

Strategic Plan Oversight Commission (SPOC) Meeting #1

Date: June 14, 2023

Present: Monika Binion, Julie Schneider, Taura Brown, Amy Brown, Gerald Curley, Sarah Rennie, ReGina Hentz, Lydia Adkins, BPA consulting team

Absent: Tasha Gray and DeAndra Matthews

Meeting Minutes

BPA Project Manager Kourtney Clark went over the meeting expectations.

The BPA team and the SPOC members then proceeded to introduce themselves to each other.

BPA team members provided an overview of the project description, which is that the Plan will provide the system:

- A clear and unified message and plan for how Detroit is working to end homelessness
- Coordinated and improved system response to homelessness
- Streamlined procedures, standards, and expectations between all funding sources and service providers
- More efficient and better coordinated use of funding
- High quality services for those experiencing homelessness

They also provided a brief timeline of the project, which includes two phases: one dedicated to research and discovery and another to implementation.

SPOC Charter Discussion (see SPOC charter for reference)

BPA team Barbara Poppe went through the charter for the commission, which outlines the roles and responsibilities of the SPOC during the strategic system improvement planning process.

SPOC team member Julie Schneider inquired if we will be outlining expectations for what it means to be a community ambassador. The BPA team said commission members are expected to describe the project description, and that as the process continues, what is expected to be communicated will change.

SPOC team member Sarah Rennie said the project description and project values should be incorporated into the charter for the SPOC. Rennie said it's important to state the importance of providing a certain standard of care among homelessness service providers, and that homelessness funding is tied to an expectation to meet those standards.

The BPA team said they will put a discussion about shared values on the July SPOC meeting agenda. The SPOC voted to approve the charter pending a discussion in July about shared values.

SPOC Quorum Discussion

The SPOC is made up of 10 members: 5 seats dedicated to residents with lived experience of homelessness, three seats representing the Detroit Continuum of Care, one seat representing the Homeless Action Network of Detroit, and one seat representing the City of Detroit's Housing and Revitalization Department.

The BPA team asked the SPOC what they will consider quorum for future meetings. The SPOC decided that they will have quorum when they have three representatives of people with lived experience and three representatives from the CoC/HAND/HRD segment of the group in attendance. This means a minimum of six people constitutes quorum.

SPOC Co-Chair Discussion

The BPA team said the commission will need to elect co-chairs. The SPOC decided to rename these positions as plan champions. Amy Brown and Taura Brown were elected by SPOC members to serve as plan champions.

Meeting timeline and community engagement discussion

The BPA team will provide a doodle poll to the SPOC to schedule the July meeting. The BPA team presented their engagement plans for the community and residents with lived experience.

General Discussion on state of homelessness response system

The BPA team ended the meeting with a brief discussion with three questions posed to the SPOC:

- What is working well about the community response to homelessness?
- What do you think are the most significant accomplishments over the last four years?
- What are the biggest community challenges to addressing homelessness?

In terms of what is working well within the system, the SPOC members said the following:

- SPOC member Sarah Rennie said in Detroit, people agree that people need help and the Detroit community is willing to have tough conversations
- SPOC member Taura Brown said people have a better idea of what homelessness is and they realize it's about systems versus individuals
- SPOC member Lydia Adkins said she believes outreach efforts are producing results
- One of the BPA consultants with lived experience said he sees people care about those experiencing homelessness

In terms of significant accomplishments, the SPOC members said the following:

- SPOC member Sarah Rennie said post COVID, there are not enough resources or money
- SPOC member Julie Schneider said the homelessness response system had an effective response to COVID by testing clients and making sure they had a space to reside where they could receive care but not spread COVID to the general population
- One of the BPA consultants with lived experience said he has seen reduced waiting times for housing placement, better programs that actually work like rapid rehousing, and providers that are actually trying.

