

Minutes

April 16, 2013

Attendees: Mariah Murphy, Jan Rossier, Kathy Metras, Cara Collins, Chris Dalley, Sarah Phillips, Kimberly Woolaver, Jamie Preston, Jeanne Montross, Daniel Blankenship, Auburn Watersong, Whitney Nichols, Pat Burke, Jenney Montague, Brian Smith, Richard Rankin, Amy Perez, Andy Lowe, Linda Ryan, Erhard Mahnke

* Website Demo-The new website is about ready to go live. The council will be notified as soon as it is up.
* Acceptance of March minutes

Kathy made a motion to accept the minutes and Brian seconded the motion. Minutes approved by unanimous vote.

* New HUD requirements for CoC’s

Daniel shared a summary of HUD’s priorities explaining that there is an opportunity to look at both our SSO grants and TH grants to determine whether it makes sense to change them to Rapid Re-housing grants, which would then move them up the priority list as well as strengthen the states application as well.

NEXT STEPS:

Those holding the SSO’s and TH’s were interested in continuing to research this option to determine if it will meet their community’s needs and agreed to meet with Daniel and each other to discuss these options.

* CoC Performance Measures Committee update

Sarah presented a measurement tool developed by the committee that would be used to provide a “report card” of sorts that the members can use to assess their performance outcomes in the various housing grants such as: HUD, ESG, PATH etc. It is also the hope that this tool and ensuing discussion will help with the big picture of all the housing related work.

There is going to be a meeting in May where folks receive the completed tool to review and utilize.

* Appointment of NOFA committee

There was a discussion of the need for a NOFA committee to focus on the work of supporting the effort of meeting all the HUD NOFA requirements as well as ensuring that the council is proactive in their relationship with HUD.

Volunteers for the committee: Jan Rossier, Brian Smith, Kim Woolaver, Sara Kobylenski, Josh Daniels , Daniel Blankenship.

* Legislative Update-

Another big THANK YOU to everyone who signed on to last week's letter to Senate President John Campbell opposing the proposed Reach Up caps and cuts to the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). Almost 40 organizations signed on! The final letter, which was also copied to the Senate Appropriations and Health and Welfare Committees, is attached.

Your efforts again made a big difference: The Senate Health and Welfare Committee voted earlier today to recommend delaying action on changing Reach Up until the issue could be thoroughly studied outside of the pressures of the legislative session. They also rejected cutting the EITC to fund childcare subsidies. They may still recommend additional funding for childcare above the $3.3M the House funded, though not from the EITC. The committee will be finalizing its recommendations to Senate Appropriations tomorrow (Tuesday).

Meanwhile, emails, faxes and calls to Senate Appropriations members opposing both the Reach Up caps and EITC cuts would be helpful this week. The committee will be marking up the budget all week and will get to the controversial AHS issues, like Reach Up and EITC, later this week. They plan to vote on the budget Friday afternoon, so it would be best if you could contact them by Wednesday at the latest. A list of members and their email addresses is below. You can also send them a fax at 828-2424, or leave a short message with the Sergeant-At-Arms desk: 1-800-322-5616. Talking points are attached.

* Americorps/VISTA position for next year

There was a brief discussion about continuing this position for another year, there was a motion to continue with the position by Kim and it was seconded by Daniel. Motion approved unanimously.

* PIT

There was a brief discussion regarding the PIT data and how to move forward with it. To be determined.

* Single HMIS exploration

NEXT Steps-

 The HMIS committee will review the five systems that the Chittenden group has looked at while waiting for the TA to come through from HUD.