

Core Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, July 16, 2020, 1pm

Attending: Dominique Christian, Patrick Duffie, Torrie Kopp Mueller, Matt Julian, Melissa Mennig, Loreen Gage, Brenda Konkel, Derek Moran, Andrea Gaines, Casey Yanta, Katie Spaeth, Kim Sutter, Tara Barica, Jael Currie, Dana Stokes, Tara Wilhelmi, Lature (Loreen) Carter, Zandra Hagberg, Jewel, Aurelius Leslie, Wanda Smith, Taibu Mu'addib, Adrian M, Lorena Johnson, Takisha Jordan, Duowan, Sarah Anderson

1. Introduction

2. Assign note taker- Sarah Lim & Kim Sutter

3. Chair for Core Committee:

Dominique Christian (TRH) and Loreen Gage (Housing Initiatives) and Lorien Carter are willing to serve as co-chairs. Torrie will follow up with them.

4. Other updates:

- Meriter: COVID 19 mass testing is scheduled to start on July 29 at Salvation Army and Safe Haven; August 5 at Porchlight and the Beacon
- The Road Home: Foundations PSH start date will be delayed due to HUD contract. The new start date will be September 1. Fair Oaks PSH will open beginning of October. Mainstream vouchers
- MACH OneHealth: Mondays at Peace Park, Tuesdays telemedicine at Beacon, Wednesdays food delivery to encampments and Safe Haven, Thursdays street rounds (starting soon)
- Torrie provide a summary of the NAEH townhall meeting from yesterday.

5. Conversation on how to incorporate voice of those with lived expertise

- Dominique thanked the participants for joining the meeting. Guest engagement is essential for racial equity work.
- Torrie provided the following overview of Homeless Services Consortium (HSC):

Homeless Services Consortium

- Partnership of agencies, funders, advocates and people with lived experience of homelessness committed to preventing and ending homelessness
- Vision Statement: The HSC membership shares the vision that all persons should have the opportunity to secure and maintain safe, stable and affordable housing. Members believe that housing is a human right.
- Prevent homelessness whenever possible and, if not, have a system in place to make the experience of homelessness rare, brief and a one-time experience

General membership

- Meets monthly
- Anyone can attend
- Many times focused on agency updates/presentations

HSC Board of Directors

- Elected by the membership, meets monthly
- Approves policies for operation of HUD funded programs
- Makes funding decisions related to HUD/State funding
- Sets priorities for funding and advocacy

8 committees

- Much of the work of writing policies, coming up with new ideas happens at the committee level, is then taken to the membership or Board for approval.
- Anyone can join committees
- Core Committee combined several committees and is focused on operation of the system

- Discussion

(Recommendations based on the discussion will be presented to the HSC Board of Directors to consider and adopt.)

- It is important to develop services, policies, program design based on feedback and experience of users of service. HSC has not done a good job of seeking/incorporating this feedback, this committee is committed to seeking authentic feedback, ideas and making change based on that feedback.
- Real changes need to be made based on the feedback from the people with lived experience. “Nothing about us without us”.
- One idea is to create a committee of people with lived experience that policies and funding decisions will go to before they go to the Board of Directors before getting voted.
- One member of the committee will have a seat at the Board of Directors.
- There are other people who are considering compensation plan. Reach out to them when creating a model. While financial compensation is important, professional development assistance is also important.
- Federal Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds that typically support shelters, housing programs, street outreach and prevention can be used to fund compensation for a committee of people with lived experience.
- HSC currently has a system in place to provide some compensation for people with lived experience, but the compensation is not adequate.
- What is the composition of the HSC Board of Directors? No more than 2 agencies representatives, 6-8 at-large members, 2-4 representatives of the homeless and/or formerly homeless, 1-2 representatives from the youth action board, Chair of the HSC membership group. Current HSC Board of Directors list can be found here:

<https://www.danecountyhomeless.org/boardofdirectors>

- Black community is disproportionately represented among people experiencing homelessness. While making 5.1% of Dane County population, they make up 55% of people served in homeless services. We need more representation.
- HSC needs to go and listen to people experiencing homelessness. How can we have boots on the ground to hear them? What do you need right now?
- There are so many systemic barriers in the available resources such as high credit score needed to find housing supported by section 8.
- One restriction for supported housing is not to have folks staying with you, and of course if you get housing, you will let someone who is homeless stay with you; raised to help folks out when they need it.
- Do outreach in shelters to get feedback and bring folks to the table.
- What kind of power a lived experience/expertise committee would have to really affect change, reduce barriers, and help folks get into housing – policies, procedures, restructuring systems on a City level? If there is no power to create change, we are wasting time.
- Racism is built into systems, creates barriers even if there is funding, housing.
- This committee would have power within the Homeless Services Consortium (HSC), but she is not sure what power it could have in the community at large; suggested that the HSC should have a stronger advocacy arm in general, and this committee could/should be part of that movement toward real change.
- Dominique reminded everyone that the committee does not yet exist, and we need buy-in and participation from the folks on this call, as well as others with lived experience; encouraged people to write their name in the chat box if they are interested in participating.
- Should other HSC folks involved, or should the committee be only folks with lived experience? Participants agreed it should only be folks w/ lived experience.
- The committee would be a change to the bylaws. If the turnaround was quick to make a proposal for the new committee, it could piggyback on the bylaw changes that are being proposed at the next membership meeting, Tuesday 7/28, 1:00pm – 2:30pm.
- The onus is on the membership to challenge ourselves to be transparent with folks with lived experience, be honest about the barriers caused by the systems above us as well.

Dominique thanked everyone for participating, reaffirmed commitment to the new committee.

Next meeting: August 6th 1pm