project entry; participants may not disclose their transgender identity walking in the door.
- Dataset does not include LGBTQ data, which is surprising given that a significant percentage of homeless youth identify at LGBTQ.
  - LGBTQ data is not standard HMIS data element.

Housing Need Exercise

Michele Mangan presented information about a housing need and projection exercise that was conducted by Homeless Services, in conjunction with the Managing Director's Office, using the USICH Supportive Housing Opportunities Planner (SHOP) Tool. Michele presented that if our system continues to operate as it does currently, with the same turnover rate of our units, lengths of stay, number of newcomers to the system annually, we will need to add to the system every year for the next 10 years:
- 550 new units of permanent supportive housing
- 267 new units of rapid re-housing
- 140 new units of permanent subsidized housing

Lauren Whitleigh asked the Board, considering all of the information presented, to consider their priorities for ranking new projects in the upcoming CoC competition. Should the CoC prioritize new PSH units over new Rapid Re-Housing units? What additional information should the CoC consider when prioritizing new CoC funded units in the FY 2017 CoC Competition?

Board members responded to the housing projection in the following ways:
- Build out the analysis beyond the summary data to include population information.
- We need to expand housing resources, beyond CoC funding.
- Request to have a Data Subcommittee to look at this type of analysis with a more fine tooth comb
- Consider alternative housing for people experiencing homelessness, like tiny houses. Sheila Armstrong reports other communities are using tiny houses to house seniors. Sheila reports lots must be zoned non-conforming in Philadelphia in order to have a structure, like a tiny house, placed on it, instead of built on it.
- Request to create an Expanding Housing resources Subcommittee.

Other Discussion
- Sheila Armstrong inquired about who in the City oversees the 22 Housing Counseling Agencies that help people with Credit Repair and home ownership because Sheila has been having difficulty accessing services at some of these organizations. DHCD reported that they oversee these agencies and monitor and evaluate them annually for compliance and quality.