

# PA-504 Continuum of Care Governing Board Meeting Minutes

DATE 4/26/2024

TIME 11:00-12:00pm

LOCATION Zoom

## Distributed Documents:

- MontCo Team EFSP Phase 41 Scoring, Lower Providence comments, Valley Youth House Amendment Request PA0989

## Attendees:

**Governing Board Members: Stacey Woodland, Synethia Hill, Jason Alexander, Karin Eyrich-Garg, Anne Leavitt-Gruberger, Vera Zanders, Melinda Himes, Joanne Washington, Fateemah Dedmon, Chris Brzovic, Jade Utz, Gene Paliescheskey, Theresa Rines, Whitney Drukier, Lisa McGee, Mike Hays, Mark Boorse**

**Guests:** Ruth Almy, Mikaela Lanford, Penny Johnson, Kathi Krablin

## Notes

### I. Welcome - Stacey W.

- New Members

- Mike Hays – Montco 30% Project
- Fateemah Dedmon – Valley Youth House
- Melinda Himes – Laurel House
- Gene Paliescheskey – Chair of Lived Experience Advisory Team
- Anne Leavitt-Gruberger – County Planning Commission

### II. Lower Providence – Genny’s Place, Resources for Human Development – Stacey W.

- Development of Your Way Home Advocacy Team
  - Public Advocates or Champions that will foster public education & awareness about homelessness; that will promote cooperation among federal, state, and local communities; collaborate with

experts and agencies in reducing housing insecurity for YWH.

- Mike Hays – endorses the idea, but also suggests aligning county-wide efforts and having all advocates coordinate rather than necessarily create something new.
- Stacey suggests the advocacy team would coordinate with those efforts and make sure to mobilize participation and attendance from the governing board.
- Motion to create an advocacy team made by Karin E-G and seconded by Fateemah D. The motion carries unanimously.
- Jason A. hopes the advocacy team will also take up positions opposing the criminalization of homelessness.

III. Phase 41: Emergency Food & Shelter (EFSP) \$306,986  
Funding – Jason A.

- This funding can be used for shelter operations, and food distribution, among other purposes.
- The demand based on applications far exceeds the funding available. Over \$1 million in funds were requested. The Board prioritizes shelter support (mass shelter and hotel/motel voucher assistance) for phase 41. A team from the board reviewed all applications and ranked them project by project.

- Jason A. presents funding recommendations to the board, top scoring mass shelter and hotel/motel projects are recommended.
- Whitney D. asks for clarification on why none of the food support applications were awarded and how the priority list was decided.
- Jason A. – with guidance from MontCo HHS, and during the scoring conversations, this was arrived at due to lack of other avenues for funding for mass shelter, which led the scorers to prioritize funding shelter to the best of their ability. This is especially a need due to the high utilization of shelter beds in the county and their funding needs. Food insecurity agencies have other avenues to apply for funding, particularly through the county and the MontCo Anti-Hunger Network.
- Vera Z. asks about the mass shelter application that was not awarded; Jason A. indicates that that application was not submitted under the correct category and is not mass shelter. Vera asks about education to applicants on prioritization and application overview. Synethia H. explains about training available to applicants and the EFSP manual which is available to all applicants. Whitney D. asks about scoring and prioritization for certain projects which were not funded. Jason A. explains that projects were scored individually but the number of projects submitted by an agency was taken into

consideration and each agency's projects were prioritized.

- Karin E-G moves for the board to approve the slate as presented. Stacey W. seconds. Motion carries with one abstention.
- In the future, the Board plans to let other public agencies and funders aware of the overwhelming demand for this funding, especially for food insecurity. This can be used as an advocacy point to support evidence of high demand.

IV. Valley Youth House – Amendment Request Vote - Kathi Krablin (guest)

- This request is being made for a change in scope for two programs operated out of VYH, and existing grants received by VYH through the CoC program. HUD requires the Board to approve any changes. The initial application indicated VYH could serve 3 individuals in the transitional housing program, but the two-bedroom apartment may not be appropriate for 2 individual adults each facing unique challenges, or placing another adult with a family. The request is to change the minimum occupancy requirement from 3 individuals to 2 individuals.
- The second request is related to the transitional housing/rapid rehousing for adult families (adults with children). This transitional housing contract is for one unit with 3 bedrooms, which could potentially serve three individuals, but

depending on the family make-ups it may not be appropriate. The request is to change the minimum occupancy requirement to 2 individuals.

- Karin E-G asks if there has been an incident since the initial application was written which was the impetus for this request. Kathi Krablin indicates no incident has occurred but VYH would like to prevent the possibility.
- Whitney D. asks about the priority list and if the priority list would not imply that parenting youth would always be prioritized. Mikaela L. explains the by-name list and how prioritization operates.
- Karin E-G asks how this oversight happened with the application. Fateemah D. indicates that safety is a priority and it might not have been prioritized when the grant was originally written. Jason A., in his position as the HUD consultant, finds it a reasonable request.
- Melinda Himes asks if the reason for the request is to make sure the agency looks like it did not under-utilize the bed space. Jason A. indicates yes.
- Karin E-G moves to approve the two requested amendments. Whitney D. seconds. Motion carries.

V. Your Way Home Data Action Team Updates – Chris Brzovic

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chris B. is the chair of the data action team, and updates the board on revisions to the Coordinated Entry assessment tool. The CoC would like to move away from the VI-SPDAT, largely based on feedback from the racial equity assessment and direction from HUD nationally. The data action team is in the final stages of reviewing and creating this new custom assessment form, in concert with feedback from the Lived Experience Advisory Board. There will need to be a final approval of the new assessment by the CoC Governing Board, and the goal is to complete this in June.</li> </ul> <p>VI. Feedback &amp; Input, Announcements, Closing Statements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Synethia H. would like to highlight recent public education videos by Access Services highlighting the experiences of individuals experiencing homelessness in Montgomery County. Mark Boorse mentions that storytelling is an important part of advocacy and collaborating within the service community and the CoC to create and share stories is important.</li> <li>• Mark B. – There is a clean-up happening at Stony Creek in Norristown tomorrow, for anyone who would like to join.</li> </ul> <p>VII. Adjourn</p>
Next Meeting	<b>June 28, 2024, 11am</b>

