



Central MS CoC Membership Meeting Minutes

DATE: July 15, 2021

TIME: 10:30 am

FACILITATOR: Maria Morris

Roll Call

Members participated in roll call via Zoom.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes for June's membership meeting were approved.

Guest Speaker

Erica Fell with Mississippi Home Corporation (MHC) presented information on current grant opportunities. She explained that they are still accepting applications for Emergency Solutions Grant ESG - COVID 2 (ESG-CV 2) until all funds are allocated. There is no deadline for ESG-CV 2 and no match is needed to receive funds. Ms. Fell also mentioned that MHC also has a re-entry program as part of their 5-year plan. MHC has refocused on their re-entry program in accordance with HUD guidelines. Meetings for MHC's re-entry program will resume in August. If CoC members are interested in attending, they can email either Erica Fell (erica.fell@mshc.com) or Tamara Stewart (tamara.Stewart@mshc.com). MHC wishes to fill any gaps in caring for the re-entry population and essentially serves as a liaison between the Mississippi Department of Corrections and organizations that serve the population. Members were allowed to ask questions.

HMIS Admin/Help Desk Update

Tim Collins explained to the membership that they are making progress on hiring an HMIS Administrator and should have a decision sometime next week. Maria Morris informed the membership that Stephanie Kelly has been chosen for the HMIS Help Desk position. Ms. Kelly expressed that she just started the position. Jill Buckley explained that the Help Desk position will be part-time and is in place until an HMIS Administrator is hired. Stephanie Kelly was chosen because of her experience with and training in HMIS.

HMIS Fees

Michelle Shelton reminded members that an HMIS fee of \$500.00 per project annually was approved to be charged to all ESG- and CoC-funded agencies and the invoice will be sent out on September 1, 2021. If organizations are unable to meet the remittance deadline of September 30, 2021, they should send a letter to the CoC for consideration.



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Planning Grant

Tim Collins announced that Melvin Stamps has been hired and has accepted the position as the CoC's Planning Director. Melvin Stamps expressed his goals and appreciation for consideration as the Planning Director. Tim Collins explained that Christianna Jackson will help out and assist Melvin Stamps in his new position. The contract will soon be executed. Christianna Jackson expressed her excitement and confidence in Melvin Stamps and is preparing a curriculum for training.

RAMP Grant Status

Maria Morris mentioned that Jill Buckley will send the job description for the RAMP Housing Program Manager to Michelle Shelton to share with the membership. If anyone is interested in the position, they should send their information to Jill Buckley.

Updates from Standing Committees

Executive Committee - Maria Morris informed the membership that the Executive Committee after the last board meeting was tasked with discussing the needs for in-person meetings (location, requirements, and CDC guidelines). They will consider the feasibility of resuming in-person meetings in August given the information they gather.

Coordinated Entry System Committee - Reggie Wiggins shared a couple of flyers to explain the Coordinated Entry (CE) process and what it accomplishes. He mentioned that he wants to make an additional model of the relationship between the CoC, the membership, and CE. Mr. Wiggins expressed the importance of CE and membership participation even when it's not specifically required. He also requested that the membership provide information on what services they offer, requirements to participate, and the population served. He emphasized that CE staff has been working with limited resources even though there's a wide membership which is why it's so important that they have the information requested. Reggie Wiggins expressed his desire for everyone to work together effectively, so that all organizations can reach and serve their populations. Members were able to make suggestions and gave comments on the flyers presented by Reggie Wiggins.

Community Engagement Committee - Jan Hillegas presented the newsletter that the committee is preparing to send out and invited feedback from members. Members were encouraged to submit their news and stories to Gwen Thompson at gwen@mshousingpartnership.org.

Upcoming HUD NOFA

Maria Morris informed members that the NOFA should be announced soon. While the date is unknown it is expected to be announced in the next 6 weeks. Ms. Morris noted that HUD has encouraged the CoC to expand its reach for available funds and members were encouraged to prepare for the NOFA.



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Resuming In-Person Meeting

Maria Morris noted that this item was discussed earlier in the meeting (See Executive Committee update).

Planning Director's Report

As today was the new Planning Director's first day, there is no report to give. Members can look forward to hearing from him in the future.

Treasurer's Report

Due to the Treasurer's absence, no report was given.

Open Forum Discussion

Jan Hillegas expressed the need for data for the CoC's Strategic Plan (a copy of the plan is available to anyone who wants it). Statistics are needed on who's served and their progress. Tim Collins mentioned that during a meeting with Donnetta McAdoo and the 3 CoCs goals were discussed, and he emphasized that data capture was critical for funding. Maria Morris noted that there is a difference between the NOFA and new funding that will be coming through the State. Ms. Morris also mentioned that they are working to fill the data analyst position and have an interview scheduled for next week. Jan Hillegas spoke briefly about the issues faced with mental health and encouraged members to review the recent news article online about current issues faced.

Announcements

Maria Morris encouraged getting vaccinated especially with the rise of the Delta variant and to keep safe as possible. She mentioned the following resources for arranging vaccination for clients: (1) Jackson Hinds Comprehensive Health Clinic 601-362-5213 and (2) Central MS Health Services 601-948-5572. Ashley McLaughlin mentioned an upcoming event on July 23 & 24 where Mississippi Home Corporation and others will be promoting RAMP; she will forward the flyer to be shared. Maria Morris informed members that she hopes to have a guest speaker each meeting in the future.

Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 11:37 am.