



**State of Rhode Island
Department of Administration
Rhode Island Housing Resources Commission –
Combined Continuum of Care
Board of Directors Meeting**

Thursday October 6, 2022
4:00 pm – 5:30 pm

Department of Administration
Second Floor Large Conference Room
1 Capitol Hill, Providence

Meeting Minutes

Board of Directors Attending: Cathy Schultz, Ehren Hunt, Emily Freedman, Ian Colomer, Jessica Mowry, Kelly Henry, Laura Harris, Maryrose Mensah, Michelle Brophy, Peter Asen

Membership Attending: Armin Azar, Jennifer Barrera, Dina Bruce, Olubunmi Olatunji, Tatiana Reis, Michael Tondra, Jillian Wassmer

Members of the Public Attending: Karriem Van Leesten, Saribel Cruz, Terri Wright

Staff attending: Elizabeth Bioteau

Welcome and Introductions:

The meeting was called to order by the chair at 4pm. It was established that a quorum of the Board of Directors was present. Elizabeth Bioteau reviewed meeting reminders and invited attendees to sign in. Introductions followed.

Public Comment

Ian Colomer commented that October is DV Awareness month and shared upcoming event information

Cathy Schultz commented that curfew ordinances that have long gone unenforced are beginning to be enforced destabilizing some people who are unsheltered.

Jenn Barrera commented that RICEH has moved locations and CES Call center hours will be changing next month.

Peter Asen commented that Providence Housing Authority has an open RFP for Project Based Housing Choice Voucher Opportunities.

US Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) [Grants Per Diem](#) New project opportunity anticipated (Armin Azar)

Armin described the upcoming anticipated opportunity. He said the VA is interested in supporting new providers in applying, especially those experienced in serving people who are acute, frail and/or elderly.

VOTE: Approve the drafted September 22, 2022 RICoC Meeting minutes

Maryrose Mensah made the motion to approve the drafted September 22, 2022 RICoC Meeting minutes. Ian Colomer seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Peter Asen abstained.

FY2022 Continuum of Care Application submitted for \$11,853,016 in renewal and new project funding.

Elizabeth Bioteau reviewed the details of this year's Continuum of Care application that was submitted to HUD.

HUD's Special Notice of Funding Opportunity to address Unsheltered Homelessness

- **Potential VOTE: on funding decision changes and/or appeals related to HUD's Special Notice of Funding Opportunity to address Unsheltered Homelessness**

There was no motion made or vote taken.

- **VOTE: Approve final ranking of new projects to address unsheltered homelessness for submission to HUD by the COC planner**

Ehren Hunt made the motion to approve final ranking of new projects to address unsheltered homelessness for submission to HUD by the COC planner. Peter Asen seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Kelly Henry and Jessica Mowry abstained.

HUD's [Stability Voucher](#) opportunity for Public Housing Authorities (Peter Asen, Jessica Mowry, Elizabeth Bioteau)

Peter Asen, Elizabeth Bioteau and Jessica Mowry outlined the opportunity and Providence Housing Authority and RIHousing's plans to apply for these vouchers.

Vote: Approve endorsement of Letter of Commitment to partner with the Providence Housing Authority as described on its Stability Voucher Program, if awarded by HUD.

Jessica Mowry made the motion to approve endorsement of Letter of Commitment to partner with the Providence Housing Authority as described on its Stability Voucher Program, if awarded by HUD. Emily Freedman seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Peter Asen abstained.

Vote: Approve endorsement of Letter of Commitment to partner with RIHousing as described on its Stability Voucher Program, if awarded by HUD.

Peter Asen made the motion to approve endorsement of Letter of Commitment to partner with the Providence Housing Authority as described on its Stability Voucher Program, if awarded by HUD. Emily Freedman seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Jessica Mowry abstained.

Vote: Approve proposed updates to the RICOC Policies and Procedures, which include an initial version of the RICOC's Joint Component: Transitional Housing – Rapid Rehousing Written Standards.

Ehren Hunt made the motion to approve proposed updates to the RICOC Policies and Procedures, which include an initial version of the RICOC's Joint Component: Transitional Housing – Rapid Rehousing Written Standards. Emily Freedman seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

2023 Federal Budget proposed to include increase in planning proceeds from 3% to 5% of a Continuum of Care's portfolio

Elizabeth Bioteau described the change proposed in the proposed budget and how that increase could support the RICoC if it is included in the final approved federal budget.

Debrief of Diversity Equity and Inclusion consultant engagement and next steps discussion

Ian Colomer and Elizabeth Bioteau will circulate a doodle poll to set a meeting to debrief the engagement and discuss next steps.

Office of Housing and Community Development update (Maryrose Mensah)

Maryrose Mensah reported \$3.5M in funding was issued to create 213 new shelter beds. There is \$1.5M remaining and the request for proposals remains open.

Equity Committee update (Ian Colomer)

There were no additional updates.

Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program update (Tatiana Reis and Michelle Duso)

Tatiana Reis updated the board on the YAB's upcoming event and shared attendance details and tabling information for interested agencies. She reported that CES design team continues and HMIS implementation. YHDP Projects are opening October - December.

Governance Committee Update

Michelle Brophy updated that the Governance Committee is circulating a survey of meeting times for 2023 and information to run for election to the board at the November combined Membership and Board meeting. The RICoC's call to join membership is planned for November – December with new members joining in January 2023.

Public Comment

Jenn Barrera commented that the annual Homeless Memorial Service is planned for October 19 at 11am at Matthewson St Church.

Ehren Hunt commented that the survey data from the unsheltered workgroup should be posted publicly. The board discussed alternative views on how that data should be presented and decided to use communication strategy around the funding opportunity and the survey data. Elizabeth Bioteau will bring items back to the board for their consideration.

Kelly Henry commented an ongoing need for shelter beds for couples.

Olubunmi Olatunji commented that October 20 from 6-9pm is the 25th Anniversary of Youth in Action and invited interested volunteer to join the event and participate in the haunted house as a scarer.

Adjourn Maryrose Mensah made the motion to adjourn. Cathy Schultz seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Bioteau