

Housing and Stabilization Leadership Meeting
10/7/21 Agenda

1. Updates/Meeting Review - Ian 5 min
 - a. Chat Box - Laura
 - b. Slides - Shadiya
 - c. Notes - Hope
 - d. Review Volunteer
 - e. Shared Meeting Agreements

2. SOAR Presentation - Sametra 15 min

3. Vets Updates - Ian 5 min
 - a. Milestone
 - b. Vet Housed

4. Working Group Updates - 5 min
 - a. Veterans Working Group - Liam
 - b. Youth Working Group - Bia
 - c. Landlord Working Group - Gina
 - d. Case Conference Working Group - Jovanica
 - e. Data and Performance Working Group - Courtney, Eline

5. 9/2/21 Request from Working Group Team Leads - Ian (With Team Leads) 15 min
 - a. Report back from CoC agencies - Do your teams have capacity to engage more with the working groups?

6. NOFO Update - Katie 10 min

7. EHV/CES/Assessment Update - Ian 15 min

8. Street 2 Home - Jim 5 min

9. HOUSE America - Laila 5 min

10. Review - 5 min

11. Next Meeting 11/4 1-2:30

Housing and Stabilization Leadership Meeting

10/7/2021

To do:

- Utilize SOAR resources for clients needing help with applying for/receiving benefits
- Continue to check with your teams and making sure they are submitting names prior to case conferencing
- Work on defining your staff members roles and jobs in regards to attending the working groups
- Use the notes from this meeting to inform your staff of information that is presented in Leadership meeting
- Continue to respond to DND emails regarding NOFO
- Look out for training on Clarity for non-Clarity users
- Prepare for next Housing and Stabilization Leadership meeting 11/4 1-2:30

Decisions:

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Links

- <https://bostoncoc.mailchimpsites.com/>
- <https://soarworks.samhsa.gov/>
- <https://www.boston.gov/housing/continuum-care-program>

Notes

1. SOAR (SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery)
 - a. Presentation by Sametra, Technical Assistance (TA) center liaison for MA
 - b. Overview: SSI SSDI Access and Recovery, a SAMHSA initiative for individuals experiencing homelessness and have a disability who find it challenging to complete SSI/SSDI applications. The goal is to streamline the applications for these individuals, submit their applications, get a quicker response, and a higher approval rate
 - i. More information here: <https://soarworks.samhsa.gov/>
 - c. Most of the statewide work in MA is being done in Boston
 - i. Case workers who are SOAR trained are doing the applications as well as the individuals who are not trained are completing the applications
 - d. Data:

- i. Outcomes for Suffolk County (2020-2021), 6 SOAR applications completed, 4 approvals, 2 denials in an average of 85 days
- ii. 70-80 caseworkers in Boston that are trained, but there are only 6 approvals.
 - 1. Questions that need to be answered from the data
 - a. Why are there so few SOAR approval numbers? Are the applications not being tracked? Is there not enough time being allocated to complete SOAR applications? Are there applications that were left out of the current data? How can we as a community work together to increase usage and production?
- iii. SOAR would like to:
 - 1. Consider the level of need in the community and compare with the outcomes that are produced.
 - 2. Create a survey or a small working/focus group for the people who do this work
- iv. To get involved:
 - 1. Reach out to SOAR Technical assistance with ideas for how to better utilize the SOAR resources
 - a. akirkman@prainc.com
 - b. spolkahtoe@prainc.com

2. Vets Updates Milestone

- a. 1,500 Vet Housed since beginning of Vets initiative!
- b. Congratulations to everyone who was part of the vets initiative!
 - i. VA, shelter, SSVF, and more!
- c. MM was housed at the end of August. Huge success!

3. Working Group Updates

- a. Veterans Working Group - Liam
 - i. Highlight: group was able to go through veteran by name list (veteran cohort) reviewed housing tracks and discussed making a new list
- b. Youth Working Group - Bia

- i. Group is creating a guide for clients to do housing search on their own, creating worksheets and toolkit/guide - if you want to see more reach out to Bia (beatriz.moreira@boston.gov)
 - 1. Some examples of worksheets:
 - a. <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1SDjuwSS2SmqaVxqroJGlg6bMgfN2DGum/view>
 - b. <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ycBPwZLQuA2D51S2q1WCp8b92mYt9EnH/view>
 - ii. Housing preference sheet and budget sheet are being piloted and will be brought back for feedback in November
 - c. Landlord Working Group-Gina
 - i. Group is building up unit inventory with new units of various sizes
 - ii. Provider training was held for instruction on how to access Landlord incentives
 - 1. Recording of this training are on the Boston CoC mailchimp site
 - iii. 19 landlords have been paid through the New Lease/DND incentive program
 - 1. All have been paid out to St Francis House
 - 2. If you have questions about how it works, feel free to reach out to Gina Casey (gcasey@newleasehousing.org)
 - d. Case Conference Working Group - Jovanica
 - i. Leadership is working on creating a response from the data collected in the anonymous feedback surveys
 - ii. Discussing EHV and assessments
 - e. Data and Performance Working Group - Courtney
 - i. Refining mission and deliverables for post-COVID initiative
 - ii. Will share group mission at November meeting
4. 9/2/21 Request from Working Group Team Leads - Ian (With Team Leads)
- a. Report back from CoC agencies - Do your teams have capacity to engage more with the working groups?
 - i. Project Place: clear on expectations, had the time and space to attend meetings, and the process for submitting client name in advance does work

