



LA BOSCOC Board Meeting Agenda/Notes

Friday, September 3, 11 AM to 12:30 PM

Join Zoom meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81707695448?pwd=Qlllc3NjL2J6K1d5T3NQc3p0bElldz09>

Or join by phone: (888) 788-0099

Meeting ID: 898 2574 5596

Passcode: 090444

I. Roll Call

A. Designated Seats

- Winona Connor, Louisiana Housing Corporation and Collaborative Applicant Designee (Chair)
- Weston Schild, Capital Area Alliance for the Homeless and HMIS Lead Designee
 - Present
- [Vacant] Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services
- [Vacant] Louisiana Department of Corrections
- Antiqua Hunter, Louisiana Department of Education
- Laura Hasenstein, Louisiana Department of Health
- Mariah Wineski, Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence
 - Present
- Dylan Waguespack, Louisiana Trans Advocates and Homeless Experience Representative
- Victoria Johnson, Louisiana Housing Corporation (Recording Secretary, Non-Voting)
 - Present
- Randy Nichols, Capital Area Alliance for the Homeless (Ethics Officer, Non-Voting)

B. Elected Seats

- Addie Duval, Start Corporation (Baton Rouge Region)

Anyone is welcome to attend LA BOSCOC Board meetings and contribute to its discussions; however, only elected or designated Board members may vote. Attending LA BOSCOC Board meetings is not required to meet and does not fulfill the LA BOSCOC's "Good Standing" requirement or any other CoC participation requirements except for elected or designated Board members, whose attendance fulfills the "Good Standing" committee participation requirement.

- Present
- Meagan Rogers, Start Corporation (Houma Region)
- Tarek Polite, Calcasieu Parish Police Jury (Lake Charles Region)
 - Present
- Helen Obioha, Natchitoches Coalition on Homelessness (Natchitoches/Sabine Region)
- Gail Gowland, Family Violence Program of St. Bernard (Plaquemines/St. Bernard Region)
 - Present

C. Guests

- Gordon Levine, Louisiana Housing Corporation (CoC Manager)
- Ebony Gray, Empower 225
- Daliza Huggins, Capital Area Alliance for the Homeless
- Susan Walker, CAAH
- Toni Jones, CAAH
- Laurie Martin, United Way of Southwest Louisiana
- Thomas Pate, HAART

II. Waiving the Good Standing Requirement

Background: the COVID-19 pandemic has continued to impact both the LA BOSCO's regular rhythm of meetings and governance and organizations' capacity to access those activities. While the Board previously voted to reinstate the Good Standing requirement effective January 1, 2021, with a 'clean slate' for all providers, that vote was predicated in part on the assumption that 2021 would see the end of the COVID-19 pandemic and a return to normalcy, which has not occurred.

Recommendation: In recognition of the above and to simplify several critical funding processes, including the FY 2021 CoC Program NOFO process (see below), LHC recommends that the Board waive the Good Standing requirement through the end of 2021, to resume on January 1, 2022, with the same 'clean slate' mechanism as previous.

Discussion

Vote: unanimously passed

III. Funding Year (FY) 2021 Continuum of Care (CoC) Program Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)

Overview: On August 18, 2021, HUD published its FY 2021 CoC Program NOFO. This NOFO will fund \$23 million in housing and supportive services for people experiencing homelessness in the LA BOSCO, including:

- Approximately \$1.1 million in new project funding (non-DV)
- Approximately \$850,000 in new project funding (DV only)
- Approximately \$615,000 in planning funds for LHC
- Approximately \$20 million in renewal project funding

Discussion

IV. FY 2021 CoC Program NOFO Extension

Background: Hurricane Ida has severely impacted the LA BOSCO; in addition to causing lasting harm to people experiencing homelessness and homeless services providers in the Houma and Plaquemines/St. Bernard Regions, and in addition to ongoing capacity impacts in the Baton Rouge Region, Hurricane Ida closed State offices for at least one full week and is likely to continue absorbing significant State energy during the recovery processes once offices reopen. The FY 2021 CoC Program NOFO offers a process for requesting an extension in response to a presidentially declared disaster. While the LA BOSCO has historically been hesitant to request an extension, LHC believes that an extension will create critical breathing room for both service providers and CoC staff to ensure the LA BOSCO can submit a successful consolidated application.

