# HHC Advisory Board

## Meeting Minutes

May 11, 2021

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| Present: | Diane Cooper-Currier, Megan Stuart, Karen Goetz, Joe King, Monica Brown, Sally Santangelo, Kristian Peterson, Stephanie Pasquale, Mary Rathbun, Sue McMahon, Marty Skahen, Renee Jensen, Danielle Johnson, Allison Brooks, Liz Vuillemot, Lindsay Bentley, Marlene Klock |
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1. Welcome & Introductions

The board introduced themselves via zoom.

1. Governance and Board Slate

Megan shared the proposed governance changes.

*Proposed change:* There was an addition for duties of the Collaborative Applicant and monitoring for the funded projects. The HHC recently created a formal monitoring policy, and we would like the governance to reflect that. Diane recommended formatting as the previous points. The monitoring tool that the HHC utilizes is given to the funded agencies and the Performance Evaluation and Selection Committee to vote on. It is updated each year. The update that we did this year was to remove the scoring and performance metrics so now all monitoring will just be compliance monitoring and all performance standards will be during the competition.

*Proposed change:* Policy for our general membership meetings in regards to frequency. We added that there is an option to call in via zoom or phone along with accessibility. Diane recommended a generic wording change to from “zoom” to virtual meeting platform.

Proposed charge: Term extension for those who are elected to the executive board. Sally Santangelo recommended the wording of “a term can be extended if one is elected to an officer position for the length of the elected board members officer position.”

*Proposed change:* Balanced executive board that is more representative of our CoC. Previously we had a secretary and treasurer, however since this board is an advisory board, we would like to change those positions to “at-large” and use the positions to ensure that each of the counties has representation on the executive committee. There are a lot of detailed decisions that affect the entire CoC. We would have stakeholders from each county to be elected on the executive board.

*Proposed change:* Both of the rural counties have their own county specific HHC meetings. Megan would like to know if Onondaga County would like to have its own committee.

*Proposed change:* The Client Advisory Board and the Youth Action Board have been listed as formal committees of the Housing and Homeless Coalition.

Karen Goetz motioned to approve the proposed changes to bring to the full HHC membership. Joe King seconded the motion. Proposed changes were approved unanimously.

Slate proposal: There appears to be quite a few people up for their 2nd term however we are on track to have 1/3 of the board members cycle off every two years. We have added a healthcare worker slate. The individual is not listed yet as Megan is working with Upstate University Hospital to identify the appropriate candidate. Andrea Wandersee is filling a vacancy. Dian Jakimoski is filling Ben Lockwood’ss housing developer slot.

Sally Santangelo asked if there was any racial diversity in selecting these candidates. Diane said that there was not. Monica asked how we would approach diversifying our future candidates. Stephanie recommended that we reach out to some local organizations who focus on recruiting the younger generations into board work. She said we should look into community experts, not just housing experts. Megan will also try to work on board outreach. NEHDA was the only applicant for the empty board slot. The board will work on reaching into different pools for community involvement. Monica recommended having each individual on the board reach out to the other board members and community members that they work with. Allison recommended a subcommittee that could work on diversifying recruitment. Sally acknowledged that recruitment right now is difficult for everyone because people are tired and asking people to do more is not the best way to retain board members. HSLC is doing an antiracism committee and they are asking organizations to be part of a community of antiracism practices. Diane recommended that we put this on the agenda for the next Advisory Board meeting.

Diane asked for board members to approve the Advisory Board Slate. Marty motioned, Stephanie seconded. Motion passed unanimously. This will be presented at the June board meeting.

Diane asked for motion approval of the executive board slate. Stephanie motioned. Monica seconded. Motion approved unanimously

1. Strategic Planning Update

Megan shared that we are deep in the strat planning process. She thanked all the survey takers. We are starting the community meetings, hosted by our consultants. Three meetings- one meeting for each county. The way the new strat plan is structured is that there will be an overarching document for the full CoC and then three county specific strategy documents, because the needs in each county are different and we wanted to be mindful of that. The county specific documents will feed into the overarching plan. Megan did send out an invite for the Onondaga meeting. She asks that if you do not work in Onondaga, please disregard it. The Auburn/Cayuga meeting will be on May 12, @ 11:30 during their typical Homeless Taskforce time. The Onondaga County meeting will be on May 19th @ 1:30 pm. The Oswego planning meeting will be on May 24th @ 2:30 pm. If you would like an invite to any of these meetings, please reach out to Megan. The corresponding county google documents will be open until June 4th so if individuals are unable to attend the meetings, there will still be time for feedback.

We did get a lot of good feedback from the surveys which has helped frame the strategy documents for the differing counties. These are the only focus groups for the full strategic planning process.

1. Emergency Housing Vouchers

HUD has released information about Emergency Housing Vouchers that are going to Housing Authorities. The award amount for the counties. HUD is strongly recommending that the PHA’s partner with their local CoC’s and allocating these vouchers for people experiencing homelessness, domestic violence, people at risk of losing their housing, people moving one from PSH and RRH. All the guidance from HUD is pushing collaboration and MOU’s. There has not been an actual conversation with Syracuse Housing Authority because this was just released yesterday. SHA is receiving 53 vouches. City of Fulton is getting 15. However, NYS Housing Trust fund Corp is getting 1,447. NYS had us complete a survey of our CE numbers. Megan is hopeful that if SHA runs out, some entities may be able to get vouchers from HCR. HUD said that the numbers were based on need, but the board is not sure how that need was determined. Megan thinks that this would be great opportunity to move people along from PSH and get individuals out of shelter.

1. Committee Updates

* Program Planning and Advocacy: no update
* Performance Evaluation and Selection: Monitoring is on the process. We are expecting the NOFA to be “on time” around July.
* Executive Committee: Diane shared the last meeting was focused on the board slate and governance that was presented today.
* County Update: Monica shared about the Onondaga Rental Assistance. They have received 3,268 applications. The applications are a mix of 50% tenants and 50% landlords. If the landlord applies, they have to use the tenant’s income information to reimburse the landlord. There has been some duplication- client and landlord both applied. Total cost is close to $13 million allocated and in process. The total is between $23-$25 million. Allison shared that their family shelter numbers have gone up, they are sitting at 35 right now- couch surfing and DV. The state portal is supposed to be opened mid to late May.

1. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: Stephanie Pasquale. Meeting was adjourned at 3:41 pm.