



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

Thursday November 3, 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: Benji Chaplin, Ehren Hunt, Emily Freedman, Ian Colomer, Jessica Mowry, Kelly Henry, Laura Jaworski, Maryrose Mensah, Michelle Brophy, Michelle Wilcox, Peter Asen, Ty Smith

Membership Attending: Cristina Amedeo, Breah Anderson, Dina Bruce, Michelle Duso, Seena Franklin, Stephanie Geller, Jerry Ray, Ashley Salemi Tarvis, Michael Tondra, Jillian Wassmer, Jennifer Barrera, Lori Ann Heiner

Members of the Public Attending: Amanda Berno, Gretchen Bell

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. It was established that a quorum of the membership was present. Elizabeth Bioteau reviewed meeting reminders and invited attendees to sign in. Introductions followed.

Public Comment

Ehren Hunt commented on a need for COVID masks. Multiple partners offered COVID masks if programs are in need. Anyone or any program in need of facemask may contact Lindsay Cutler at the Coalition to End Homelessness at Lindsay@rihomeless.org

Laura Jaworski commented that their pallet shelter had been stolen from House of Hope but it was now returned. She also commented on legislation pending with the Cranston City Council intending to prohibit pallet shelters within the city.

Maryrose Mensah commented on the impact Michelle Brophy's time as a director and Chair of the RICOC has on herself and the community. Many directors echoed Maryrose's comments.

BOARD VOTE: Approve the drafted October 6, 2022 RICoC Board Meeting minutes

Emily Freedman made the motion to approve the drafted October 6, 2022 RICoC Board Meeting minutes with one small change. Ian Colomer seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Discussion included clarification of a typo to correct in the final version.

Special Funding to Address Unsheltered Homelessness Application was submitted for \$10,118,371 in new project funding

Elizabeth Boteau updated the group on the application submitted in October and circulated an executive summary. She noted that the Unsheltered planning group is interested in meeting and debriefing the application and next step and that the board and planning group could expect that invitation in the coming week.

Governance Committee Update (Michelle Wilcox)

- **MEMBERSHIP VOTE: Elect up to five (5) RICoC Members into open RICoC Board of Directors seats.**

The membership elected Dina Bruce, Ian Colomer, Emily Freedman and Jillian Wassmer to the RICoC Board of Directors. One seat was held open for a Youth Action Board member to be elected during a future election.

- **MEMBERSHIP VOTE: Approve updates to the RICoC's Governance Charter proposed by the Governance committee.**

Michelle Wilcox made the motion to approve updates to the RICoC's Governance Charter proposed by the Governance committee. Ehren Hunt seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Discussion included a summary of the changes included.

- **Governance Committee is surveying membership of ideal meeting time(s) in 2023 for RICoC Board and Membership meetings ([Click here to access the survey](#))**

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

Michelle Duso provided the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program update.

- **BOARD VOTE: Approve proposed updates to the RICOC Policies and Procedures, which includes updates to the RICOC's Joint Component: Transitional Housing – Rapid Rehousing Written Standards.**

Emily Freedman made the motion to approve proposed updates to the RICOC Policies and Procedures, which includes updates to the RICOC's Joint Component: Transitional Housing – Rapid Rehousing Written Standards. Ty Smith seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Presentation: Crisis Planning work being conducted by some homeless services provider agencies (Michelle Wilcox, Laura Jaworski, Jennifer Barrera)

Jennifer Barrera presented the crisis plan that RI Coalition to End Homelessness and a few other services providers including House of Hope and Crossroads circulated in September with a plan to respond to the increased need for shelter, which indicates a need for more shelter resources and varied options in shelter delivery.

Olmsted Planning in RI update (Bob Marshall, Laurie-Marie Pisciotta, Ehren Hunt)

There was no Olmsted planning update.

Equity Committee update (Ian Colomer)

Ian Colomer updated the Board and Membership that Ian and Elizabeth Bioteau have hosted multiple sessions to debrief the RICOC's DEI report and to debrief with provider agencies who participated in the DEI assessments funded by the RICOC how the COC can best support their ongoing work. In follow up, Ian and Elizabeth are working on exploring funding available to support DEI training for RICOC agency staff and RICOC board, membership and committees. Additionally Ian and Elizabeth would like to convene a working group to create recommendations for group agreements and draft an equity focused RICOC mission statement. If interested in participating in such a workgroup, please contact Ian at ian@ricadv.org

Office of Housing and Community Development update (Maryrose Mensah)

Maryrose Mensah provided a Department of Housing update.

Coordinated Entry and System Performance Committee (Jessica Mowry)

Jessica gave a CES/SPM committee update including that the next meeting will contain discussion on the elements of the third-party evaluation the system would like to implement. This includes a regionalization discussion. Here is the information to join this meeting:

Thursday November 17 at 10am.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84824645277?pwd=QzZlNWmtQM0M1QkdtS3F1ck53R2pMQT09>

Meeting ID: 848 2464 5277

Passcode: 893602

- **Convening RICOc Workgroup to plan for transition of COVID subsidies into longer term or permanent subsidy opportunities (Elizabeth Bioteau)**

Elizabeth Bioteau updated the group on plans to convene this workgroup in the coming weeks and summarized the rationale for planning.

Public Comment

Michelle Wilcox advised that a RIPTA free bus pass pilot program issuing up to 600 bus passes is opening. <https://www.ripta.com/nofarepilot/>

Jenn Barrera announced the Coalition to End Homelessness' Executive Director meeting is moving to Tuesday.

Adjourn Ian Colomer made the motion to adjourn. Kelly Henry seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Bioteau