Recommendation: LHC recommends that the LA BOSCO request a 30 day extension on the FY 2021 CoC Program NOFO, changing the LA BOSCO's deadline for the consolidated application from November 16, 2021 to December 16, 2021. (This will also impact local timelines, most importantly project application timelines.)

Discussion

Vote: unanimously approved

V. FY 2021 CoC Program NOFO Local Competition Key Documents

Overview: LHC has, on behalf of the LA BOSCO, prepared most of the key documents for the FY 2021 CoC Program NOFO Local Competition. LHC is requesting that the Board review and approve these documents for distribution. They include:

- Timeline and Critical Dates
- Request for Proposals
- Rating, Ranking, and Selection Policy

Selected Changes: the following is a list of the significant changes contained in these documents. Most of these changes proceed from changes in the NOFO itself. This list is not comprehensive. They are:

- Project applications are due by October 13, 2021. (This is later in the year than normal due to the NOFO's late release date.)
- The project application period is 36 days. This is slightly shorter than previous years. (This is due to the truncated NOFO period.)
- The LA BOSCO received twice as much DV Bonus funding in FY 2021 as in FY 2019. (This is due to FY 2021 incorporating DV Bonus funds appropriated but not distributed for FY 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.)
- The LA BOSCO will be granting 100% of its DV Bonus funding to the Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence (LCADV), which will select local subrecipients according to its own process. (See below.)
- Expansion projects have no minimum funding amount. (In prior years, they were required to request at least \$25,000. This requirement did not appear to be consequential.)
- There is no contingency for youth projects being passed over if the LA BOSCO receives a YHDP award, as the LA BOSCO did not apply for a YHDP award.
- The Scoring Committee is empowered to choose to interview new project applicants and incorporate their responses into scoring. (Last year, all new project applicants were interviewed; this proved to be an inefficient use of time, and this new process is intended to be more efficient and useful.)
- LHC will be inviting a technical assistance provider and another CoC's lead staff person to attend its Scoring Committee deliberations to provide technical expertise and knowledge. (Most members of the Scoring Committee have no technical background in homeless project development.)

Discussion

Vote: unanimously approved

VI. DV Bonus Funds Allocation

Overview: As discussed, the LA BOSCOB intends to grant 100% of its DV Bonus funds to LCADV. LCADV will create a single rapid re-housing (RRH) project that will serve some or all of the LA BOSCOB and issue a separate request for proposals to select subrecipients -- if possible, within the NOFO period -- to implement that project at the local level. This method of allocation has significant advantages, most importantly:

- Creating a RRH project serving a large area allows units to be seeded into more diverse communities and more rural communities (although case management is more challenging and expensive, as travel and travel times are barriers)
- LCADV is better suited than the LA BOSCOB's Scoring Committee to accurately identifying the best providers to implement RRH for people fleeing domestic violence
- This project can be expanded in future years to expand its geography, deepen its focus, grow its subrecipient gallery, or all of the above

Note: as part of its first year request for proposals, LCADV intends to solicit proposals exclusively from its current membership. This seems appropriate, especially given the truncated application period and especially if LCADV intends to solicit proposals from any organization in subsequent years.

Discussion

Vote: approved via vote of acclamation, Mariah abstains due to conflict of interest

VII. System Projects

Overview: This is an opportunity for the LA BOSCOB Board to approve systems projects and project expansions (HMIS, Coordinated Entry) and to identify how they will be funded.

Discussion

Vote: Addie will create and distribute a 'non-competitive assessment tool' to the LA BOSCOB Board no later than this coming Tuesday; this tool will be used to assess potential expansions to the Coordinated Entry and/or HMIS projects; potential expansion subrecipients will be expected to come with proposals that meet the requirements of the tool to the next scheduled LA BOSCOB Board meeting, which is projected to be ~1 week out and scheduled for the purpose of approving all outstanding NOFO documents.

Voting record:

- Addie: aye
- Gail: aye
- Mariah: aye
- Weston: aye

- Winona: aye
- Tarek: unresponsive due to likely internet issues

VIII. Open Floor

IX. Close Meeting