

CHIP



## Blueprint Council Meeting- Rescheduled CoC NOFO Meeting August 29th, 2023

Tue Aug 29, 2023 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM EDT

### I. Welcome

Pastor Greene called the meeting to order at 2:01.

#### a. Quorum Check

7 members are required for quorum. Quorum was met at 2:01 PM.

BPC Members Present: David Greene, Ray Lay, Kay Wiles, Kendol Enzinger, Imani Sankofa, Marcia Lewis, Jeff Bennett, Roxy Lawrence, Anthony Dumas, Rusty Carr, Wahid Ahmed, Sara Van Slambrook

BPC Support: Chelsea Haring-Cozzi, Rodney Stockment

Guests: Danielle Bagg Wireman, Alicia Vaughn, Natalie Roberts, LaMont Green, Nastacia Moore, Sara Nowlin, Lindsay Leonard, Michelle Shelbourn, Andrew Merkley

#### b. Housekeeping

1. Zoom Procedures: Zoom meetings and the chat box are recorded and downloaded. Council members should have videos on and names displayed. Pastor Greene reminded attendees that meetings are recorded. The recording was started. (Recordings are available upon request)
2. Blueprint Council meetings are open meetings. The public may listen in but there is not a public comment period, unless expressly scheduled by the Executive Committee

### II. Consent Agenda

Pastor Greene moved to the consent agenda.

#### a. Approve Meeting Minutes

Pastor Greene introduced the minutes from June 28th and asked for a motion to approve. Ray Lay motioned, Marcia Lewis seconded. Pastor Greene asked if there were any comments or questions. With no further discussion, a vote was conducted and the motion carried.

June 28th, 2023 Meeting Minutes were approved.

### III. New (Other) Business

#### a. Nominating Committee is recommending an appointed seat change- Private Funder

1. Pam Ross has recommended Wahid Ahmed replace her seat in the appointed Private Funder category representing CICF- The Indianapolis Foundation.

Pastor Greene introduced a motion from the Nominating Committee to replace the CICF Funder Seat appointment from Pam Ross to Wahid Ahmed. The Nominating Committee conducted an electronic vote via email and voted to recommend Wahid on August 17th, 2023. If approved, Wahid will replace Pam effective August 29th and will serve as a voting member.

Ray Lay motioned to approve. Jeff Bennett seconded. Pastor Greene asked if there were any comments or questions. With no further discussion, a vote was conducted and the motion carried.

Wahid Ahmed was voted onto the Blueprint Council in an appointed Funders Seat representing CICF- The Indianapolis Foundation.

#### b. 2020 Continuum of Care (CoC) Notice of Funding Opportunities (NOFO) Policy and Priority Recommendations

Pastor Greene introduced Natalie Roberts, CoC Grant Manager with the Department of Metropolitan Development, City of Indianapolis.

#### c. Presentation of 2023 new and renewal project scoring and ranking.

The 2023 NOFO process has gone through a competitive process for new and renewal projects. A Non-Conflicted workgroup met to rank and score projects. An Appeals Committee was established and a process opened for any appeals to scoring. Natalie reminded the BPC that recommendations for scored and ranked projects must be reviewed and approved by the BPC.

Natalie Roberts, CoC Grant Manager with the Department of Metropolitan Development (DMD), presented on the 2023 NOFO ranking scenarios and the recommendation coming before the Blueprint by the Non-Conflicted Workgroup.

Natalie shared a PowerPoint presentation providing an overview of the CoC NOFO focused on understanding the money and scoring process, highlighting the scoring process, and recommending Scenario IIIB from the Non-Conflicted Workgroup. Natalie highlighted the implications of Tier 1 and Tier 2, explaining that Tier 2 funding is at risk and based on the overall application score. Tier 1 funding is primarily for renewal projects with one new project for Horizon House-Master Leasing. Natalie shared that she and Alicia have self-scored the application, and the biggest risks for funding are in the system performance measure scores. Indianapolis is not doing well for the length of time homeless and in exits to permanent housing. That is the biggest area where Indianapolis is losing points. The overall scoring is based on three primary components: Housing First, an algorithm on new and renewal projects, and the consolidated application narrative.

Following Natalie's presentation, the discussion was open to questions.

Question: Jeff asked what happens if Tier 2 isn't funded? Do we need to fill gaps?  
Answer: Natalie replied no. The CoC would work with what is funded. Most of Tier 2 projects are new or expansion projects, and they wouldn't move forward. For the Coburn project that is straddling Tier 1 and 2, they would implement what gets funded in Tier 1. There's also new bonus funding in Tier 2 with Damien Center, which would be over \$300,000 in new bonus money. However, if the CoC doesn't get any Tier 2 funding, Indianapolis loses 7% of the annual renewal demand.

Before moving to a vote on the priority ranking, Pastor Greene asked Natalie to present the 2023 NOFO Policy Changes.

#### **1. Presentation of 2023 CoC NOFO Policy Changes**

The CoC NOFO Policy manual is reviewed annually and recommended revisions are brought to the BPC. In 2023, there are four revisions to the Policy Manual being recommended for approval.

