

**State of Rhode Island
Housing Resources Commission
Rhode Island Continuum of Care
Board of Directors Meeting**

Thursday, July 6, 2023
3:30 PM – 5:00 PM
444 Westminster Street, 1st Floor
Joseph A. Dooley, Jr. Municipal Building

Minutes

Board of Directors Attending: Ashley Salemi-Tarvis, Tyrone Smith, Emily Freedman, Jillian Wassmer, Kelly Henry, Laura Jaworski, Maryrose Mensah, Michelle Taylor, Peter Asen, Michelle Wilcox, Melissa Husband

Membership Attending: Breah Anderson, Amanda Berno, Michelle Brophy, Tatiana Reis, Elizabeth Bioteau, Jennifer Hawkins, Timothy Ruel, Mike Tondra

Members of the Public Attending: Margaux Morrissette, Jeanette Perez

Staff Attending: Ben Darby

1. Welcome and Introductions

Peter Asen (RiCoC Board Chair) called the meeting to order at 3:33pm.

2. Public Comment

No one made a public comment.

3. **VOTE:** Approve the drafted June 1, 2023, RiCoC Board Meeting minutes

Laura Jaworski made a motion to approve the drafted June 1, 2023, RiCoC Board Meeting minutes. Tyrone Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. **VOTE:** Approve the updated RiCoC Membership Slate

Kelly Henry made a motion to approve the updated RiCoC Membership Slate. Michelle Wilcox seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Coordinated Entry and System Performance Committee

The CoC Planner announced that Michelle Taylor had volunteered to chair this committee, starting in August.

The CoC Planner updated to RiCoC Board on the items below:

- CES Evaluation – the evaluation is currently ongoing. The evaluation team and the Steering Committee are finalizing the evaluation plan in July. Once this is finalized, the

evaluation team will begin collecting and analyzing data (both quantitative and qualitative).

- Regionalization Workgroup – the workgroup continues to make progress and anticipates bringing a recommendation to the Board at their September meeting.
- System Performance Metrics Workgroup – the workgroup has met twice and is working on a plan to recommend to the RICOc Board to make progress on System Performance Metrics that the RICOc scored low on in the FY22 Collaborative Application. A recommendation should come to the Board at their September meeting.
- Implementation of New Crisis Assessment – since the new crisis assessment was implemented in June, there have been 808 new crisis assessments done, and feedback from outreach workers and assessors continues to be positive. The CES team and outreach providers have been holding case conferencing sessions for the harder to reach households to make sure they have been included in this process and are getting their crisis assessments updated.
- Temporary ESG-CV Prioritization – since the ESG-CV prioritization was amended at the May RICOc Board meeting, this new prioritization has not been used by ESG-CV providers.

Michelle Wilcox asked if the Regionalization workgroup was looking at the potential impacts/implications of the new Consolidated Homeless Fund RFP, as this year there were major changes. Ben Darby responded that the group hadn't specifically talked about the CHF RFP when discussing options for regionalization, but that it will be a factor when the group proposes a recommendation to the board, and a plan for implementation of that recommendation.

6. HMIS Committee and Monthly System Report

Margaux Morrisseau gave an HMIS Committee update. There was not a Steering Committee meeting in June. During that time the HMIS Team was dealing with Performance Scoring and appeals from Performance Scoring. At the time of this meeting, all appeals were received, and decisions had been communicated to agencies. These scores are posted on the RICEH website.

The CoC Planner gave a brief overview of the HMIS Monthly System Report, and asked the RICOc Board if there was anything in the report they'd like to talk about. Additionally, the Planner asked the RICOc Board to think about what data points from the report they'd like to see highlighted each month at the meeting.

Laura Jaworski commented that she'd like to see more up-to-date information and trends in the report, so that the RICOc Board is able to be more nimble in its decision-making. The Board then had a more general discussion about the System Report and asked for a definition of denial reasons for referrals to shelter and housing, and if there was a place where this information (definition of terms) for the System Report currently lived. Margaux Morrisseau stated that she would bring this feedback back to the HMIS Team.

7. Governance Committee

Michelle Wilcox gave a Governance Committee update. The Governance Committee is bringing the Term Limit proposal that was included with the materials and was also discussed with full Membership at the May meeting, to the August RICOc Membership meeting for a vote to change the Governance Charter. Additionally, Michelle let the Board know that 4 current board members are in their 3rd term, with the actual date of terming out being different for each member, so turnover is staggered. The Board asked the planner to specify in the policy that when a Board member reaches their term limit, they can continue on Membership.

