

Greater Richmond Continuum of Care (GRCoC)
Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, April 25, 2022; 3pm; Zoom

Participants: Tyler Agee, Scott Andrews-Weckerly, Jovan Burton, Patricia Cook, Annette Cousins, Brian Davis, Christine Elwell, Kenyatta Green, Sherrill Hampton, Fred Karnas, Eric Leabough, Matthew Leslie, Mica Morgan, Kiva Rogers, Matt Scaparro, Erika Schmale, Beth Vann-Turnbull, Janna Wiener, Hana Yun, Irene Zolotorofe

Staff: Kelly King Horne, Michael Rogers, Frances Marie Pugh

Minutes:

Meeting called to order.

Welcome new board member Scott Andrews-Weckerly, Senior Community Impact Officer, The Community Foundation. Thank you to Allison Bogdanovic, Shenee McCray, and Hana Yun for 6 years of service on the GRCoC board.

Consent Agenda: Motion to approve items on consent agenda - January 2022 Minutes; VCU HCIS license: Read-only access to improve care coordination; and New HCIS Committee members: Steph Herndon (CARITAS), Karen Swansey (VHBG), and Desiree Taylor (HandUp/Vetlink). Items on consent agenda approved.

GRCoC Strategic Plan: Homeward has engaged HDAvisors as a consultant to help facilitate a new strategic plan for the GRCoC and help Greater Richmond CoC strategize about how to advocate for and connect community members to affordable housing. GRCoC Strategic Plan Steering Committee is being developed to help guide the development process of the strategic plan.

MOUs with Homeward: The federal government incentivizes communities to come together to tackle the crisis of homelessness by making targeted and coordinated funding available through the Continuum of Care process. As a requirement in the Continuum of Care Program Interim rule and other HUD HMIS requirements, the CoC must develop, follow, and update governance charters in consultation with the collaborative applicant, who facilitates coordinated funding applications for public funds and submits required reports and HMIS Lead, who identifies needs and trends through data collection, providing required reporting, and meeting funder requirements. With the release of HUD's requirements for Coordinated Entry in 2017, communities can also designate a Coordinated Entry System Coordinator, who coordinates and supports Coordinated Entry programs including the Homeless Connection Line and coordinates prioritization and referrals for emergency shelter, rapid re-housing, permanent supportive housing, and other housing programs. Virginia's Department of Housing and Community Development reinforces these federal requirements through the Virginia Homeless Solutions Program funding guidelines.

Homeward was created to fill the roles of what is now known as Collaborative Applicant and HMIS Lead in 1998. Homeward has been designated to fill the role of Coordinated Entry System Coordinator since the release of HUD's Coordinated Entry System requirements in 2017.

Since 2019, the Greater Richmond Continuum of Care (GRCoC) board has developed and reviewed annually Memoranda of Understanding between the GRCoC and Homeward to fulfill these roles. The GRCoC Ranking Committee reviews Homeward's performance of these roles during the bi-annual funding review processes.

These MOU's do not imply the availability of funding to implement the responsibilities laid out in the documents. In order to fulfill these roles, Homeward has sought funding from local government and private sources in order to be able to carry out the needed and desired activities and to leverage the available federal and state funding to support a coordinated and data-driven approach to addressing homelessness in the region.

Discussed determining a new process to select applicants to fulfill one or more of these required roles - Collaborative applicant, HMIS Lead and CES Coordinator. Would require determining the process and volunteers needed to develop the application, review process, and selection criteria.

Motion to renew and update the agreements between the GRCoC Board and Homeward as the Collaborative applicant, HMIS Lead and CES Coordinator. Called to vote. Approved.

COVID-19 CES Amendment: Motion to retire the original COVID-19 CES Amendment due to NCS closure. Called to vote. Approved.

YHDP: Homeward is applying for the HUD Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) grant on behalf of the GRCoC. Board reviewed YHDP application from 2019. GRCoC Scored 80.5 compared to the median application score of 83.67. · GRCoC scored higher in 'Youth Collaboration' than the national median. The biggest areas for improvement are in the 'Collaboration' and 'Data and Evaluation Capacity'. GRCoC likely lost points in 'Collaboration' for not providing in-depth descriptions and examples of how the CoC works with each institution (Child Welfare, Justice system, and institutions of mental and physical health) and in 'Data and Evaluation Capacity' for not having a detailed recruitment strategy for new youth HMIS projects, not including youth feedback and involvement in the evaluation and quality improvement work in the community (YAB will address the latter), not detailing how subpopulations (LGBTQ+, PoC, and pregnant and parenting youth are prioritized). GRCoC is making changes from the last application cycle to include a more substantial YAB with Internal governance, recruitment strategy, advocacy, professional development opportunities as well as more defined cross-sector youth-specific partnerships and more clear leadership and contribution roles for the YAB, both in leadership and data & evaluation.

Next meeting: Discussion about holding the next GRCoC Board meeting on June 18th in-person or virtually.

Erika Schmale is ending her board term early, because she is joining Homeward as a staff member.

Meeting adjourned.