Natalie walked the Council through a set of policy updates and revisions to the 2023 CoC NOFO Policy manual. The changes are highlighted in the memo and in the highlighted sections of the policy manual. The most notable changes include changes to the Scoring Tool. These changes were based on input from DMA, a consultant who reviews and gives feedback on the consolidated application. The Scoring Tool process was revised to include guidelines for soliciting and incorporating provider feedback on measures that may not capture what was intended. It also sets a timeline for all changes to be made by March 31st of each year. Natalie also summarized changes to the Reallocation Policy to address issues with consolidated projects so that reallocation would be based on the threshold of the larger amount in the consolidated budget. Lastly, Natalie highlighted a new section at the end of the manual laying out who is responsible for final review and submission of the consolidated application, including approvers from the Collaborative Applicant- City of Indianapolis, DMD and the CoC Lead Agency- CHIP.

Following Natalie's overview of policy updates and revisions, the discussion was open for questions.

Question: Wahid asked if applicants see the screening tool before applying?

Answer: Natalie said yes. The scoring tool is available before RFP's are open so applicants know how they will be scored.

**2. Action Item: The Blueprint Council must vote to adopt changes to the 2023 CoC NOFO Policy Manual.**

With no further discussion, Pastor Greene called for a motion to approve the policy changes to the 2023 CoC NOFO Policy Manual. Marcia Lewis motioned. Ray Lay seconded. A vote was conducted and the motion carried.

2023 CoC NOFO Policy Manual updates and revisions were approved.

**3. Action Item: The Blueprint Council must vote on the Priority Listing for the 2023 projects as part of the 2023 annual CoC NOFO.**

Priority Listings will be posted on the CoC website and submitted to HUD through the annual competition upon approval by the BPC

Before moving to a vote, Pastor Greene asked for any conflicts to be identified. Kay Wiles named that HIP is conflicted as a funded project and will abstain from voting. With no further conflicts identified or discussed, Pastor Greene asked for a motion to approve the 2023 Priority Listing for the NOFO. Kendol Enzinger motioned. Ray Lay seconded. A vote was conducted and the motion carried. (Kay Wiles abstained)

Chelsea informed the Council that both approved documents will be publicly posted on Friday, September 1st on the IndyCoC website and social media.

2023 Priority Listing for the CoC application was approved.

**IV. Goal and Tactical Updates**

Pastor Greene turned it over to Chelsea and Danielle to provide an update on the CoC Goal sign-on status and implementation progress.

**a. Updates on CoC Goal to Reduce Black Homelessness by 35% by Jan. 2025.**

**1. Overview of organizations that have signed-on. Discussion of outreach and engagement process.**

Chelsea directed the BPC to the BPC packet with a list of the organizations and advocates who have signed on. She did not include individual members of the

organizations, but the list of individual signatures is being tracked and inventoried as part of a CoC membership list. Overall, 27 organizations have signed on, including the Mayor's Office and the Marion County Public Health Department. Most Blueprint Council members have signed on but not all. Follow-up conversations will be had with those individuals, and there are two organizations who have reached out to have further discussion before signing on- Dayspring and Outreach Inc. Chelsea shared that the list of organizations who have signed on to the CoC Organizational Membership agreement supporting the goal to reduce Black homelessness by 35% will be posted on the CoC website and shared out in a public memo. She reminded the Council that it's not too late to sign on and organizations can still sign on, but the call out and dates to submit were extended twice and pushed out in community calls, CoC newsletters, targeted emails, and the CoC distribution list.

## **2. Inventory of implementation structure, engagement, metrics.**

Racial Equity Committee SMARTIE Goal # 1: Discussion of where the work is happening to advance tactics. Who is engaged? Does it reflect commitment to shift power to those most impacted- black individuals and individuals with lived experience? Who's missing?

Danielle gave a brief presentation and shared a PowerPoint slide deck laying out the implementation infrastructure to advance the CoC goal. Danielle summarized which work groups are meeting, how frequently, who is represented in each group, the racial representation in each group by %, and the framework for setting goals, benchmarks, and tracking progress. Danielle stated that the slides will be updated and shared with the Council during every meeting to support open communication and accountability.

### **b. New Business- Call for Action: Hanna Commons Discussion**

Pastor Greene called for new business on the agenda stating his concerns with Hanna Commons- a new supportive housing project that is currently taking referrals. Rodney provided a brief overview of Hanna Commons to the Council. Hanna Commons is a new 55-unit permanent supportive housing project focused on single adults (1-bedroom units) in the PSH pipeline. It's receiving project-based vouchers from IHA and service funding through the Housing to Recovery Fund. The project is set to begin leasing up and actively seeking referrals. However, there is concern that the referrals are perpetuating racial inequities due to continued use of the VI-SPDAT.

Pastor Greene invited LaMont Green from the Technical Assistance Collaborative's Racial Equity Action Lab to join the meeting and discuss the challenges with the timeline for Coordinated Entry refinement and the implications for referrals to new projects after hearing that referrals to Hanna Commons were predominately white. Pastor Greene asked LaMont to present an alternative approach to using the VI-SPDAT for prioritization, expressing concern that the CoC doesn't continue using a tool and prioritization that disadvantages Black households.

