

Atlanta CoC Governing Council
Meeting Minutes
June 15, 2021
Webinar/Zoom

Members Present: AJ Robinson, Jimiyu Evans, Carol Collard, Dana Inman, Laura Beggs, Monica Johnson, Phillip Hunter, Natalie Hall

Staff Present: Abby Bracewell, Abby Burgess, Melissa Austin, Summer Duperon, Demetrius Myatt,

Welcome, AJ Robinson

- There being a quorum present, the meeting was called to order by AJ Robinson.
- The minutes of the March 16, 2021, meeting, having been previously distributed, were approved as submitted.

Governance Committee, AJ Robinson

- There are currently six at-large positions. Between now and the next meeting (September 21, 2021), new members will need to be considered for approval by the committee and the mayor.
- Mr. Robinson encouraged members to think about other people they may know who would be interested in serving on the committee.

Performance Report, Melissa Austin

- Ms. Austin provided updates on year-to-date PSH and RRH data.
- RRH has seen the biggest increase due to the housing surge. 528 have been housed to date.
- PSH retention is remaining consistent, and rates of returning to homelessness are low (2% - 4%).
- RRH exits to permanent housing is at 63%. The report that pulls that data examines individuals, not households, and a better way to look at the data is being assessed.
- Mr. Robinson asked about HMIS data surrounding employment.
 - Ms. Austin said there is data on income change. Ms. Burgess added there is also employment status information captured during CE interviews.

Coordinated Entry Policy Change, Melissa Austin

- The Coordinated Entry committee met last week to determine tiers for emergency housing vouchers.
 - Tier 1 is chronically homeless individuals, individuals with a disabling condition, or homeless youth residing in the city of Atlanta.
 - Tier 2 is homeless households or chronically homeless individuals or individuals with a disabling condition who would have qualified for the last housing surge.
 - Tier 3 is chronically homeless individuals, individuals with a disabling condition, or homeless youth who are in RRH Bridge but who are in units outside the city of Atlanta.
- Partners for HOME and Atlanta Housing are working on an MOU; all clients will go through CE workflow.
- Individuals who qualify for another type of voucher (i.e., VASH) would ideally use that voucher instead.
- Mr. Robinson asked what the policy change was changed from.
 - Ms. Austin clarified that it is an addendum due to the EHV that came online through HUD.
- Board moved to approve the proposed tiers and unanimously approved.

PIT 2021 Report, Abby Burgess

- There was no sheltered count this year due to the HUD waiver. There was a reduction in bed availability due to COVID-19. Total housed numbers increased.

- The city of Atlanta's warming shelter was open during the count, so data from that shelter was added for the first time.
- The number of chronically homeless individuals went up due to outreach efforts. Veteran homelessness stayed consistent overall. Youth homelessness decreased as did adults with children.
- PIT 2021 information will be posted to the Partners for HOME website in the coming weeks.

Lead Agency Updates

- LIFT & LIFT 2.0, Melissa Austin
 - There are eight key activities that are being addressed that will change as new information and data come in.
 - The encampment strategy has slowed since the hotel is no longer operating (it closed at the end of May, 2021) but will likely pick up once a hotel acquisition strategy has been implemented.
 - Daily case conferencing is changing; part 2 will focus on moving from Bridge into Permanent Housing.
 - RRH and rental assistant continues with PCCI in the form of rent checks and utility payments.
 - The housing queue increased during the first months of 2021. May and June have seen the first decreases. The high was 739 chronically homeless in March. The low was 404 chronically homeless in June.
 - All 248 diversion households have been referred to Nicholas House.
 - 682 people have been moved into permanent housing since COVID-19 response and recovery efforts. 81 of those went into PadSplit.
 - Next steps include a CE build out, EHV and Bridge to PSH, Case Conference Phase 2, Diversion, Outreach and Encampment Strategies, and the Implementation of New Resources.
 - Mr. Evans asked what the metrics of success will be for LIFT 2.0.
 - Ms. Austin said that the way the projects are set up will allow for data extraction from pre-COVID (2-year lookback). Some metrics won't be available for a few years (i.e., return to homelessness).
- Hotel Acquisition Strategy, Melissa Austin
 - Looking to secure new funds from DCA and DFCS to scale the housing surge.
 - Exploring partnerships with DCA, Fulton County, and the City of Atlanta to acquire 2+ hotels to create a regional strategy.

Next meeting is September 21, 2021, at 1:00 PM