Norfolk Homeless Consortium

Continuum of Care Committee

Meeting Minutes

May 23, 2007

Attendees:

Barbara Gaddy, Barrett Haven, Inc
Julie Dixon, The Planning Council
Brian O'Dell, TACT
Clara Smith, VSH
Cheryl Marks, YWCA
Mary Mann, The Salvation Army
Alisa Berry, OTEH
Debbie Williams, The Planning Council
Stacie Walls-Beegle, ACCESS
Peggy Crutchfield, NCSB
Thaler McCormick, ForKids
George Davies, CAMG
Alicia Matthews, St. Columba
Katie Kitchin, OTEH
Vikki Henderson, ForKids

1. Renewal Projects Ranking

Stacie Walls-Beegle gave a handout with the rankings of the renewal applications based on the points from the Supplemental Application. HUD and NHC priorities both list permanent housing over transitional housing. The mechanisms in place to rank permanent housing higher were in the performance section of the supplemental application. However, because all the programs performed well over the last year the majority of programs received all the performance points. Therefore, the weight was not given to permanent programs and the end result is that transitional programs are ranked higher. This is not in alignment with either HUD or NHC priorities. The question was raised of whether or not we submit the ranking order as is, or if we should rank the PSH programs above the transitional.

Several people raised the issue that we had a process in place and that they did not feel comfortable changing the process because we did not like the outcomes.

Katie Kitchin moved that the committee vote to submit the projects as they are currently ranked. Mary Mann seconded that motion. Each agency present had one vote. 6 agencies voted in favor of keeping the rankings, 3 agencies voted against the motion.

2. New Projects

The Committee then discussed the funds available for new projects. In March the Committee had worked on a spreadsheet to estimate the funds available for new projects. When that spreadsheet was created there was an error that was confirmed through an email from HUD regarding the renewal amounts for which each project is eligible.

The Ranking Committee met on May 21st; however, they were given an amount that was approximately $25,000 more than what is available. The recommendation of the Ranking Committee was to fund the CSB "My Own Place" project for 26 units ($639,610 for 2 years) and TACT for 2 units ($47,700 for 2 years). The Committee ranked the projects in

the following order: 1) CSB “My Own Place” and 2) TACT “Ray of Hope for the Chronic Homeless. On May 22nd, the Committee was presented with the adjusted amount available for new projects, $661,479, and asked for their recommendations. They recommended that the discussion be taken back to the Continuum of Care Committee because the CoC Committee had more familiarity with both the renewal and new projects.

Katie Kitchin stated that the My Own Place project which is based on the Pathways to Housing model is a huge endeavor and needs to be at 85 units before the project can be considered complete. Every $25,000 that is taken from the project has a huge impact. Even at the original 28 units the project would be coming back to the CoC next year for 8 units, which means that CoC funding would be supporting half of the 85 units. Taking an additional $25,000 from the decreased number of units the Ranking Committee recommended will mean that the project has to come back for even more units than intended next year.

TACT originally submitted a project for 4 units, but the Ranking Committee only recommended 2 units leaving it as a $23,000 renewal. Brian O’Dell said that TACT would still pursue the 2 unit chronic homeless portion of the project. Thaler McCormick pointed out that the outcomes for small projects are extremely hard to maintain. If one person quits the project the program has a 50% failure rate. Cheryl Marks said that YWCA has had difficulties with there 4 unit program and Thaler said that even Legacy with 6 units has proven difficult in maintaining successful outcomes.

Vikki Henderson suggested that if CSB is funded for 28 units this year, would it make sense for TACT to come in for 6 units next year with My Own Place’s remaining 8 units. However, the Committee did not feel it could make such a recommendation because it remains unknown how much funding will be available and what other projects may come to the table in 2008.

After discussion of how to allocate the funding, the Committee voted on the following two options:

1. Fund the projects based on the ranking order presented by the Ranking Committee. Because CSB asked for all of the funds, TACT’s project would not be funded.
2. Fund both projects. Because TACT’s project would not be viable if they absorbed the #25,000 difference, the CSB project would be reduced even further.

Each agency present had one vote. 9 agencies voted in favor of Option 1, and 2 agencies voted in favor of Option 2. (The total number of agencies are different than the vote for the Renewal projects are different because 2 agencies arrived after the first vote was taken.)

The CSB “My Own Place project will be included in the 2007 Continuum of Care application at $661,479.

Thaler McCormick made a motion that the Committee make a recommendation to the NHC that the CSB project be given priority for their remaining units during the 2008 CoC funding cycle. Cheryl Marks seconded the motion. Each agency present had one vote. 11 agencies voted in favor of keeping the rankings, 0 agencies voted against the motion.