

**Atlanta CoC Governing Council
Meeting Minutes
June 16, 2020
Webinar**

Members Present: Jack Hardin, AJ Robinson, Monica Johnson, Phillip Hunter, Laura Beggs, Dana Inman, Tom Andrews, Jimiyu Evans, Howard Grant, Janet Tharp, Jenifer Turner-Reid, Marc Pollack

Staff Present: Cathryn Marchman, Jillian Hart, Melissa Austin, Linda Pitts, Abby Burgess,

Guests Present: Jon Keen, Ashlee Starr

Welcome, AJ Robinson

- There being a quorum present, the meeting was called to order by AJ Robinson.
- The minutes of the March 24, 2020 meeting, having been previously distributed, were approved as submitted.

CES Policy Prioritization Addendum, Melissa Austin

- As part of Coordinated Entry Policy, current prioritization criteria were approved in December by the GC.
- Under guidance from HUD and in response to COVID-19, a temporary addendum to the prioritization criteria is being proposed. It is time-limited and coincides with the city's COVID response plan to reach phase 5, i.e. the "new normal."
- In this addendum, prioritization is for those considered high risk for the effects of COVID-19 as outlined by the CDC. This includes the current population at the non-congregate hotel as well as any additional unsheltered individuals that meet this criterion.
- Individuals that fall into this additional prioritization criteria would be prioritized through the case conference process for the new housing inventory coming online.
- Please note that exiting housing portfolio would continue to follow the pre-COVID-19 prioritization criteria.
- The CES Policy Prioritization Addendum was approved as submitted by the Governing Council.

Performance Vital Signs, Cathryn Marchman

- Performance vital signs include the PIT count, housing placements, housing retention, and returns to homelessness.
- The 2020 PIT count is up .08% from 2019. Overall numbers remained flat from 2019. Exception to this was the number of unsheltered individuals, which rose 30% from 2019.
- Total housing placements continue to hover at an average of 18/month for PSH and 33/month for RRH. Current RRH numbers are down from prior quarters.
- PSH retention rates remained high and returns rates remained low in Q1. Additionally, RRH retentions remained high and returns remained low.

PIT Report, Abby Burgess and Cathryn Marchman

- The executive summary of the 2020 PIT report includes an increase in the unsheltered population, a .08% increase in the total homeless population, an increase in permanent

housing, and a decrease in all sub populations except chronic. The chronic population increased significantly.

- Methodology changes included an increase in volunteers and the use of an app instead of paper surveys.
- Data quality was improved through data review with the CoC admin team. Project types, exclusion, closures, inclusions, and new projects were reviewed by the admin team.
- Please see slides for detailed report and results.
- Conclusions include discussion and work on utilization, investment in RRH and PSH, disability and timing into chronicity, dedicated and consistent street outreach.

City Entitlement Priorities, Jon Keen

- Mr. Keen presented the historical breakdown and prioritization chart for CDBG and ESG funds received by the city of Atlanta, which amounted to approximately \$1.4M. This money will continue to be received, but the city is in the process of breaking down priorities further.
- Through the CARES Act, the city received notification of a second supplemental ESG allocation of \$10.9M.
- The city would like to work in conjunction with the GC to establish and fund priorities in the homeless services sector.
- Please note that the timeline for these recommendations is early July.
- A suggestion was made that focus groups with providers should be created for input into priorities. The GC and other stakeholders are invited to join the work as well.
- \$7M in COVID relief funds are being allocated to this work currently. These funds must be expended by December 31, 2020.

COVID Update, Cathryn Marchman

- The COVID response work has included the following priorities: housing and isolation, food insecurity, outreach and encampment coordination, transportation, testing, and cleaning and sanitation supplies. Please see slide deck for additional information on work to date.
- Both hotels will possibly be extended beyond July 31st. Work is now focused on the recovery effort and how to use funds to accelerate permanent housing solutions.
 - Please see slide deck for information funds available by source.
 - Potential use from city's CARES allocation include reimburse city funds for hotel, pay remaining funds for hotel, accelerate HomeFirst program, permanent housing.
- Current concerns include landlord and unit sourcing as well as provider capacity.

Homicide Report/Update, Cathryn Marchman

- PfH is currently tracking a pattern of homicides over the past 3 weeks. 3 individuals experiencing homelessness have been shot while sleeping. The first 2 homicides were traced to the same weapon and the homicide unit is currently processing the third.
- PfH has had calls with the city and ADP as well as outreach teams to put them on high alert and update those that are experiencing homelessness. PfH also created a flyer to be distributed throughout the community which included the tip line information.