



Chicago Continuum of Care Board of Directors Meeting  
Virtual Meeting  
April 15, 2020  
9:30am – 11:30am  
Minutes  
(submitted by C. Brown, All Chicago)

**In attendance:** Jeri Linas, Carmelo Barbaro, Stephen Brown, Regina Freeman-Hodges, Fred Friedman, Sybil Madison, Commissioner Lisa Morrison-Butler, Richard Rowe, Audrey Thomas, Peter Toepfer, Bennett Applegate, Ken Burnett, Todd Fuller, Christine Haley, Mary Howard, Christy Prah, Amanda Pyron, Debbie Reznick, Rev. Saeed Richardson, Larry Smith, Dorothy Yancy.

**Alternates/Proxies:** Megan Cunningham, Dr. Sanja Stinson, Otha Gaston, Michael Banghart, Colleen Mahoney

**Guests:** Carolyn Ross, Steve Gaydos, Keri Lowder, Beth Horwitz, Cindy Brown, Karen Kowal, Nicole Bahena, Maura McCauley, Joan Bundley, Twanda Acosta, Betsy Benito, Brett Penner, Sherri Reeves, Stephanie Spideman, Sendy Soto, Chris O’Hara.

**MINUTES**

**I. Webinar Housekeeping Items**

Nicole Bahena gave a brief description of how the functions work for the virtual meeting.

**II. Welcome, Introductions/Roll Call**

Ben Applegate welcomed everyone and thank them for their service. It was agreed there was enough people in attendance for a quorum.

**III. Consent Agenda**

Ben motioned to approve the consent agenda, passed unanimously.

**IV. Homeless System Response**

- a. Todd Fuller of IDHS gave an overview of how they are distributing funding and their focus to provide everyone with lodging. They are proceeding as fast as possible. He encouraged and recommends removing any barriers in place for people to access the services.
- b. Commissioner Lisa Morrison Butler of DFSS gave an update on their response. They are focusing on decompressing emergency shelters throughout the city. They have established facilities for people who are 60 and older and have underlying conditions to get them into a safe environment. They are working with



Hotel 166 and A Safe Haven. She expressed her concern that, once the COVID-19 emergency has passed, there is a need to focus on trying to get people into housing with proper support and those conversations are underway.

- c. Megan Cunningham of CDPH reported on their response. They have been working with homeless shelters to provide education and guidance on how to identify and respond to COVID-19. They are working on having nurses in all shelters to provide real in-person guidance. They are now significantly extending their testing capability. They are working to bring additional isolation facilities and new Partnerships. They are also focusing on high risk individuals over the age of 60 with underlying medical conditions.
- d. Christine Haley of Cook County Health shared her perspective of the response to COVID-19. She expressed her concern that there is not enough behavioral health support and that every person who needs access to a shelter does not have access to a shelter. Their goal is to understand the areas where they are seeing gaps in the designs and collectively work to fill those gaps. She expressed her concern about people being denied access to care. She suggested better communication to help support people experiencing homelessness during this pandemic.
- e. Stephen Brown of UIC Hospitals reported on the healthcare response. He gave a brief description of his background and programs he is involved in. He expressed his concern that many people who have access to healthcare do not have access to housing or a shelter. He expressed the need to decompress our shelter system through housing. He offered his help to expedite applications and benefits because he is the health care provider to many of the individuals seeking help.
- f. Nicole Bahena from All Chicago gave an overview of the new proposed policy coming before the Board to reduce all barriers to housing. She explained the three components that need support. Debbie Reznick moved to motion that the CoC Board adopt the COVID-19 Expedited Housing and Housing Barrier Reduction Policy, it was seconded by Richard Rowe and discussion ensued. Ben called for any objections and a vote; policy passed unanimously.
- g. Nicole Bahena from All Chicago reviewed the 2020 NOFA HUD Tier 1 money received. She also reported that HUD announced the 2020 NOFA HUD Tier 2. Did not receive all funding requested for the Tier 2. HUD did not release scoring information. When scoring information is available, Nicole will report to the Board.
- h. Betsy Benito of CSH reported on the Homeless Housing Expansion Initiative (HHEI). She discussed the applications submitted, units approved by HHEI and units positioned for funding. She reviewed the pipeline data and funding needs.
- i. Keri Lowder and Elizabeth Perez of All Chicago gave an update on the CoC System Funding Line of Action. They reported on the vision and goals moving forward.



They discussed the short term opportunity, All Chicago's COVID-19 Homeless System Emergency Fund, Cares Act, other opportunities and the next steps.

**V. Public Comment**

There were not public comments.

**VI. Adjourn**