

Interagency Council on Homelessness

Board Meeting

Minutes

May 25, 2023

1. Call to Order at 8:38am. In attendance Katrina Bostick, Shania Copeland, Jennifer Dulong, Karen Guinn, Linda James, Mark Johnson M.D., Michael Kaigler, Stephanie Kaple, Farrah Lawrence, Reginald Lee, Kerri Reid, Captain Nicole R Scott-Bond, Michael Traynor, Taffanye Young. Board Members not in attendance Jennifer Davenport, Earline Davis, Jay Melder, Wayne Noha, and Tim Salley.
2. Agenda for May 25, 2023 and Board Meeting Minutes for March 30, 2023 were approved. Motion to approve made by Mike Traynor, seconded by Linda James, passed unanimously.
3. Karen Guinn presented the recommendation of the Selection Committee to accept PathFoward's Strategic Plan Proposal. The selection process was reviewed and PathForward's presentation was provided to all in attendance, please see supplemental information. PathFoward was recommended for their methodology, urgency, personality fit, experience at all levels, community focus, and implementation strategy. Michael Traynor stated that we need to ensure the plan is not a binder that is placed on a shelf but a firm set of steps that all Board Members can clearly state to the community and show action and progress. Dr. Mark Johnson stated he would like to see the plan detail mental health care needs, services, and plans to pay for it.

Motion to accept PathForward's Strategic Plan proposal made by Karen Guinn on behalf of the Selection Committee and ICH Executive Committee, seconded by Michael Traynor, passed unanimously.

4. Strategic Plan timeline presented and reviewed as stated below.:

May 31, 2023 - Selection of Firm

June- negotiate final agreement with PathFoward

Have timeline with detailed goals and outcomes for review in June.

July- begin Strategic Planning Process

End of 2023 completion of 5 year Strategic Plan.

5. Executive Director Report presented by Stephanie Kaple and Committee Representatives. In future meetings, committee reports will be provided in writing to the Board in advance of the meeting for

discussion and clarification if needed. Additionally, have one committee chair present at each meeting to share their work and outcomes.

Committee Reports:

- HMIS & Data – Jenn Dulong reviewed activities of the committee including training provided and options to improve use to provide better data and outcomes.
- Strategic Planning- Karen Guinn previously reported on.
- Racial Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion- Stephanie Kaple shared 65 people attended DEI training held in April. Committee is working on DEI policy based on HUD’s model for all agencies and began working on a process to help agencies or those seeking services address equal access issues.
- Ranking & Rating- Jennifer Dulong shared that the NOFO is slated to be released in June 2023, expecting Bonus Projects to include Rapid Re-Housing and Domestic Violence projects. Working with agencies to help them prepare now for those releases to meet the quick deadline. Currently only 7 points away from being a “high performing community” looking at how to secure those final points. Michael Traynor discussed importance of having support for those completing new bonus projects to ensure best outcomes.
- Coordinated Entry- Jennifer Dulong reported 54 households placed with new Coordinated Entry Coordinator now in their role. Allowing for better communication and a smoother process. Discussion on ways Coordinated Entry is improving and how partners can increase those positive outcomes. Michael Traynor reported Union Mission Inc. now has a Landlord Engagement position to help secure housing opportunities for those in programs. Jennifer Dulong stated Chatham Savannah Authority of the Homeless has one as well and will begin coordination between two positions.
- CoC Members- Stephanie Kaple reported that general membership has increased, but focusing on adding some specific members will allow for more points on NOFO. Committee has identified community partners that would help fill those areas and has begun reaching out to them to join.

Dr. Mark Johnson requested a location on the ICH/CoC website where a guide to HMIS and Coordinated Entry process can be accessed.

6. Jennifer Dulong provided an update on the Encampment Committee progress. Working with County and City attorneys to draft an agreed upon policy on encampment removal. Next step is to present the policy to the City and County Managers for their review.
7. Stephanie Kaple provided a review of the National Alliance to End Homelessness: State of Homelessness 2022 with key highlights. See supplemental information. Michael Kaigler stated that as we look at the economic growth coming to the community, must also look at our housing stock and how we build to meet those needs. Stephanie Kaple stated that there will be further secondary job growth which will likely have lower wages creating additional need for affordable housing as well as the housing for those in higher wage positions. Mark Johnson stressed that transportation to work/home needs to be

considered by all the municipalities and need to be working with developers who want to develop housing that works with HUD funding and programs.

8. Meeting schedule for the remainder of the year:

- June 22
- August 24
- October 26
- December- TBD

9. Comments from Board

- Michael Traynor meet with he Savannah Police Department in regards to issues happening on the Family Dollar property located next to Union Mission Inc. which the company has not been responding to. Such issues have included drug use and overdoses resulting in both serious medical issues and death. Noted there have been multiple homeless deaths related to drug use and is concerned about staff working with homeless population being properly prepared to address these crises. Union Mission's Day Center has added security to wand check guests upon arrival and check bags, are finding banned items. Jennifer Dulong stated the Chatham Savannah Authority for the Homeless will provide Narcan training for partner agencies.
- Michael Kaigler brought for discussion the ongoing challenges of handling those experiencing homelessness who are violating the law and ensuring they receive proper services. Sheriff's office does not view the detention center as homeless shelter or mental health facility. Jennifer Dulong stated that shelters also need support when law enforcement officers bring individuals who are experiencing mental health crises and/or substance related crises. Discussion on how to provide law enforcement with training to make better assessments and how the person in need can be swiftly connected to support services.

An ad hoc committee will be established to address these concerns and develop a plan to better provide coordination of services. Dr. Mark Johnson will chair.

10. Meeting was adjourned at 9:52am