Michelle Wilcox also updated the group on the RICOc Board self-identification survey. There has been good participation, and the results of this survey will be brought to the August Membership and Board meeting.

8. Funding Committee

The CoC Planner gave a Funding Committee update. The Funding Committee is planning to release the FY23 RICOc Local Competition Announcement as soon as the FY23 CoC NOFO is released by HUD. The Planner anticipates this will be in July. Additionally, RICOc monitoring is almost complete, as initial reports have been issued to grantees, with all of the reports to be issued by the end of July.

The Planner also mentioned that the Funding Committee is still looking for a new chair.

Peter Asen asked if the System Performance Workgroup is looking to improve the RICOc's score on its HUD CoC Application this year or if it will be for future years. Ben Darby commented that the impact of the recommendations brought to the RICOc Board will be in future years, and not this year. Elizabeth Bioteau clarified that while this is true, the Planner will be able to provide a narrative on steps the RICOc is taking to address system performance measures this year to recover some points on the FY23 application.

9. YHDP & Youth Action Board Lead Agency Update

Elizabeth Bioteau gave an update that the Youth Action Board and YHDP Lead contracts have been extended through December with Youth in Action and RICEH. Youth in Action is not planning on reapplying for the YAB Lead, and Rhode Island Housing will be working on re-procuring this contract in the upcoming months.

Tatiana Reis commented that all YHDP grantees have received monitoring reports as of this meeting, and the YHDP Lead has begun checking in with each grantee monthly.

10. Department of Housing

Maryrose Mensah gave a Department of Housing update. The Consolidated Homeless Fund (CHF) RFP was released on June 29th. Upcoming info sessions are on July 10th and 12th, and the first one was today, July 6th. Maryrose reminded all grantees that they'll need to submit their applications this year in ECivis, which is a new system and takes some training.

Additionally, Maryrose updated the Board that the Charlesgate Family Shelter has opened and has capacity to serve 57 families.

11. RICoC Board Priorities Discussion

Peter Asen and the CoC Planner began the discussion by summarizing the guiding document for the discussion that was included in the meeting materials. In recent months, multiple RICoC Board members have raised to the CoC Planner the need for a shift within the Board to focus more intentionally on strategic planning and building capacity through leveraging other systems (for example, healthcare and affordable housing), while focusing less of our time on the day-to-day operation of the CoC.

Melissa Husband stated that she joined the Board to be involved in the strategic planning work, as well as bringing more resources into the CoC through innovative, cross-sector, partnerships. She stated that currently it feels like the CoC is too bogged down in the operational part of running the CoC, and that she often feels like she doesn't know how she can contribute, as someone who works outside of the CoC and this operational work. In short, what are the CoC's long-term goals, how are we working towards them? And how is the Board pushing these goals forward?

Michelle Wilcox asked if the CoC can get funding to do a new strategic plan, as our current one was created in 2012. Elizabeth Bioteau responded that Rhode Island Housing can look into what funding is available for planning.

Peter Asen commented that it would make sense for the CoC to work with the Department of Housing when creating a strategic plan. For instance, the CoC's plan focusing on homelessness could fit into the Department of Housing's statewide plan. Peter suggested inviting the Secretary and Assistance Secretary to the August CoC meeting.

Michelle Brophy commented that the CoC needs to bring new people to the table if we are going to make progress on ending homelessness. Currently, Rhode Island is doing very poorly producing affordable housing. Could we potentially look at other CoC's and how they are structured? For example, Indianapolis.

Melissa Husband commented that she recently was at a conference in California and had a discussion with a healthcare provider about how they were investing in housing. Can we do that here?

Jenn Hawkins commented that she agreed that there should be a focus on strategic planning, but that the CoC must also maintain its focus on the operational details of the CoC. Both need to be part of the CoC's work.

Discussion continued among the Board around these topics, with a proposal to convene a short-term working group to suggest changes to the committee structure, board and membership meetings, and other governance structures, to encourage more thoughtful strategic planning and partnership building.

Michelle Wilcox, Michelle Taylor, Michelle Brophy, Melissa Husband, Peter Asen, Ashley Salemi Tarvis, and Elizabeth Bioteau volunteered to participate in this group.

12. Public Comment

No one made a public comment.

13. Adjourn

Maryrose Mensah made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jill Wassmer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.