

HSN Steering Committee Annual Planning Meeting

9.1.20

8:30am - 10:30am

In attendance: Co-chairs - Mike Rood & Tree Clemonds, Sarah Lee, Rebecca Miglioratti, Connie Sanderson, Natalia L, Abby Brown, Alex Turner, Jim Smith, John Oster, Craig Johnson, Brion Ehman, Valerie Douglas, Sara Volz-Rogers, Phyllis McElligott, and guest Brooke Murphy – Nazareth College intern at Spiritus Christi.

HSN Networking Fee

- send out reminder in December
- ask at January meeting

HSN Symposium 2021?

- virtual?

NOFA Update - Connie

- still no word yet from HUD
- PEH is looking at outcomes in case they must rank
- It is looking like all current programs will be funded

DHS

- still doing phone interviews through the end of the year

Steering Committee Discussion

- Abby Brown's 3-year term is up (MH/SU position) and is interested in staying on
- Craig Johnson's term is up as well
- put out a slate at HSN meeting
- can we have time/space in each HSN meeting that provides self-care (inspirational words, mission statement, success story)
- consumer representative needed
 - could we offer an honorarium/stipend for attending? \$20 gift card
 - peer staff at other agencies who would be supported \$ by the organization
- Challenging to hold elections and get nominations for the Steering Committee during COVID
 - Motion (Mike Rood): to renew the terms automatically for 1 year (yay: all, nay: none, abstain: none)
- Gail Burkes is replacing Elizabeth Reyes as the Education rep

Speakers/Topics/Structure for HSN Meetings

- keep inviting the DOH person to attend, folks have found helpful
- meetings start at 8:30am
- invite new DHS Commissioner - Thalia Wright?
- Meetings

- September
 - winter planning
 - shelter planning
 - overview of new meeting
- October
 - Special Population: MH/SU Provider presentation (Craig Johnson)
- November
 - Special Population: Youth and Young Adults & LGBTQ+
- December
 - Special Population: Veterans (Brion & VOC)
- January
 - Special Population: Re-entry (Jim, Michelle, & Re-entry task force reps)
- February
 - Special Population: Women & Children & DV (Phyllis/YWCA, Willow)
- March
 - Special Population: Chronic Homeless & Single Adults
- April
 - PEH Prioritization Meeting
- May
- June
- July
- August

Advocacy

- challenges with bringing various interests to the table
- how do we bring the issues -from- HSN -to- the Advocacy group to work on
- can we provide data and information and let people decide
- educate the community about what the resources are
- can we have a roster of experts/speakers to provide the community for different actions/meetings with legislators
- important to provide information to community that is as unbiased/non-judgmental as possible - consumers/community may feel strongly about certain actions (ex: rent strike) and it is essential that we are able to provide accurate information
- can we find some areas to advocate that we consider our wheelhouse - public dollar?
- advocate to increase the DHS payment of \$440
- can we ask the larger group at each meeting if there are any issues that they would like the advocacy group to work on
- work with Causewawe to come up with some messages HSN would like to put out there (Connie, Mike, Phyllis, Alex) - utilize PEH and HSN funds?
 - focus on?
 - messaging to landlords
 - "housing should be fair" (for landlords, tenants, community)
 - lack of knowledge in the community about how the housing/homelessness systems work

Discussions

- Are there discussions going on about capacity and the predicted greater need come this winter?
 - Shelter Task Force has workgroups looking at capacity and analyzing utilization as well - at this point in time we will not have enough beds
 - Hoping not to use hotels
- Can we get updates from special populations reps to discuss what they are seeing as priorities/challenges
 - 10 - 15 minutes each meeting?
 - provide essential questions
 - Overview of what services exist
 - What are trends/needs/challenges? Are they increasing or constant or managed well?
 - Are there opportunities to partner/collaborate?
 - Changes/Impact during COVID?
 -
- youth, mh/su, veterans, re-entry, DV, women and children, LGBTQ,
- meeting topic: various types of housing
 - take up an HSN meeting?
 - have it be another special meeting
 - record it as a zoom for other folks to watch later
- struggles with landlords/housing market
- suggestion: can we have a slot/seat for racial equity and social justice?
 - we will need to add it to the bylaws
 - Motion by Brion: to add social justice/racial equity seat to the HSN Steering Committee
 - seconded by Connie
 - yays: all, nays: none, abstain, none
 - we will also need to have full discussion of how to support/include the seat

Impact of COVID on Homeless Population Discussion

- getting mixed signals from NY State about what to expect
- what are the shelters expecting in terms of volume
- providers may see less funding due to State cuts expected in 2021 and being unable to raise funds in traditional ways
- client choice is evaporating
- what part can HSN play in responding and collectively impact those decisions and approaches
- can we support messaging from Mayor/County around how we are working together to address these issues

Training - Craig

- ECHO sessions continue
- Homeless Cert Course starts again on September 1st
- Save the Date for upcoming conference

Adjourn at 10:30am

Notes respectfully submitted by Valerie Douglas