

Scranton/Lackawanna County Continuum of Care  
Board of Directors Ad Hoc Meeting Minutes  
August 7, 2023

A virtual Ad Hoc meeting of the Board of the Scranton/Lackawanna County CoC took place on August 7, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. The following members participated: Joe Hollander, Peg Ruddy, Krista Murray, Andy Hurchick, Eileen Wilson, Lisa Durkin, Kim Cadugan, Channel Kearse, John Byrd, Harry Lyons, Ester Medina (Nichole Rios stand in), Marcie Walker (Nichole Rios stand in), and Nathan Morgan

Joe Hollander, Chair, opened the virtual meeting and formally introduced the CoC's newest board member, Channel Kearse. Channel offered a personal introduction and expressed enthusiasm for supporting the CoC's board.

Joe introduced the meeting agenda, stating that several topics of discussion are the CoC's response to HUD's FY23 CoC NOFO competition.

Joe shared that HUD Tier 1 funding in the FY23 NOFO will be equal to 93% of the CoC's total renewal projects. Nathan affirmed this, stating that only the top 93% of renewal applications will be guaranteed funding in this year's competition. Joe reiterated that HUD set this limitation is to make the NOFO competition more competitive, and HUD is encouraging CoCs to closely review their renewal projects.

Joe discussed the NOFO Ranking & Review tool, stating this tool was informed by HUD's decisions and priorities. Joe stated last year's ranking tool was 'all or nothing' with applications either receiving full points or no points per category. The FY23 tool has been improved with ranking brackets and the possibility of more points. Nathan affirmed, stating that this change will help ensure a fairer and more equitable project ranking. The FY23 Renewal Ranking Tool was shared with board members prior to the meeting.

Joe described the CoC's efforts to earn NOFO bonus points for the Housing Leveraging Agreement (HLA). HUD is awarding bonus points to CoCs if 25% of a project's units are reserved with a public housing authority. While obtaining a guaranteed 25% reservation is difficult, the CoC is working on a generic MOU with the Scranton Housing Authority to obtain a few points. Krista asked if all or only one project with 25% units reserved get bonus points. Nathan confirmed that in the FY23 NOFO, one project qualifies for the points.

Joe stated that all new and renewal NOFO applications are due on August 25<sup>th</sup> and that Nathan is available for questions or assistance on applications. A PA-508 New Project Application and 2023 New Project Scoring Sheet were shared with board members prior to the meeting.

Joe stated that board and organization equity surveys will be sent to inform our NOFO application. HUD has required collecting equity data from CoC's via survey, and not

collecting this data will negatively impact our score. Nathan affirmed the importance of these surveys, affirmed that questions will be asked in a sensitive and non-stigmatizing manner, and shared that data will be anonymously collected by the CoC's outsourced grant writer.

Joe asked if there were questions on this or any prior agenda point. No questions were asked.

Expanding on the CoC's Ranking & Review process, Joe shared that it is strongly recommended that we do not prioritize any one program type or subpopulation in our ranking. Our grant writer advised prioritizing any one population as HUD would view such prioritization as favoritism in a small CoC.

Joe shared that the CoC's 2023 Home4Good Block Grant was submitted before the July 31<sup>st</sup> deadline. Joe thanked all board members for applying and cooperating to meet the grant's \$100,000 limit. A spreadsheet of the submitted block grant was shared with all board members prior to the meeting.

Joe stated that the Women's Resource Center (WRC) has expressed interest in the FY23 DV Bonus. Channel Kearse asked for clarification on the DV Bonus, and Peg Ruddy clarified. Peg also said that WRC is actively working on their bonus project and is excited for the opportunity.

A discussion was had to celebrate Sr. Susan Hadzima, who has stepped down as CoC Board Secretary after many years of dutiful service. A luncheon was proposed after the final NOFO application is submitted by September 28<sup>th</sup>. Krista has kindly volunteered as Interim Secretary for three months while the CoC looks for a new secretary.

As for the NOFO CoC Bonus Project, Joe asked Nathan if any organizations expressed interest in the bonus application. Nathan shared that only the Catherine McAuley Center (CMC) expressed interest via email. Joe asked all the board members present if any other organizations were interested. Andy Hurchick at St. Joseph Center expressed interest in next year's CoC Bonus. Krista reiterated CMC's interest in the bonus project and proposed applying for a new PSH project that would partner with the Scranton Housing Authority. Given that only one CoC organization expressed interest, Joe affirmed that CMC would apply for the CoC Bonus.

No concluding questions, new business, or old business were discussed at the end of the meeting. The meeting ended at 9:30 a.m.

Postscript: Approval of the Renewal Ranking Tool

On August 8, 2023, the CoC Board was asked to approve the CoC's FY23 NOFO Renewal Scoring Tool via a written vote. This tool was shared with board members prior

to the August 7 ad hoc meeting. The tool was approved by the board with a majority vote of 9 in favor and 1 opposed.