



Healthy Beginnings at Home State Meeting Notes

01/12/2023

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Present

- Mylynda Drake – Alternative Payment Model Administrator, Ohio Department of Medicaid
- Dr. Applegate – Medical Director, Ohio Department of Medicaid
- Dyane Gogan Turner- Chief, Bureau of Maternal Child and Family Health, Ohio Department of Health
- Ashley Reynolds, Ohio Department of Development
- Patti Clements- Office of Health Opportunity, Ohio Department of Health
- Chelsea Buckwalter - Director of Housing Policy, Ohio Housing Finance Agency
- Samantha (Sam) Makowski – Planning & Policy Manager, Ohio Housing Finance Agency
- Alicia Leatherman - Public Health Policy Advisor, Bureau of Maternal Child and Family Health, Ohio Department of Health
- Stacy Herman, Bureau of Maternal Child and Family Health, Ohio Department of Health
- Amy Bush Stevens, Vice President, Health Policy Institute of Ohio
- Amy Rohling McGee, President, Health Policy Institute of Ohio
- Maura Klein, CareSource
- Barb Poppe, Barbara Poppe and associates, HBAH Lead Consultant
- Douglas Argue – Managing Director, COHHIO
- Shayna Bryant – Project Manager, COHHIO
- Rachael Jones – Project Manager, Celebrate One
- Shaleeta Smith – Project Director, Summit County Public Health Department

Douglas opened the meeting at 11:02am.

Agenda:

1. Introductions

Each attendee introduced themselves, agency, and position.

2. Changes to agenda

The agenda was accepted as present.

Alicia Leatherman asked that Kara Wente, Director of Children's Initiatives for the Governor, be added to the invitation list for future meetings.

3. Updates of the project & sites

Douglas Argue invited both Akron/Summit and Columbus/Franklin site leads to share a participant success:

Shaleeta Smith- Summit Co. Public Health Department reported: Akron has experienced success with participants moving through the process quickly. Yesterday, 1/11/23, a pregnant women had housing verified and will be moving into stable housing. Shaleeta reiterated success with speedy

turn arounds in Akron, between eligibility determination, enrollement and housing selection. Success is being attributed to the majority of their housing processes being handled in house, which makes for a smoother transitions.

Shaleeta identified some of the challenges as: An open HSS position, which they are actively sourcing. The current HSS is extremely passionate, knowledgeable, and committed to the project.

Rachael Jones- CelebrateOne reported: The goal for HBAH 2.0, in Columbus is 60 women. To date, 26 women are enrolled, with additional enrollement appointments today, 1/12/23. There were 7 participants scheduled to move in the day of the snow storm, which inhibited the move in process. However, one of the HSS staff had a vehicle with 4 wheel drive, and was so determined to get one of the families moved in ,during the storm, they utilized their own vehicle. One family was in their own home for Christmas, with gifts and dinner!

Douglas Argue invited Shayna Bryant to report on enrollement numbers: Slides attached.

Douglas invited Barb Poppe to provide further HBAH updates:

Barb Poppe reported: The project lauched in October 2022, two months later than anticipated. This lag is due, in part, to difficulty in securing qualified staff and then getting them fully trained in the HBAH model. Barb also noted the change in COHHIO- HBAH Project Manger from Tameka Brice to Shayna Bryant.

Barb identified 3 challenge areas related to project implementation:

Staffing : Supervision, training, high level of complexity with the roles with in the project.

Adjusting for local context : Barb noted when implementation happened in Franklin and Summit, differences in the local context and how things are operationalized, werer brought to the surface. This initated the necessity for fine tuning to the model locally as resouces available locally varied and had an impact on implementation. The partners continue to check in regularly. The over all model remains the same, howoever recources and housing markets differ and require adjustments.

Research adds complexity: Barb reminded the group that this is a research project, that is extremely comprehensive and more complex, where processes and procedures must be consistant. We have strong practisioners, however they are not researchers. HPIO is directly in touch with front line staff. This type of research requires a lot of time.

We do have the continued staff commitment. The project remains on track; however, it is going to take a little longer to end due to the previously outlined challenges. The project is operational with strong and robust levels of partnerships; the partners are actively working out the kinks. HBAH 2.0 is on track for the expansion. Many strengths despite challenges.

Barb Poppe invited questions:

Alicia Leatherman: Question on staffing- What does a better work environment mean? Any lessons that we can learn?

At Barb's request, **Shaleeta Smith responded:** Akron has experienced several candidates scheduling interviews and not showing up. Also, the rate of pay is not substantial enough. Shaleeta noted that flexibility is abundant, most businesses are offering 100% hybrid opportunities for the same rates of pay. Going into the interviews, candidates have a perspective of what the job

is which is different from what it actually entails. People have either taken another opportunity prior to the interview or no show. The job market is very competitive and the need to ensure individuals are experienced and qualified for the project presents challenges.

