

*Each person is a branch of strength within the community.*

Strong branches make   
a strong community!

**Summit County Continuum of Care (SCCoC)**

*a collaboration of agencies working together for the homeless*

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

April 12, 2023

9:00 am

Microsoft Teams

**Present**: Jackie Hemsworth, Chair; Latoya Harris, Vice Chair; Tammy Skipper, Treasurer; Megan Scheck, Secretary; Joe Scalise, Executive Member; Mar-quetta Boddie, SCCoC Executive Director

**Absent**: None

Due to speaker issues, Secretary Megan Scheck missed the first 4 minutes of the meeting and as the meeting was not recorded, those minutes are not presented.

The community report is completed and will be sent out to the SCCoC Board by Mar-quetta, and will then send to all community partners.

Tammy and Mar-quetta met last week about the bylaws, and will meet with another CoC to get their bylaws to help guide the SCCoC in any changes needed. Bylaws will be sent to the full Board by Jackie and the Board will vote via email to approve the changes.

At the last EC meeting, an “urgency letter” was discussed in great detail, in which Mar-quetta would lay out the urgent impending housing crisis and the need to allocate HOME-ARP funds to address this crisis. It was discussed at the last EC meeting that Mar-quetta would send this letter and request a meeting with county and city officials, however, those meetings happened without needing to send the letter. A discussion regarding this crisis and the HOME ARP funds ensued:

* Mar-quetta shared there will be a RFP for the HOME ARP funds, issued by the City of Akron.
* Joe pointed out there will be huge influx of homeless families and individuals that do not have resources to be housed because of the loss of these COVID programs.
* Latoya asked how much money is needed to be able to continue to meet the need for housing the homeless.
  + Joe stated for just RRH alone, $200K is needed to be able to provide the resources needed to clients in that program. Joe suggested we probably need $1MIL alone for RRH.
* Mar-quetta stated for TBRA, HOME-ARP has allocated around $1.3MIL but that will not be enough, especially since it may need split out across multiple years.
* Landlord mitigation funds are completely spent with the incentives, but the SCCoC is still trying to figure out a way to continue the program in a different way.
* Jackie asked if the RFP for the strategic plan has been released by the City of Akron. Mar-quetta to reach out to Helen.
* Joe stated he has been sending update emails to Helen every other week about the RRH dollars and how the loss of funding is going to impact the community. Joe also encouraged everyone to speak about this problem at any opportunity.
* Harvest Home at Haven of Rest has reduced their bed capacity for families, which is impacting the community.

Mar-quetta asked the EC if the “urgency letter” was still needed since the meetings with city and county officials have already occurred. Jackie stated she feels we have responsibility to put in writing that there is going to be a crisis in homelessness within the next few months, to underline the seriousness of the issue and to make sure we have that issue voiced. Latoya and Joe agreed.

* Mar-quetta will work on the letter with a goal to send it to the EC by end of day Friday April 14.
* Jackie suggested the letter be sent to multiple people via email and mail so many people in the county and city are aware.
* Latoya also suggested bringing this issue to the mayor candidates.

Mar-quetta shared the SCCoC is writing multiple grants to continue to work on diversifying funding. Latoya encouraged Mar-quetta to apply to even the small foundations and write letters of intent to those funders to make them aware of the issues facing the community. Megan agreed. Jackie suggested sending a similar letter to the one sent to city and county officials that would outline the impending homeless crisis and need for funding.

Mar-quetta asked if Tammy knew anything about the “right to counsel” $750K funding. Tammy stated this funding would give people who wouldn’t usually have counsel the ability to be represented in eviction proceedings.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:59am.