



PY 2016 Ohio Consolidated Plan Supportive Housing Program Advisory Meeting Minutes

Date of Meeting: September 30, 2015

Location of Meeting: Creekside Conference and Event Center, Gahanna, Ohio

Advisory Committee Members in Attendance:

Colleen Bain
Lianna Barbu
Bambi Baughn
Elaina Bradley
Jennie Dennison-Budak
Beth Fetzer-Rice
Deboarh Givens
Jim Kennelly
Evelyn King
Christine Matusek Plas
Erica Mulryan
Diane Pfaff
Jacalyn Slemmer
Jeannette Welsh

Advisory Committee Members Not in Attendance:

Douglas Argue
Doug Bailey
Alisia Clark
Dorothy Crusoe
Cathey Debord
Genelle Denzin
Linda Kramer
Tom Kroma
Jeffrey Idom
Kevin Finn
Ruth Gillett

Ohio Development Services Agency (ODSA) Employees:

Kimberly Alexander
Michael Burris
Scott Gary
Patrick Hart
Bob Johnson
Barbara Miller

The following is a summary of the major topics discussed during the meeting

Introduction

Scott Gary of the Office of Community Development (OCD) Supportive Housing Section Supervisor opened the meeting and welcomed members. The advisory community members and participants introduced themselves.



Concerns were voiced over how to transition to new program standards being set by HUD and OCD and the nine Continua of Care and incorporating such into OCD reviews. It was discussed that in order for program policies to improve, OCD needs input from agencies operating directly with homeless populations

Program Update

Housing Assistance Grant Program

In PY 2014, \$5.3 million in funding was made available, with 27 applications requesting a total of \$7.5 million. OCD funded 20 of these applications, with a significant portion allocated to rural areas. OCD set aside \$4 million for PY 2015 for the program due to reduced collections for the Ohio Housing Trust Fund.

Supportive Housing Program

In PY 2015 a total of \$11 million was made available, with 56 applications requesting a total of \$13.4 million. There were 27 transitional housing applications, requesting \$4.1 million, 25 permanent supportive housing applications requesting \$6.5 million. Generally, the percentage of funding for permanent supportive housing increases every year, and the transitional housing proportion decreases. This year, some historically funded agencies were not funded because of their non-compliance with housing first principles.

Housing Crisis Response Program

In PY 2015 a total of \$8.65 million Emergency Shelter funding was made available to 43 agencies. The following were a few of the reasons some agencies were not funded: low-barrier households, high cost per client, need not well established, poor outcomes, individuals in recovery from drug and/or alcohol addiction were refused entry, incomplete applications, and poor HMIS data quality.

It was discussed that conditional award letters will be released in mid-November along with problems with submitting applications in OCEAN. Staff suggested that budget narratives should be more detailed in the application (e.g. inclusion of salary line items, similar to previous applications)

Policy or Program Issues

Housing First

- Varying levels of compliance – for example, some agencies alluded to housing first, but it was clear in the application that their program design was non-compliant. Other agencies outright did not comply.
- Solving non-compliance with housing first: suggested ideas
 - Providing immediate technical assistance for next year's application to explain requirements
 - If agency no longer a fit with ODSA programs, suggest other funding avenues
 - List of criteria for attaining housing first to check to ensure compliance and understanding.
 - Additional/optional training about implementation
 - Three-part training with COHHIO and OHMAS about institutionalizing housing first
 - Mandatory pre-application training
- Questions Raised
 - Implementing housing first standards in emergency shelters: how strict must be the standards? For example, there is a difference between being under the influence of a substance when one is in a group setting, as opposed to living alone.
 - If an agency is completely compliant with housing first, there is a possibility that realized shelter standards will be low due to serving a high barrier population. How is this balanced?
 - Answer: APR should support extenuating circumstance explanations.
 - Under housing first, how long must one wait for admission back into shelter after being expelled?
 - Answer: the appropriate Continuum needs to establish standards for readmission, but the guiding principle should be to admit persons if space is available.
- Recommendation that OCD develop a minimum safety standard guide

Performance Measures

- Allow for variance in performance measures. Standard across the state OR a minimum standard that must be met, but still allowing for some variance.
 - Should exceptions for this be permitted if the agency is demonstrating improvement in performance outcomes over time even though the current performance is not within an acceptable range?
- Honor local continuum standard, but also have a minimum or statewide standard for specific areas
- Coordinate with CoC to identify critical outcome measurements prior to application reviews

Revised Emergency Shelter Standards

- Incorporating HUD basic standards
- Serving transgender persons at a single sex shelter
- Self-defining family
- Clarification sought about board approval for section 4 of shelter operations

Housing Stability Program

- Rural region shelters: need to use rapid re-housing. It was discussed that there was low efficacy of homelessness prevention
 - Complications due to rural development
- For next year, entitlement areas should allocate all HSP funding to rapid re-housing (with exceptions, such as a special emphasis on a targeted population like individuals exiting prison)
- Complications in how funding is split between counties with rapid re-housing and homelessness prevention (population centers, shelter type distributions)
 - Funding needs to be prioritized for areas where need for rapid re-housing assistance is needed even if that results in a disproportionate amount of funds being used by the county(ies) with emergency shelters.
- Suggestion that agencies should not allocate funds to homelessness prevention if there is already a waitlist for rapid re-housing
 - Perhaps exception in rural communities where individuals are doubled up and on the precipice of homelessness. Talk about coordination and why homelessness prevention is needed in order to justify allocating funding to this program
- More direction in funding allocation amounts (i.e. published) for more effective enforcement
- Analogous to the need to make the case of transitional housing funding?
- Trends amongst the state moving towards rapid re-housing. It was discussed that there was a need to work with BoS regions to increase proportion of allocated funds
- Possible combination of allocation and a competitive component to future funding, similar to emergency shelter.

Sub-recipient relationships

- Sixteen regions with concerns documenting review/approval before expenditures
- Determining eligible costs for the actual client (not staff work)
- Compliance to work within the confines of continuum's system
- More details about payment processes: send out a second survey
- OCD will work with regions over the next several months to assure compliance in the most effective, least disruptive manner

Region Reassignment

- How problematic to add another county to region?
 - Agencies may not want to enter into a partnership with another agency but use their own staff in the county



- Lack of capacities/resources
- Limits on amount of administrative funds available

Rating Criteria

HCRP

- Emphasize housing first. Must be consistent with our guidelines.
- Designed for performance, based on HMIS
- Look at what kinds of outcomes for ES programs?
 - Exits, destination, success rate, length of stay, recidivism, occupancy rate
 - Average utilization over the past year – reasonable expected average with explanation for variation outside acceptable range
 - Remove non-cash/employment from the standards for emergency shelters

SHP

- Emphasis on compliance with housing first principles
- Targeting: comparing target population in narrative vs. APR
- Suggestion: extended time to complete applications – six weeks/mid-May, due July 1st

Training Needs or Recommendations

Committee members discussed the following training opportunities:

- Housing first training (possibly make it mandatory)
 - National Church Residences offered to assist
- Using OCA system for budgets in OCEAN?
- Pre-app training near the application release date