LaMont gave a PowerPoint presentation with the objective of exploring an interim prioritization method while the CES refinement work to develop a new assessment tool is underway. LaMont walked the BPC through the values they established during the March retreat, the goals set during that retreat that were codified as the CoC goal to reduce Black homelessness by 35%, and the three primary tactics established to advance the goal. LaMont presented a brief literature review and data from Seattle's COVID schema and prioritization as an example. LaMont highlighted that Indianapolis has similarities to Seattle, including a declaration of racism as a public health crisis. LaMont presented three recommendations for the Council to consider:

- (1) Utilize the Interim COVID prioritization methodology to: repair a legacy of systemic racial inequities in who receives a permanent housing resource due to a well-documented biased assessment tool and advance the CoC goal to decrease Black homelessness by 35%
- (2) Establish a target of 65-75% placement of Black households into Hanna Commons Supportive Housing units
- (3) Delegate the work to the CES Refinement Workgroup to operationalize and provide periodic updates to the Blueprint Council on lessons learned.

After LaMont's presentation, Danielle presented specific data on Indianapolis' coordinated entry system, highlighting key data in the CES pool, the Hanna Commons referrals, and the overall demographic breakdown on PSH referrals. Key highlights included:

- Black households experiencing chronic homelessness are scoring significantly lower on the VI-SPDAT
- 15 Black households that would be highly prioritized for Hanna Commons are not document verified and not being referred.
- COVID prioritization did not look at the VI-SPDAT or length of time and outcomes were more equitable.
- Need to examine further structural barriers within certain programs that increase racial disparities (IHA background checks, chronic homelessness documentation process, and VI-SPDAT).

The Council had a robust discussion about the data presented on Hanna Commons referrals and the need to take action to provide guidance to the system to adopt an interim process so racial disparities are not perpetuated.

Discussion: There was discussion on whether referrals to Hanna Commons can be changed. LaMont suggested that the CES Refinement Workgroup dig deeper into piloting a new prioritization with the remaining referrals for Hanna Commons. Marcia stated that IHA has some constraints on background checks that are creating barriers because they missed out on applying for COVID waivers. There was discussion about why Black households are not document-ready and how that can be addressed. Targeting navigation will be essential.

Through this discussion, the BPC was asked to take action to endorse an interim prioritization to address the inequities with Hanna Commons referrals. Through this discussion, Kay Wiles asked why it would be limited to Hanna Commons and suggested it apply more broadly. The BPC discussed how long an interim prioritization pilot should be and determined it should be 90 days and should include a Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) approach to review data to determine if interim prioritization is creating more equitable outcomes.

Chelsea asked to clarify what motion the BPC is asking to advance. Pastor Greene stated that the BPC is being asked to endorse the following (as reflected on LaMont Green's slides):

- (1) Adoption of interim prioritization (modeled after Seattle's COVID prioritization)
- (2) Establish a target goal of 65-70% referrals and placement of Black households into housing
- (3) Delegate to CES Refinement Workgroup to operationalize, test, and report back to BPC.

This interim prioritization is time-limited and will be adopted for 90 days while a new tool is being developed, tested, and piloted and will use a CQI process to evaluate outcomes and make adjustments.

Pastor Greene called for a motion to endorse an interim prioritization with target goals and operationalization within the CES Refinement workgroup. With no further discussion, a vote was called.

Sara VanSlambrook had to leave the meeting before a vote was called. Marcia Lewis abstained because of a potential conflict with IHA and the use of Project-Based Vouchers.

Vote to approve interim prioritization, target goal, and operationalization within the CES Refinement Workgroup was approved.

#### **1. Status of Coordinated Entry tool development, timeline, and progress.**

Tactic 2: Develop an equitable coordinated entry assessment tool.

Specific discussion of the tool development and timeline ran short. Pastor Greene asked if a new tool would be developed soon. It was shared that developing a tool will take more time, which is why an alternative to the VI-SPDAT and prioritization are being recommended in the interim. The CES Refinement Workgroup meets regularly and is working with LaMont and Nastacia to support the development of a new tool, including piloting, testing, and scaling. LaMont and Nastacia are on contract to support this work through the end of 2023.

**2.** September 12th CoC Membership Convening confirmed to move from goal commitment to operationalization.

8:30-10:30 at United Way of Central Indiana.

Chelsea shared that the next CoC Membership Convening is on September 12th in person at United Way. This meeting will be sent to those who have signed on the support the CoC goal and will focus on how to operationalize the goal, how to engage in workgroups, what work is happening, and what data we'll be looking at to measure progress. Invitations are going out this week.

**V. Comments, Announcements, and Other Business**

**a. Committee Business**

There was no committee business brought before the Council.

**VI. Memo & Reports**

There was no discussion on the memos submitted and included in the packet.

**VII. Next Meeting Date**

Pastor Greene reminded the Council of the next meeting on October 24th, 2023.

**VIII. Adjourn**

Pastor Greene adjourned the meeting at 4:06PM.