

Minutes of the Evaluation and Resource Allocation Committee
of the Board to Promote Self Sufficiency

October 4, 2016 10-12:00am, DSS Board Room

ATTENDEES: Jennifer Corcoran (staff), Craig Cummings, Michelle Hippert (staff), Stan Levi (Chair),
Cristiana Mercer, Catherine Wellman (staff)

ABSENT: Dee Athey, Karen Butler, Joe Willmott

Approval of the minutes from the July meeting

Minutes from the August 25, 2016 meeting were approved without amendments.

Committee Data Needs

The Committee reviewed multiple data reports, including the CSHS Data Spreadsheet and Six Month Report, CSHS Data Summary, HUD System Performance Measures, Point-In-Time findings, and HUD Annual Homeless Assessment Report to determine which data to regularly monitor and at what time intervals. The Committee also discussed the County's overall funding and data review structures with regard to homelessness. This included the role of the newly aligned Steering Committee, at which CSHS data is reported, and of the Office of Community Partnerships Grants Manager, who oversees the County's Plan to End Homelessness funding.

The Committee discussed the use of both local and Federal data/data reports. Local, CSHS data is pulled monthly, and though there are currently no benchmarks associated with it, there is the expectation that benchmarks will be developed during the process of updating the Plan to End Homelessness. A Community Forum is being held as part of this process on October 25. Data required by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development is gathered primarily for the purpose of understanding the scope of homelessness, and thus also does not have benchmarks. This data also runs by the Federal fiscal year and thus is quite old by the time it is reviewed. However, this data must be shared with the community before it is submitted to HUD, so it is reviewed in the ERA Committee because it is the group most familiar with that data.

A discussion was held about the shift in the Committee's focus over time away from CSHS and toward grant review and recommendations. When CSHS was in its beginning stages, data review took a substantial amount of the Committee's attention, but this decreased as CSHS became more stable, and with changes in Committee and staff composition, grants gained more attention. However, the point was made that though the CSHS data points do not directly impact the Committee's decision making, they do provide valuable context to overall trends in the County. The Committee identified the functioning of

CSHS as the basis of the County's response to homelessness and the large waitlist as a sign that need continues to exceed current resources. The decision was made to review the CSHS Data Summary report on a monthly basis and the CSHS Data Spreadsheet on a quarterly basis, with the November meeting being the first quarterly review.

Site Visit Planning

Site visits will be conducted to better understand the full picture of the services provided by the agencies for whom the Committee makes funding decisions. It was suggested that two Committee members and one staff member visit each agency. Staff will arrange the visits, which should be completed by the December 6 meeting. Guiding questions will be sent out to ensure consistent information is gathered. Visits and attendees will be as follows:

Community Action Council – Stan Levi, Joe Willmott, Jennifer Corcoran

Grassroots Crisis Intervention – Karen Butler, Dee Athey, Michelle Hippert

HopeWorks – Dee Athey, Stan Levi, Catherine Wellman

Department of Corrections – Christiana Mercer, Craig Cummings, Michelle Hippert

Bridges to Housing Stability – Joe Willmott, Karen Butler, Catherine Wellman

Humanim – Craig Cummings, Christiana Mercer, Jennifer Corcoran

Minutes submitted by Jennifer Corcoran, CSHS Services Coordinator