Alicia Leatherman: Asked to elaborate on the differences seen between Summit and Franklin.

Barb Poppe responded: Enrollement in Akron has a much higher rate of utility arrearages than Columbus. It is much easier to access rental assistance in Franklin than it is to access in Summit Co. because arrearages are paid out via flex funds. Columbus has also paid to hold apartments, which is not happening in Akron, due to the difference in the housing market.

Shaleeta Smith added: Akron is also experiencing barriers with participants choosing pathways hub instead of home visiting, which has created a glitch in terms of the collaboration and information sharing, where as Columbus mainly utilizes Step One.

4. Brief research update

Amy Bush Stevens/HPIO reported: Tracking utility arrearages as part of the study. The initial wave of participants averaged \$841 in arrearages; gas is higher than all other utilities. Since the last quarter, HPIO hosted a RAC (Research advisory committee) meeting in December, composed of a wide range of advisors, including Community Advisors (CA), who are an intricate part of the research.

HPIO is focusing on Medicaid data. Several conversations with GRC, ODM, and Nationwide Childrens have occurred, to process outcomes through Medicaid data. There is, now, a solid sense of potential outcomes.

HPIO continues to process how to construct the best comparison group. GRC has been a great partner. HPIO working towards obtaining a scope of work on paper from GRC. Will need the support of ODH and ODM. Also focused on data quality, directly gathered by site staff for the research. HPIO is working closely with site staff to ensure data is entered in an accurate and complete manner.

HPIO will share preliminary data on future State calls.

Ashley Reynolds posed a question: How is landlord outreach and engagement going? Any strategies and/or challenges finding landlords?

Rachael Jones responded- Columbus is competing with everyone who is searching for housing. Columbus has tons of non profit's fighting for FMR availabilities. CelebrateOne are paying holding fee's for apartments. Childrens Hospital has new buildings that they offering HBAH, as apartments. The issue is developers are offering 1 bedrooms for a 2 year program, which participants will out grow quickly. Participants have been very successful finding their own housing that HBAH partners would not otherwise have access to. Over all Columbus has several of nice and supportive landlords.

Shaleeta Smith responded: Akron has awesome partners through United Way of Akron and Medina, who have many years of experience and along with their COC, a very mature housing process. Access through the local housing authority is very solid. Akron is fortunate to have one particular entity for housing availability.

5. Expansion Planning

Douglas Argue Reported: Active conversations occurring with Cincinnati and Dayton in 2.2 phase, when funding is available. The Dayton lead agency is Greater Dayton Area Hospital Association (GADAH); the Cincinnati lead is Cradle Cincinnati. Both site leads are observing current meetings and reading materials. Conversations of what HBAH would look like, what pieces they would need to hold, are on-going. Both Cincinnati and Dayton are working on securing appropriate housing partners and match funding. They are investigating, searching and making decisions. If funding becomes available, hopefully the project can move forward in mid summer, going live with both cities.

Barb Poppe added - The two sites are intentional with their plans to come on board. The existing sites are working to assist the new sites. Ideally, the 2nd cohort would begin at the end of current cohort. Akron and Columbus could continue to enroll, however the funding needs to be available. There likely will be a gap between 2.1 and 2.2.

6. State funding for expansion

Douglas Argue- Partners were hopeful for the \$9 million to be funded during lame duck session. In the fall of '22, Governor Dewine made a public commitment to fund HBAH. Columbus and Akron advocated strongly and the prospects looked hopeful, but ultimately it did not happen. On a positive, we now we have champions in the Senate and House that are supportive of HBAH. Now shifting from a legislative process to one more focused on the Governor's office and his staff. Next strategy is to work with those individuals to get administrative action on the funding, to obtain sooner rather than later. The longer we wait the more costly the project becomes.

Worst case scenario- The \$9 million will be part of the budget in June, which will cause a significant delay in the expansion and will be much more costly. The more information that the State can take back to their department directors, in advocacy, the more helpful to the project.

Barb Poppe added- The project is drawing national attention to replicate.

Alicia Leatherman added- Over the next few weeks, if HBAH partners have conversations with the Governor's office please notify the State, and visa versa, to avoid contradictions and ensuring the same messages are relayed, in support.

7. Next steps

Douglas Argue- COHHIO will send meeting notes, including the data slides.

Regarding the next meeting in April 2023: COHHIO will follow up with Alicia Leatherman, on a date, by the end of January, with the goal of also having State meeting dates for the duration of 2023.