**DRAFT MINUTES**

Friday, July 24, 2020

Location: Virtual TEAMS Meeting

**Meeting Minutes & Other Resources:** <http://www.iowafinanceauthority.gov/Public/Pages/PC46LN13>

*Participants self-reported attendance through a shared Google Sheet:* [**https://tinyurl.com/ICH-Attendance**](https://tinyurl.com/ICH-Attendance)

* **Introductions**
  + Chair Ashley Odom opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. The call took place over Teams, with no introductions necessary. Quorum was achieved.
* **Approval of Agenda *(Action Item)***
  + Motion: Dennis Lauterbach
  + Second: Roberta Wahl
  + Unanimously approved
* **Approval of Minutes from May 15, 2020** *(Action Item)*
  + Motion: Dennis
  + Second: Roberta
  + Unanimously approved
* **Committee/Task Force Reports**
* **Executive Committee** (*Ashley Odom*)
  + Ashley discussed the current structure of committees, with the Continuum of Care and Coordinated Entry Committees likely moving over to the new Iowa Balance of State Continuum of Care Board.
* **Nominating Committee** (*Tim Wilson)*
  + Tim provided an update on new governor appointments to the Council. Renewal members were recently approved. New appointments have not taken place yet. There are five vacancies currently; four from the general public and one from the Iowa Association of Counties. There is an expectation that appointments will be made next week. Tim also noted some issues with the attendance sheet for today; Carolyn Cobb is working on adjusting the reporting sheet to resolve this.
* **Continuum of Care Committee** (*Dennis Lauterbach*)
  + Dennis provided a brief update on the current activities of the new Continuum of Care (CoC) Board.
* **Coordinated Entry** (*Gary Wickering*)
  + Gary discussed that with the move in committee to the new CoC Board, this item should be removed from future agendas. Or, if continuing to report, then Hope Metheny would be the appropriate person as she is the new chair of this committee on the CoC Board. Gary provided an update on several items including an expansion of services in new areas of the state with additional COVID-19 funds and new regional leads potentially taking place. Hope noted that the Balance of State CoC is not encouraging a summer Point in Time Count, although Des Moines is doing a count with staff only (non-volunteers).
    - Hope made a motion to move this committee to the CoC Board to avoid double-reporting.
    - Second: Tim
    - Unanimously approved
* **Research and Analysis Committee** *(David Hagen)*
  + This item was taken out of order. David reported that the committee has not officially met recently, but has been emailing among members to discuss next steps. As we divide Council and CoC board duties, looking to figure out the role for this committee going forward, in how to best serve the Council.
* **Policy & Planning** (*Crissy Canganelli*)
  + Crissy reported that the committee met recently and focused on funding and plans for the Iowa Emergency Solutions Grant CARES Act (ESG-CV) program. The committee discussed Homelessness Prevention and also whether Shelter Rehab should be encouraged under the second allocation of ESG-CV funds. It was agreed this would be helpful.
* **Public Awareness Committee** (*Alex Freeman*)
  + Alex reported that the committee is looking to facilitate public awareness visits at various shelters/nonprofits. Looking to engage local leaders and elected officials. Would like to coordinate with Crissy and the Policy and Planning Committee so that any policy discussions that come up are aligned. Also working on putting a kit together to better support agencies in their public awareness efforts. Would like to be the bridge; working on some written materials, letters to the editor, etc., about grant programs in order to be a support to agencies.
* **Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Report, Institute for Community Alliances** *(Gary Wickering)*
  + Gary provided an update from HUD regarding the new report, the LSA. Should be done with programming and testing by August, with report to replace old AHAR report. Hasn’t yet seen the LSA be used for anything. Gary noted the potential for future use of the analysis tool, Stella, especially for CoCs that don’t have the tools for analysis that ICA has, and in order to better compare apples to apples. It won’t be of use to compare last year’s data, because of the difficulties nationally getting this new report put together. ICA is also researching the impact on COVID-19 on data collection and reporting. They are hard at work with the creation of new projects under CARES Act funding; many new projects plus setting up all subcontracts. Not a lot of guidance from HUD so far on HMIS implementation for CARES Act funds.
* **Update on COVID-19 Iowa Eviction & Foreclosure Prevention Program** *(Terri Rosonke, IFA)*
  + Terri provided an update on this new program and shared the status so far (numbers of households served). Crissy noted that many people are not aware of the resource. Terri responded that some outreach was done early on, but will pass along to the team the concern about this lack of awareness. Ashley asked if there are flyers that could be provided to help get word out. Terri noted if you go to the website there are some flyers from IFA’s communication team, at the resources section at the bottom of the page. Also a resource that landlords are providing to tenants. <https://www.iowafinance.com/about/covid-19-ifa-recovery-assistance/>
* **Iowa Finance Authority Staff Updates** *(Amber Lewis)*
  + Amber provided an update on ESG CARES Act funds; ESG-CV1 funds have been awarded and contracts delivered; will be working on figuring out where agencies are in the process of getting the program moving forward to be able to offer assistance.
* **Old Business: None**
* **New Business: None**
* **Public Comments**
  + Julie Eberbach shared that HUD this morning published a proposed change in their Equal Access rules, especially regarding transgender access. There are 60 days to make public comment to HUD. Julie described the change as a discriminatory act and asked folks to make comment to this effect, especially calling for a strong response from the Heartland. Gary also noted it can be very dangerous for trans men and women to be in a shelter not representative of their gender identity. Crissy asked if Julie was asking for a vote from the Council making a statement to HUD, such as a letter, etc. Julie affirmed this.
    - Crissy made a motion that the ICH send correspondence to HUD that the Council is not in support of the proposed changes to existing policy, and furthermore that the changes would be deleterious to the health, safety, and well-being of individuals in need.
    - Second: Gary
    - Additional discussion: David Binner noted that Council members may need to read the documentation first before voting.
    - Gary asked Ben if he has any issues with the proposed rule changes regarding protections for survivors of domestic violence. Ben affirmed the current rules are best for survivors. Gary also asked Hope about the impact on youth. Hope noted the proposed rule changes would be deleterious for youth and their personal mental health. Crissy also noted there are highly regarded national agencies also asking for people to take action to make comment to HUD to oppose this change.
    - A vote was taken, with two No votes, and two Abstentions.
    - The motion passed.
  + Further discussion ensued regarding the above issue:
    - Alex commented further that he doesn’t believe the motion that just passed was sufficient to represent the entire Council. Every member deserves the chance to leave their name off such a letter if they are not in favor of what the letter contains.
    - Gary asked if Crissy and the Policy and Planning Committee would draft a letter. Gary noted that the letter shouldn’t name Council members. Crissy said she would work on a draft but would like some assistance and guidance. Crissy further noted that if there are remaining questions about validity of the vote, she would like to have that on the record now.
    - Dennis asked if the Council should have the Executive Committee review the letter before it goes out. Ashley clarified that Crissy and Gary would work on a letter and then that would be reviewed by the Executive Committee before it goes out. Hope also noted that any individuals or agencies can also send their own letters or comments to HUD. David stated that everyone should have the right to read and review the letter before it goes out.
  + Other public comments: Carrie Morena at the VA noted that the Homeless Veterans Stand-Down that was scheduled for September in Des Moines has been cancelled.
* **Next Meeting:** Friday, September 25, 2020
* **Adjourn**
  + Adjourn: Ben
  + Dennis: second
  + Meeting adjourned at 11:03.

*Minutes submitted by Amber Lewis*