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Dear Continuum of Care members:

As your current Governance Board Chair, I thought it would be helpful to send you an update on our leadership work in 2017.

Phew! We have many things going on, all while our everyday work to serve and house those who are unhoused goes on. This whole year we have tried to be open and inclusive; to educate about CoC processes and governance, the processes HUD expects us to comply with, to be open about our performance and scoring as a community.....and finally to talk openly about roles. The role of CoC. The role of MDHA. The role of MHC. The role of MSS. Etc. etc..

We have had SO many meetings! Step after step, meeting after meeting, our community has shown its commitment and resilience as we consider change. We all share one goal, which is to improve our system to better serve people in desperate poverty and the need to move them into housing. Thank you all for participating and sticking with this process.

Change is confusing, it is unsettling and it is HARD.....but it is ultimately worthwhile.

As we continue to move, there will continue to be plenty of opportunity for leaders to report to the larger community and for you and the community provide input into these decisions.

But, I feel confident we aren't reinventing the wheel....we are trying to get to the place where our leadership is representative, accountable and is empowered to move funding, policies, & decision-making forward – to better serve our community.

At the August 17<sup>th</sup> CoC membership meeting the Nominating Committee is planning to present a new slate of CoC Governance Board members for the CoC membership to vote on. Thanks to Ingrid McIntyre and that whole committee for working over the summer on this process.

So, now to the confusing part. As I see it, there are 2 big picture functions we (as a big-tent COC and WE as a community) need to address during 2017:

1. Management – this is the day-to-day running of the work. For the CoC, this is the Collaborative Applicant (and HMIS lead agency). For the Commission, it is MHC staff currently housed at MSS.

2. Leadership - this is the decision-making leadership function. For the CoC, this is the CoC Governance Board. For the Homelessness Commission this is the full Commission membership.

### **1<sup>st</sup> ...Management:**

As you know, we have held a series of meetings discussing Management in the Spring. Out of that work, 3 “options” came forward for management of the CoC. MDHA, who currently manages it, Metro Social Services, and Catholic Charities came forward to present proposals to the full CoC Membership. The decision of who “manages” the CoC must be approved by the full CoC membership.

In this process, we all missed the importance of having leadership in place BEFORE tackling management. We have now realized we needed to begin with a focus on “leadership”. So, we’d like to push the “pause” button for now on the “management” question, and take up the leadership question.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> ....Leadership:**

Currently, we have TWO leadership bodies – the CoC Governance Board AND THE Metro Homelessness Commission. Multiple experts have told us that if we can get to ONE leadership body, we will have BETTER outcomes. We need to try and get to ONE leadership body instead of two that are somewhat duplicative. Then, we must immediately turn back to the management discussion about the collaborative applicant.

With that in mind, it is critical we adjust our schedule, but put strong timelines in place to have the “leadership” discussion and decision and then to be able to pick up the management discussion as quickly as possible. We CANNOT lose the momentum we have going. It takes all of us!

So, what is happening now?

Based on the CoC and MHC input and wishes, members of the CoC Governance Committee and the MHC Executive Committee are now meeting to EXPLORE combining/birthing a new “leadership entity”. They have set a deadline of mid-September to have a proposal ready. That proposal will then need to be debated and approved. TO APPROVE a new leadership body two things will have to happen:

1. The COC will need to amend its Governance Charter
2. The Metro Council will have to approve changes to the ordinance governing the Homelessness Commission.

Then, the FULL CoC can address who will be management in 2018 and beyond. The Collaborative Applicant and HMIS Lead determination can be approved then. At that point, we will revisit the 3 options discussion.

The CoC leadership and MHC leadership have jointly set a goal of completing the Leadership and Management decisions by the end of December 2017. That date is NOT set in stone, but is guidance to keep us on track.

Thank you once again! Let me know if you have questions or concerns with this framework.

Most sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "G. H. H.", written in black ink.

## **2017 Homelessness Decision timeline - DRAFT**

Based on discussions with Cloudburst, CoC leadership and MHC leadership.

We hold community input, lived experience, regular communication, and the validity of our decision-making processes as core values. Throughout this process, we will strive to meet these values.

### **August**

The Continuum of Care and the Metro Homelessness Commission continue to meet as normal.

August 14<sup>th</sup>: 11:30 AM - next CoC Nominating Committee Meeting – Mayor’s Office, One Public Square – ask for Erik Cole in Mayor’s lobby. This is final meeting to determine slate of Board members and Officers.

August 17<sup>th</sup>: 10:00 a.m. - CoC Membership Meeting (VOTE ON NEW CoC Boardmembers and Officers); Rescue Mission

Aug. 22: MHC Executive Committee meeting, 8:30-9:30 a.m. at Metro Social Services, 800 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. North

Aug. 22: Joint MHC/CoC Governance Workgroup meeting 9:30am – 12:30 pm at Metro Social Services, 800 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. North

### **September**

Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>: Metro Homelessness Commission Meeting , 9:30-11 a.m. at Howard Office Building, 700 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue South (preceded by a 15-minute executive committee meeting).

Sept. 15<sup>th</sup> – "Combined community leadership" FINAL meeting and proposed deadline

New CoC Governance Board seated - deadline of Sept. 21st (at the latest) MEETINGS TBD

DURING September/October ---Presentations - by MHC/COC - in September - Sept. 21st - Commission/COC

Proposal - The "Combined Community Leadership" committee will have a joint proposal coming out of its work together. The Committee will create a joint presentation (among all its membership) and take these presentations to various groups/meetings --- CoC membership, MHC full Commission, Coalition meeting, etc.

### **October**

Discussion/workshops continue on “joint” proposal. Work is done on mechanics of proposal (see above)

October 19th - COC membership meeting – Back-up vote on new CoC Board/Officers & POSSIBLE VOTE ON NEW “joint” proposal for new Leadership body.

IF Approved, then CoC Governance Charter committee will need to start meeting to craft amendment to CoC Governance Charter to reflect new structure.

## **November**

November CoC Membership meeting – back-up vote date on new Leadership “joint” proposal.

November MHC Commission Meeting - MHC vote on new “joint” proposal.

MHC drafts new Ordinance to cover new “joint” proposal on Community Leadership Board.

## **December**

New MHC Ordinance filed codifying amendments and changes.

CoC Membership Vote on Governance Charter amendments

## **January**

CoC Membership Meeting - Collaborative Applicant/HMIS lead for 2018-19 VOTE occurs (this is for the July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019 time period) Approval now gives adequate time for management transition to occur.

New Commission ordinance approved on 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading.