**SLC Heading Home Advisory Council Meeting**

**Via Microsoft Teams**

**Thursday, July 20th, 2023, 1-3pm**

**Members attending by Microsoft Teams and/or phone will be included in a quorum.**

1. Call to Order and Roll Call: (5 min)

Board roster: Theresa Drift, Shelly Lynn Holmes, Salaam Witherspoon. Pat Leary, Seth Borovsky, Lexy Redenbaugh, Stephen Taylor, Deb Holleman, Val Joeckel, Kelly Looby, Angie Neal, Melisa Gomez-Romo, John Williams, Kimberly Scanlon, Paul Pederson, and Victoria Nugent

* 1. Members Present: Kimberly Scanlon, Kelly Looby, Angie Neal, Salaam Witherspoon, Seth Borovsky, Val Joeckel, Stephen Taylor, Paul Pedersen
	2. Members absent:
	3. Staff – Laura Birnbaum, Tawney Carlson, Courtney Cochran, Diana CHUM, Jnana Hand, Stacy Radosevich, Deb Holleman, Thom Romano, Britt Heinz-Amborn, Heather Lindula
1. Review and Approval of Agenda & Meeting Summary (2 minutes)
Salaam Witherspoon makes motion to approve, Val Joeckel seconds, all agree, none opposed.
2. Land Acknowledgment (5 min)- All
3. Board Business (10 min)
	1. New Board chair role: Kimberly

Stephen makes motion to approve, Deb Holleman seconds, all agree, none opposed.

* 1. Steve: Proposal for learning about housing funding streams
	Implementation of hearing from agencies on funding streams will begin in September. OEO will be the first funding source to present. This will be a good opportunity to do a deep dive and get a better understanding of community resources.
1. Low Income tax Credit Mountain Iron project (Laura/Courtney)

A new family affordable housing, another is specific for seniors. The family bedrooms will have units with varied amount of bedrooms. The senior project will be primarily one bedrooms. The floor plans are attached to the email that was sent out with this agenda. Both projects will be serving folks at 50% AMI (area median income). This project is in Mountain Iron which is in need of housing projects.
Formal HHAC support: Motion to support: Stephen Taylor. Second: Valerie Joeckel, all agree, none opposed

1. FHPAP Updates & fast Track (15 min) (Stacy)
FHPAP provides deposits, rental, and utility assistance for households under 200% Federal Poverty Guidelines. The process to apply starts with 211. SLC received $919,800 for 2 years. Additional Fast Track funds of $500,000 were received for June-September 2023. Incoming applications indicate we will utilize all funds before 9/30. SLC has been awarded a significant increase in funds for 10/1/23-9/30/25. We are adding AICHO, One Roof and VEMA for next cycle. Award for 10/1/23-9/30/23=$2,198,728.
2. FY23 CoC Notice of Funding Opportunity (45 min) (Courtney)

	1. Timeline estimate
	2. Overview of grant cycle
* HUD is establishing an alternative maximum amount for CoC planning grant applications under this NOFO for CoC Planning activities. Funding increase to fund an additional staff. SLC would need to do a 25% match. This funding could mean an increase in CoC staffing and capacity. We hope this could mean a youth-focused staff to lead on this work.

Seth motions to approve pursuing these funds. Stephen seconds. All in favor. None opposed.

* Projects can take 10% of their total budget (not a budget increase, a budget reorganization) towards VAWA. This is new this year.
* Projects will be ranked into 2 tiers. Tier 1=93% of total renewal funds and any reallocation funding. Tier 1 is the highest performing and prioritized projects. And tier 2=7% of renewal funding. Just over $250,000 will be in tier 2. This has potential to cut funding to current projects with beds that are being utilized.
* It is written into our policy that renewal projects will be prioritized over new projects because we don’t want to close a renewal project to open a new project.
* There is a potential new budget line item for rural budget line item. Our CoC has urban and rural sections which makes it tricky to qualify for these types of funds. We are waiting on more HUD guidance.
* Our best shot to fund new projects will be to apply for DV Bonus funds because is strategically the best option.
	1. HHAC meeting schedule for board vote – We will be pushing our board meeting back a week so projects have time to review and do appeals if they choose. Our August board meeting will be on August 24th.
	2. Two volunteers for appeals committee (if needed) – Kimberly Scanlon and Salaam Witherspoon volunteered for the appeals committee.
1. HMIS funding increase ask (Courtney) (15 min)
	* 1. 1% funding increase equals just over $62,000

Britt Heinz-Amborn – ICA requested a funding increase from the 2023 NOFO to support HMIS technical improvements and support through securing a new vendor. We will not be moving forward this year because we did not have enough time to figure out reallocating dollars to this ask. The goal of the RFP is to try and meet the user needs and center those needs. HMIS is evolving and ICA wants the tool to improve the user experience, not hinder it. If the board in the fall does choose to transition, there would be a transition cost and then ongoing costs. Their user fees are $225 per user. If ICA can secure funding ongoing, user fees could potentially be fixed and not increase. ICA is asking for a 1% increase. The RFP is out until the end of August.

[Software RFP — Minnesota's HMIS (hmismn.org)](https://www.hmismn.org/software-rfp).

Q&A: Can there be a high percentage of end users than people who request reports? Users are excited about potential changes. Can we make sure these end users give input?

We want a plan in the next 2 months so we can tell ICA what to expect for 2024.

* + 1. Brainstorm ideas for P&E Committee to explore for next year

If there are no unspent funds or reallocations, where are we going to get the money from?

Our CoC is not expecting reallocations. So, where will the money to support this ask from ICA? Will we ask projects to all cut a percentage of their budget?

* Minnesota Housing may have temporary funds for expanding capacity that could help fill gaps. Stacy will keep an eye out.
* Heather Lindula suggests asking foundations for additional funding to fill in gaps because HMIS is essential.
* We could take funds from lowest scoring projects
* We could take a percentage of funds across the board from agencies who receive NOFO funds to contribute to this effort.
1. Committees Updates (15 min)
	* Housing Response Committee (Coordinated Entry Advisory) – Currently working on revamping ROIs and our coordinated entry system assessment.
	* Kimberly Scanlon does trainings on reducing ageism. Her organization can tailor trainings to meet agency need. Reach out if your organization is interested in receiving this training.
	* Ranking & Review:
	* Planning & Evaluation:
	* REAP:
	* Rural Housing Coalition:
	* Affordable Housing Coalition:

Updates (15 minutes)

* 1. State Updates (Pat Leary) –
	2. City of Duluth Updates (Suzanne Kelley) –
	3. HMIS Updates (Thom) –
	4. St. Louis County Updates—
		1. SLC Housing Collective Symposium on Aug 3—RSVP to Laura BirnbaumL@StLouisCountyMN.gov if you can make it! More information: I hope you all have the save-the-date for the St. Louis County Housing Collective Symposium on **August 3, 2023**. It will be a full day at the Radisson in Duluth. (start and end time to be clarified soon). Parking will be free; and coffee and pastries will be provided in the morning with lunch on your own. The day will look a little like this: Morning: coffee and welcome, presentations by partnerships and organizations working to prevent and end homelessness in innovative and collaborative ways! Afternoon: Full world café to launch our strategic planning in line with the housing, racial and health equity and justice blueprint that you all co-created.

Seth motions to close the meeting and Stephen seconds. All in favor. None opposed.

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