

Homeless Leadership Board

**Interlocal Review Meeting**

Tuesday, December 3, 2019 – 2:30 PM

ServiceSource, 2735 Whitney Road, Clearwater, FL

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was facilitated by both Susan Myers, CEO of the Pinellas County Homeless Leadership Board, and Regina Kardash, the HLB Attorney. The meeting was called to order at 2:31 PM and began with introductions of attendees.

**2. Overview of Federal Regulations and Governing Documents**

* The co-facilitators reviewed the HEARTH Act (Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing) and the changes to it over the years. The major points of the HEARTH Act include:
  + The HEARTH Act helped entrench federal support for Housing First and expand the availability of permanent housing beyond people experiencing chronic homelessness to families, youth, and nondisabled, single adults
  + HEARTH expanded the mission of the US Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) to “coordinate the federal response to homelessness,” creating partnerships across the government and with the private sector. It also directed the agency to develop a National Strategic Plan to End Homelessness.
  + HEARTH expanded the definition of who should be considered homeless to include people at imminent risk of homelessness, previously homeless people temporarily in institutional settings, unaccompanied youth and families with persistent housing instability, and people fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence.
  + The HEARTH Act established system-wide performance measures for homeless Continuums of Care (CoCs). The performance measures relate to the national goal that homelessness be rare, brief, and nonrecurring.
  + HEARTH committed CoCs to establish coordinated entry systems, creating a standard process for assessing people’s housing and service needs and connecting them to available resources. Coordinated entry, which received little attention when HEARTH was passed, marks a major shift in how communities address homelessness.
* The CoC (Continuum of Care) is made up of representatives from local government agencies, service providers (social service, homeless assistance, victim, mental health), faith-based and/or community-based organizations, businesses, advocates, public housing agencies, school districts, hospitals, universities, affordable housing developers, law enforcement, organizations that serve veterans and homeless/formerly homeless individuals.
* The role of the CoC is a non-legal entity that sets policy and selects a lead agency to implement the policies.

1. **Changes in Governance Structure Effective January 1, 2020**

* Currently, the Homeless Leadership Board serves as the Board for the Continuum of Care, the Collaborative Applicant, the HMIS Lead Agency, the CoC Lead Agency and the non-profit agency. The Collaborative Applicant can be any entity that can apply for CoC funds, including the CoC itself.
* HUD requires CoC’s to have a CoC membership that has input on who represents them on the CoC Board. Currently, the HLB Board members serve as our CoC’s membership. The new CoC membership will elect who represents them on the CoC Board. CoC Board members who represent government entities are not elected by the membership, as they are appointed by the government entities the represent; however, they do need to become CoC members and are not required to pay the membership fee. Government representatives get an automatic seat on the board.
* The private nonprofit will have its own board.
* The current Interlocal Agreement cites the CoC having an Elected Officials Council; though there currently is not one.
* Question was raised about what establishes the CoC if there is no interlocal agreement. The current CoC Board establishes the Charter and that document governs the CoC. The revised Charter was approved by the Board.
* The Charter requires operating in the Sunshine and any work done by the non-profit on behalf of the CoC will be done in the Sunshine.
* The CoC Board will be re-evaluating the contract with the Lead Agency every three years.

1. **Future Options for the Interlocal Agreement**

* The HLB’s attorney stated that the Interlocal Agreement is not perceived as a binding piece and believe that whether it is there or not is of no difference.
* The revised CoC Charter does preserve the seats that are signatories to the Interlocal Agreement and other cities in Pinellas County are going to be asked to join as well to become members.
* HLB staff will distribute the CoC membership application so the governing bodies apply.
* The HLB is not a party to the Interlocal Agreement and as such, the signatories need to make a recommendation to their governing bodies as to how to proceed with the either renewing or terminating the Agreement, or allow it’s term to expire, which is September 30, 2020. The Interlocal Agreement is not a HUD requirement. There is a 180 day notice requirement built into the Interlocal Agreement for termination.
* CoC membership takes effect January 2, 2022.
* Current members of the Board can serve out their terms and there will be a grace period for the government entities to submit their Board members appointments.
* Individuals who work for a government or an agency can become a non-voting member of the CoC, however, governments and agencies are the members and appoint a designated voting member.
* The final consensus among attendees is to allow the current Interlocal Agreement to naturally expire on September 30, 2022.
* There needs to be discussion at the upcoming Board meeting on who completes the membership application and who signs it.

Meeting adjourned at 3:25 PM