

Greater Richmond Continuum of Care (GRCoC) Board
Monday, December 12, 2022; 3:30pm; Zoom
Meeting Minutes

Participants: Annette Cousins, Scott Andrews-Weckerly, Jovan Burton, Patricia Cook, Brian Davis, Christine Elwell, Vanessa Johnson, Fred Karnas, Mica Morgan, Kiva Rogers, Beth Vann-Turnbull, Janna Wiener, Irene Zolotorofe

Homeward staff: Kelly King Horne, Michael Rogers, Erika Schmale

Agenda:

3:34 - The board reached quorum. Annette opened the meeting

3:35 - Consent Agenda: Fred Karnas motioned to approve the consent agenda, including Approve [GRCoC Board Minutes from July 2022](#) and [Point-in-Time Count Methodology](#). Janna Wiener seconded. All approved

3:36 – CoC Evaluation: Annette Motioned to assign Governance Committee with creating an evaluation structure that is tied to the MOU and its renewal for the three CoC System roles - Collaborative Applicant, Coordinated Entry System Coordinator (CESC), and Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Lead. Brian Seconded. All Approved.

3:38 – Strategic Plan: Michael reviewed the draft Strategic Plan Goals and Objectives.
Goal 1: (Make the Case) Inform local housing industry about unique needs and barriers facing GRCoC clients

- Objective 1: Connect and explain more clearly to existing housing advocacy and housing production stakeholders our unique needs for housing, and how it is or is not currently being met.
- Objective 2: Demonstrate the need for cross-sector partnerships and illustrate the projected outcomes of better service integration.
- Objective 3: Explore policies that support and protect extremely low-income households.
- Objective 4: Engage broad-based and diverse stakeholders in housing industry education campaign.

Goal 2: (Advocate) Strengthen the existing state and local-level advocacy apparatus for legislative and budgetary achievements that will increase GRCoC's clients' access to permanent housing.

- Objective 1: Develop a list of local and statewide policy priorities to support.
- Objective 2: Create a coalition of local partners to lead and participate in advocacy efforts.
- Objective 3: Participate in a coalition of CoCs across Virginia to strengthen advocacy efforts.

Goal 3: (Innovate) Identify and promote innovative non-traditional housing solutions among CoC development and government partners to produce more units and transition clients to permanent housing.

- Objective 1: Deepen partnerships with affordable housing developers and policymakers to increase the supply of units available to persons exiting homelessness.

- Objective 2: Champion new solutions that promote the acceptance and development of innovative, non-traditional housing options.
- Objective 3: Leverage existing and new resources, along with underused public land, and create more deeply affordable rental homes.

Brian Davis suggested that the committee that coordinates the work may be able to update the action steps and timeline.

Christine Elwell motioned that the board adopt the draft goals and objectives with minor language changes. Seconded. All approved.

3:55 – HMIS Data Plan: Kelly reported the HMIS Committee finalized the [HMIS Data Quality & Monitoring Plan](#). This plan was provisionally approved by the board earlier in 2022. The data quality plan has been approved by the other three CoCs utilizing HCIS. The HMIS Committee is in the process of communicating the changes to all HCIS users. Additions that were made to the plan include background information on why data quality is important, a description of the roles and responsibilities relevant to data quality (including the agency administrator role which is being implemented locally), more detail on how providers can check their own data quality, a process for escalating and addressing any data quality issues that remain unaddressed, incentives for good data quality, and training requirements.

Annette Cousins called a vote to approve the Data Quality & Monitoring Plan. All approved.

4:02 – YHDP: Kelly updated on the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP). In late October, HUD announced a \$4.4 million grant award for Richmond City, Henrico County, Chesterfield County, and Hanover Counties to serve youth experiencing homelessness. This award marks the first time that the Richmond region received dedicated youth funding from HUD. The GRCoC was also the only group in Virginia to receive a grant this year. YHDP funding supports selected communities in the development and execution of a coordinated approach to prevent and end youth homelessness. As defined by the program, the population served by YHDP funds is youth experiencing homelessness, including unaccompanied youth as well as pregnant or parenting youth. Since the announcement of the award, we have been working to build out our planning team and build the community infrastructure necessary to support the development of the Coordinated Community Plan and Project RFP process. We expect to finalize the core planning team by the end of the year and conduct community listening sessions and focus groups through April of 2023. The earliest that contracts between program operators and HUD could be executed is September 1, 2023.

4:09 – 2023 CoC Meeting Dates: Kelly reviewed the proposed 2023 Board meeting days & times: 3/6/23, 6/5/23, 9/11/23, and 12/4/23. All of which are Mondays from 9:30-11. Kelly also reviewed the GRCoC General Membership Meetings: 2/14/23, 4/11/23, 7/11/23, 10/10/23. The GRCoC Annual membership meeting is 12/12/23. All of the meetings are on Tuesdays from 10-11:30am.

Janna Wiener motioned to approve the 2023 board meeting dates and the general meeting dates. Beth Vann-Turnbull seconded. All approved.

4:12 – City of Richmond Investment: Kelly provided an update on the city investment in GRCoC strategic initiatives. Homeward and a few members of the GRCoC board were able to work with City administration on the largest investment of City tax dollars in the coordinated homeless services system ever. This new \$1 million in funding is coming from a surplus in real estate taxes. The funding would come to Homeward to be allocated according to GRCoC planning discussions and immediate gaps in assistance this winter—likely with ongoing negotiations with City administration. Our focus would be to add staffing capacity at our partner agencies to assist households experiencing homelessness to access housing and benefits. We will draw on our CoC's Severe Service Needs Planning as part of our HUD application to address unsheltered homelessness (attached) and the work of the Quality Improvement Leadership Committee to address the needs of households with minor children, in line with national recommendations included in the attached report which highlights our CoC among others. The funding will be considered at the in-person City of Richmond Council meeting on Monday, Dec. 12 at 6pm.

4:38 – Annette Cousins adjourned the meeting.