- ii. Pine Street Inn: things were going fine, the right people were engaged, people had enough time to do outside tasks
 - iii. Women's lunch place: have time to work on landlord engagement group, case conferencing group has been less consistently helpful for women's lunch place
 - iv. Casa Myrna: have capacity to expand participation in working groups
 - v. BPHC: Staff knows the expectations, will be reminded of what they are expected to do
 - vi. DND: some improvement from the youth group after this was brought up last month, however, Case Conferencing Working Group only received one name prior to the meeting last week.
 - 1. Please continue to check with your teams and making sure they are submitting names prior to case conferencing, and their client needs prior to the meetings
5. Case conferencing working group and veterans working group members received an anonymous survey to complete
- a. Out of 40 or 50 members total, 15 staff members responded
 - b. People are overall happy with the groups
 - c. There is some staff confusion on their role in the working group and what the purpose of the working group is
 - i. Agency leadership: work on defining your staff members roles and jobs in regards to attending the working groups
 - ii. 25% of respondents state that the information they receive from their agencies about the Leadership meeting and the information they receive in the working group information is different
 - iii. Please use the monthly Leadership notes to inform your staff what comes out of the Leadership meetings. This way all of the messaging is the same and confusion is eliminated
6. NOFO Update - Katie
- a. 2021 NOFO (Notice of Funding Opportunity) published on August 18 due on Nov 16, 2021

- b. CoC webpage is the best way to see what the current information regarding the NOFO as it is updated
 - i. Can sign up for newsletters for updates here:
<https://www.boston.gov/housing/continuum-care-program>
- c. 2021 application has changed a lot since 2019, a lot of responses about COVID, how we are working with CARES Act, new sections of application that we have to develop
- d. CoC funding is the backbone of our homeless services effort in Boston and in MA
 - i. Some examples of changes:
 1. 37 million dollars in renewal grants, portfolio is larger this year
 2. YHDP portfolio renewal
 3. Increases to FMR are showing up to this cycle grant
 4. New housing projects, rapid or PSH
 5. Joint TH and RRH
 6. More Rapid slots
 7. Increased infrastructure-HMIS and Coordinated entry system
- e. Bonus funding sources:
 - i. 1.8 million dollars for CoC bonus, PSH, RRH, SSO
 - ii. 2.25 million DV Bonus, opportunities for funding to serve individuals experiencing DV
- f. If you manage a project, you should have received an application packet
 - i. You will work with your development officer to complete any changes to your application
- g. DND may be reaching out to you in the next couple of weeks to complete the following:
 - i. Narrative section
 - ii. Charts
 1. Lots of questions in the application so that we have the most up to date application information
- h. Next steps: new projects and renewals are due Oct. 15 based on HUD mandated deadlines. Status of application will be sent out Nov. 1
- i. Updates here: <https://www.boston.gov/housing/continuum-care-program>
- j. This is a MASSIVE effort, please continue to be responsive, be aware of the work that is being done

- i. Thank you, Katie!

7. EHV/CES/Assessment Update

- a. 480 BHA EHV coming to our CoC
 - i. About half are going to families, different route
 - ii. Vouchers for individuals are being matched through Coordinated Entry per HUD requirement
- b. Pathways and transfer assessment will be completed in Clarity (HMIS system that DND uses), even those who do not currently have access to Clarity
 - i. Originally built in CAS- will remain there so DV agencies can use the de-identified route
 - ii. Training for agencies using Clarity or those not using Clarity will happen in October 10/25-11/5 online training, videos on LMS, and webinar
 - 1. BHA has offered to be part of this training to explain how the questionnaire works
 - iii. Non-clarity agencies will have a meeting next week to access assessment
 - 1. Look out for emails for scheduled meeting time
 - iv. Assessment period for EHV will be 11/8-11/21
 - v. Clients assessed after 11/21 will be eligible for other CoC resources
 - vi. DND will share client list with BHA week of 11/22
 - vii. When the assessment period begins, clients will need to take the new Pathways assessment to be eligible for resources through the CoC
 - viii. RRH will still be direct referral
 - 1. Youth RRH will be matched through the assessment
 - ix. DND will work on message to clients for which assessment makes you eligible for which housing pathway

8. Street 2 Home

- a. Goal is to house 250 unsheltered individuals by 9/30/2022 and develop outreach to supportive housing pathways

- b. DND and Clutch Consulting and partners have developed a cohort of 250 unsheltered individuals
 - i. 115 from Mass and Melnea Cass by Recovery Services, Eliot, Health Care for the Homeless
 - ii. 135 city-wide identified by Pine Street Day and Night outreach partners
- c. 52 ESG Rapid Rehousing, 50 Mainstream Vouchers, 50 Low Threshold Housing, 20 MA Emergency Housing Vouchers (62+ disabled), 20 DMH Safe Haven, others TBD
 - i. 31 housed to date since part of partnership
- d. Cross-city effort focused on helping the unsheltered, who may need a harm-reduction and low-barrier approach to housing

9. HOUSE America

- a. Boston's Goals: Rehouse 1,100 households experiencing homelessness between launch and December 2022, individuals and families experiencing literal homelessness
- b. Create 650 units of housing for people facing housing insecurity

10. Next Meeting 11/4 1-2:30