



## Healthy Beginnings at Home State Meeting

11/8/2023

### Attendees

- Ashley Germano, Ohio Department of Development
- Chelsea Buckwalter - Director of Housing Policy, 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
- Barbra Poppe and Associates- HBAH Lead Consultant
- Amy Riegel – Executive Director, COHHIO
- Douglas Argue – Managing Director, COHHIO
- Shayna Bryant – Project Manager, COHHIO
- Kyla Holtsberry- Project Coordinator, COHHIO
- Rachael Jones – Project Manager, Celebrate One
- Shaleeta Smith – Project Director, Summit County Public Health Department
- Al Jenkins- Program Director, First Year Cleveland
- Sarah Taylor- HBAH Director, GDAHA
- Francisca Richter- Case Western Reserve University- Research
- Hillary Stoll - Ohio department of Children and Youth.
- Jesse Reed - CareSource
- Sara Haig- ODH
- Emily Vanburen - Ohio Department of Medicaid

### Agenda:

1. Introductions- COHHIO
2. Cross-site implementation update – COHHIO/BPA
  - Shayna Bryant - There are ongoing conversations with sites interested in joining the project. COHHIO was able to attend a partners meeting with first year Cleveland last week where we were able to discuss with local agencies the possibility of being involved in the research. At this point, understanding is Columbus won't join expansion, but will maintain the 29 current participants. Cincinnati is excited to participate. Akron is still onboard and interested in expanding to more women if funding allows. Dayton continues doing great work to prepare for participating in 2.2.

- Douglas Arque - We are close to releasing the RFP. We have decided to go the route of an RFP so people can best show us how many families they can serve. Looking to move forward quickly so people can hire, train staff, and we are able to start serving families asap. Intent to have out by Mid November. Please reach out with any questions.
  - Al Jenkins - when will the RFP be due?
    - Douglas Arque- I believe two weeks after it is released.
- Barb Poppe - We continue to provide technical assistance, assist with fidelity to the model, and fine tuning, to make sure the project is the best it can be for 2.2. We work to maintain open communications between sites to improve processes and will continue to do so in 2.2.

### 3. Budget updates- Douglas Arque

- a. Have been hard at work on the budget. There are a lot of moving parts to the funding for this project. We are looking at how the funding and the overlapping of the funding years' work to best merge with matching monies with the local sites to best serve families in the program. Appreciate your patience, we are so much closer to being able to move forward.

### 4. 2.1 Current sites

- Columbus/Franklin update: CelebrateOne
- PCC transition

- Rachael Jones – Columbus is assisting 29 participants. Originally 30, 1 participant passed away early in the project. 28 of 29 participants are in housing. The 29<sup>th</sup> participant is actively engaged and getting supportive services while looking for housing. 118 is the Columbus average days to housed. On November 1<sup>st</sup> the project transferred HSS services to PCC. Some of the participants are coming up on the end of their first year's lease, and we will see some participants stay in their homes, and some transition to new homes.

- Akron/Summit update - SCHED

- Shaleeta Smith- Akron is currently assisting 19 participants, 5 currently looking for housing. Akron is, for the most part, hitting the goal of housed in 30 days. The goal is to get to 30 participants by end of the year. Akron is fully staffed at this time. Thankful to COHHIO, ODH, and Barb for the support and ensuring we have the funds to continue.

Ashley Germano - What is the main issues you are having in finding housing for participants?

- Rachael Jones – Columbus had some participants who were holding out for the best apartment who later wish they hadn't passed on an earlier unit because in hindsight the hotel stay was more stressful than a temporary stay in a less-than-perfect apartment. It's important for the HSS to work with participants in understanding this is not forever, and we are trying to house you stably for those 24 months. We can house you in this apartment now but always be working towards your goal of an even better place to live.
- Shaleeta Smith- Akron has had communication barriers with participants. Additionally, Akron has had issues with participants not taking those first apartments offered to them as well. HSS must have hard conversations with participants. One example could be a participant who must downsize apartments because the one they are currently in doesn't meet HBAH standards. HSS's have done an amazing job on consistent outreach and explaining the reasoning behind these standards. Those initial conversations around these standards are key.

Francisca Richter- Could you talk about the housing status of participants? Any patterns?

- Rachael Jones - Most people were doubled up or literally homeless. Maybe 5 were on the verge of eviction.
- Barb Poppe- in Columbus and Akron some women were in their own units and even though they may not have been safe places to live they were reluctant to move.
- Shaleeta Smith – Akron had a participant in a unit for 200 days because it didn't pass HQS because the house needed painted, and it was the middle of winter. The status of participants housing before entering is fluid and really depends on the day, a little bit of all things.
- Barb Poppe – We are looking to make it more clear in eligibility determinations the limitations of what we can provide under to constricts of the payment standards and HQS.

Al Jenkins- Could you give more information on housing vouchers and integrating them into the housing available top participants?

- Rachael Jones- Columbus worked with CMHA and did a lottery biased system biased on what CMHA uses. With their assistance

we created a lottery that was fair for participants. The pull of the lottery was paused as we were transitioning HSS providers. Reaching out to the housing authority was key as they were helpful in constructing that lottery that was anatomized buy a third party.

- Shaleeta Smith - Akron has a lottery in place already. Originally Akron had 10 vouchers, that was increased when Akron started HBAH. 4 or 5 of HBAH participants have gone through the process of utilizing the housing vouchers, and the average time to housed has been 32 days. Akron is going to request even more vouchers. Housing authority has been very helpful and having them at the table from the beginning was crucial.
- Barb Poppe – In Phase B it is required to connect participants with local housing authority, and although the lottery was paused in Columbus, one participant received a housing voucher through CMHA because of this requirement.

Ashley Germano - What does the funding from HBAH look like if they do get a voucher since that's also a subsidy. Does HBAH subsidize on top of that?

- Barb Poppe – HBAH would still provide services like moving costs, landlord incentives, additional utilities not covered by the voucher.

#### 5. Research and evaluation update-COHHIO

- a. Douglas Arque – COHHIO has entered a consultant contract with Case Western.
- b. Evaluation – We are looking at ways to streamline the HBAH projects biased on what we have seen and agency feedback. One area we are looking at changing is the HMIS data entry work. Under the current structure that is the responsibility of the HSS, looking in 2.2 to streamline this data entry to a single data entry clerk.
- c. Also looking to use Medicaid to find comparable participant data to utilize as a control group against the participants in the program. This is a difficult process, but we have some great people working with us to find an agreement and a data set to use.

Next Meeting is January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 11am