



Homeless Services Consortium Membership Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, July 28th, 2020 1:00pm – 2:30pm

Chair: Jael Currie

Co-chair: Casey Yanta

Zoom

1. Board & Committee Updates: Board Members, Committee Chairs

Board

- Review HMIS RFP Process – approved, the Institute for Community Alliance’s plan going forward is to possibly replace Service Point and find a program that is more compatible for the services we provide.
- Nominations for new president: Melissa Mennig, Board President; Jael Currie, Vice President
- Written standards for HUD waivers; Re-reviewed and re-approved waivers that we approved in June
- ESG Funds– a small group of Board Members put together priorities in June, but funds have not been released yet
- Discussed how we, as a membership, can incorporate the topic of racial equity into all HSC committees

Doubled-up Work Group

- Meets today after the HSC Membership Meeting

CORE Committee

- New Co-Chairs: Dominique Christian, The Road Home; Loreen Gage, Housing Initiatives
- Invited those with lived experience of homelessness to most recent meeting
- Discussed how to incorporate that voice into our work

Plan to end homelessness

- Working to map out services for those experiencing homelessness, focusing on grass roots and faith based organizations
- Group plans to have interviews done by September 2020

Nominating and Governance

- Melissa Mennig and Matt Julian presenting today on proposed By-Law changes
- Discussion on make-up section of the board; looking to propose change to 2-3 years of service on the Board

- Today's presentation is only for proposed changes
- **Membership will vote on changes at next meeting**

Funders Committee

- Working to have consistent data from all agencies

2. Solace Presentation [10 minutes]: Ann Catlett

(PowerPoint attached to HSC Meeting Minutes email)

- Provide housing and care for those at end of life
- Focus on those experiencing homelessness
- Compassionate end of life care for all
- Those eligible for Solace services need to also be Hospice eligible – 6 months or less to live
- Since Solace has been providing services – data is hard to track, but it seems that among those experiencing homelessness, deaths are decreasing
- Reassessing our services as it seems more individuals experiencing homelessness may need respite care than actual end of life care
- Agency plans to redo needs assessment and not creating a service that is not needed

Contact Information for Ann Catlett: Anncatlett@yahoo.org; 608-345-5636; www.solacefriend.org

3. Proposed Bylaws Changes Discussion [10 minutes]: Melissa Mennig, Matt Julian

- Brought up in January membership and there was much discussion regarding how asking members to attend 9 membership meetings in order to vote is too high and creating a barrier for all members to have a voice
- New Proposal (pg 6): Members must attend 3 membership meetings and/or other HSC committee meetings in order to be eligible to vote
- This proposal is meant to open it up to more meeting options
- Meetings are counted by 12 months prior to voting – as opposed to calendar year
- If one shows up the day to vote that will count for attending a meeting
- Goal for proposed change is to encourage voting and make more accessible for more members
- All HSC approved committees count – it was noted that HSC Workgroups are not included at this time
- Piloting with just HSC committees currently, as we are still struggling with how to monitor attendance in those committees
- **Voting on proposed changes will occur at NEXT HSC Membership Meeting**
- Contact Matt and Melissa if you have any questions before then

REMINDER at meeting: If someone presents changes at next meeting, it will push off vote until the next HSC Membership Meeting

- Feedback in past – many members were not as available to attend in person meetings where jobs would not allow them to attend (especially considering those with lived experience)

- Agencies will also not need to send all staff to one meeting since will be some going to other committee meetings
- Start with 3 meetings requirement and see how it goes
- Group also recognizes there are not as many opportunities this year for meetings due to COVID-19 – the potential is there to increase if needed, and if folks thought it was doable

Melissa Mennig: Melissam@trhome.org

Matt Julian: matt.julian@unitypoint.org

4. Lived Experience Committee Creation [30 minutes]: Takisha Jordan, Dominique Christian

Proposal to Board: Implementing a committee with lived experience

- Hard to get those with lived experience involved – people will be more likely to attend if there is more support in the room and more space for voices to be heard
- Asking for feedback and comments today

Overall **GOAL** is to have greater understanding of the marginalized community and provide understanding of what the HSC is. We as an HSC need to utilize the voices that we have.

Proposal for LEC committee will highlight:

1. Setting a time that those with lived experience would be able to attend
2. Formalizing committee to get voices heard that can impact our services
3. Committee will help make decisions in funding
4. Hold seat on the board
5. Members encouraged to sit on another committee if possible
6. Pass through for board of directors as new changes are proposed– LEC will be able to give feedback/advice to Board before Board vote
7. Committee will be a way to intentionally elicit feedback on funding decisions and new programs
8. Committee members will rotate going to different agencies to get a feel for what the agency does and the structure, guide to drive decision making and making recommendations to the board

CORE July 16th Meeting follow-up

- Meeting welcome guests who had lived experience of homelessness and had personally navigated the homeless services system in Dane County
- A lot of the programs that are set by the COC, are not helping as much as they could, policies tend to not line up with actual lived experience
- shared concerns about how Madison tends to implement procedures/programs without getting feedback from those with lived experience – tends to come from professionals

Important to note: Takisha has been attempting to get a lived experience committee implemented for years.

Contact Information:

Dominique Christian - dominiquec@trhome.org

Takisha Jordan - takishaj@trhome.org

Next steps:

Need to inform membership (done) and then group will present to board of directors for approval August 21st

5. Recap & Next Steps for Racial Equity [30 minutes]: Jael Currie

Jael prompted Membership: What do all need from us? Is there an important conversation happening in the community that needs to be heard in HSC?

Exercise:

1. Think of a number between 1-10
2. Multiply that number by 9
3. If this number is a 2 digit number, add the digits together. If your number is single digit, do nothing
4. Now subtract 5; this is your final number
5. Determine which letter of the alphabet corresponds to your number (1=a, 2=b, 3=c, 4=d, 5=e, and so on)
6. Think of a country that starts with the letter that corresponds to your final number
7. Identify the last letter of the name of that country
8. Now, think of the name of an animal that starts with that letter
9. Identify the last letter in the name of that animal
10. Think of the name of a fruit that starts with that letter

Point of exercise:

- Lots of people with same answers – not at surprise, since the exercise is set up so a lot will get same remarks
- WHY? The exercise is set up to make you think you have an infinite number of choices, when in reality your choices have already been selected and confined
- We all have triggers for unconscious bias and racial bias that limits our decisions
- Effect is greatest when forced to go with the first thing that pops into our head
- Hard to think outside the box when we do not know that the box exists

Push to members to constantly thinking about the gap and how we bridge that gap AND continue educating/unlearning behaviors about how we act and present ourselves.

Question posed: What boxes exist in relation to race /lived experience at micro, mezzo, and macro levels of service (HSC/agency/ direct service)?

6. Announcements [5 minutes]: Everyone

Next Meeting: Tuesday, August 25th 1-2:30 pm

BIPOC panel centering the voices of black service providers in the HSC