

**Minutes of Scranton/Lackawanna County CoC  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Sept. 13, 2022 10 am**

In attendance: Jessica Wallo, Nathan Morgan, Peg Ruddy, John Byrd, Harry Lyons, Alison Woody, Anna Faramelli, Eileen Wilson, Kim Cadugan, Carol Shoener, Andy Hurchick, Nichole Rios, Joe Hollander, and Sr. Susan Hazima

Joe Hollander, Chair, welcomed everyone and opened the meeting.

**Update on the Special NOFO**

Information had been sent out prior to the meeting on the details of the Special NOFO Funding available for projects focused on sheltering the unsheltered homeless. Only 125 projects will be funded in those areas with the largest unsheltered populations. In recognizing that both Philadelphia and Western PA are submitting projects, the suggestion was made to decline submitting a project at this time. Instead the recommendation was made for the CoC to work on a comprehensive plan following the indicated design and purposes and involving both the health care providers and the Housing Authorities for possible submission in the future. Kim made a motion to approve this recommendation and Peg Ruddy seconded it. It passed unanimously. Secondly, the CoC Board formally declined applying for the Special Nofo for this year. With a motion by Kim Cadugan, seconded by Andy Hurchick, the motion passed unanimously.

**Annual NOFO Updates**

21 Sept. 2022-The NOFO Application will be sent out to the Board for review

23 Sept. 9am Ad Hoc meeting of the CoC Board to discuss the application and make any suggestions or changes. The application must be submitted to HUD by Sept. 30, 2022.

The funding for the Nofo is determined by HUD and placed in Tier 1 or Tier 2. The maximum amount possible for Lackawanna County is \$3,250,939 with 95% placed in Tier 1 and 5% in Tier 2. If there is a reduction in funding to the County, the projects in Tier 2 might be impacted.

**Annual NOFO Rank and Review Approval**

A question was raised about the additional survey that was sent out to the agencies submitting grants. It was felt that the questions were very private raising the issue of how it was used and who received that data. A question was asked, how do we assure the voices of the marginalized are heard for policy making? Ultimately the questionnaire hoped to help answer that question. The decision to gather the

information was required by HUD in that this was the focus for the NOFO competition this year.

### **New Project Application**

Catherine McAuley Center submitted the one new project application for the bonus funding and it ranked well.

### **Renewal Applications**

Nathan presented the ranking of the renewal applications that had been done by the grant writer using a matrix provided by HUD..Most of the material came from the latest APR. All projects in Tier1 would be funded first and those in Tier 2 second.

A motion to approve the ranking as presented was made by Nichole Rios and seconded by Eileen Wilson. It carried unanimously..

### **Proposed SLCoC Policy Update**

Our Board had previously made updates to the CoC Rapid Rehousing Standards approving the use of Rent Reasonableness as well as the FMRs in the renting of apartments for the RRH program. That change was not updated in the CoC Policies and Procedures. In other to align both policies and to effectively serve the unhoused population, the following recommendations were made:

In an effort to align this Continuum of Care with HUD regulations, and in order to effectively serve the unhoused population, it is requested that the following changes be made to the Scranton/Lackawanna County Continuum of Care Policies and Procedures:

1.. Change funding type to include Rent Reasonable (Page 3, "Limitations on amount, frequency, and duration of assistance.") CoC P&P. from:

"Accordingly, rental assistance shall be calculated using current Fair Market Rent amounts for Scranton/Lackawanna County." to:

"Accordingly, CoC-funded rental assistance may use FMR or Rent Reasonableness standards."

2. Add to Page 3, "Limitations on amount, frequency, and duration of assistance":to read

"If the program participant is unable to pay their portion of rent with the current rental assistance subsidy, the program may adjust the program participant's contribution toward the rental payment."

A motion to approve the first recommendation was made by Harry Lyons and seconded by Sr. Susan Hadzima and passed unanimously.

A motion to approve the second recommendation was made by Peg Ruddy, seconded by Sr. Susan Hadzima and passed unanimously.

Updated versions of both documents will be sent out.

### **DEI Committee Update**

The Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee of the CoC participated in Welcoming Scranton and reported a good showing of people. The CoC had a table with available materials. The Committee has established an MOU with the NEPA Pride Coalition. The goal is to continue reviewing policies and procedures to be sure the CoC is welcoming and inclusive. Eileen Wilson, chair of the DEI Committee acknowledged all the help and assistance they have received from the NEPA Pride Coalition. Joe Hollander thanked Eileen for her work in chairing the committee and recognized that every organization is facing the challenge of doing the right thing in working with this sensitive issue..

**Next Meetings:** AdHoc NOFO Board Meeting Sept 23, 2022 9 am via Zoom

Next Board Meeting Nov. 8, 2022 10 am via Zoom

There being no further business Joe Hollander asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting which was made by Kim Cadugan and seconded by Andy Hurchick. All approved.