



July 9, 2020 - 2:00 - 4:00pm
Zoom call

Board Minutes

Attendees:

Due to Covid19 the meeting was held via video conference on zoom

John Feeney-Coyle, Elissa Hardy, Jennifer Biess, Mike Malloy, Kelli Barker, Ved Price, Carla Respects Nothing, Brian Arnold, Rachel Vaughn, Ben Ryan, Eugene Wade, Alix Midgley, Shelley McKittrick, Ken Hayes, Kristen Toombs, Ayashe Cornelius

MDHI Staff:

Matt Meyer, Kelly Hellman, Jamie Rife, Rebecca Mayer, Sae Hong, Margay Witzdam, Midori Higa, Jackie Hernandez, Alex Rigberg

Administrative:

Meeting began at 2:00 as Ben introduced Brian as the new President of the board. Brian stated that he is excited to take on this new role and looks forward to having robust conversations as a group going forward. Elissa next introduced Ved as the new VP of Continuum Activities. Elissa called Ved a rising star in our field. Ved stated that he is happy to take on his new role and is excited to work more closely with MDHI. John introduced Rachel as the new VP of Organizational Activities. Rachel said that she is excited for her new role and looks forward to new initiatives. Ben introduced Mike as the new Interim Treasurer. Matt thanked past officers for their work over the past year.

Consent Agenda:

Brian covered the consent agenda which included the financials.

Vote -Brian motioned to approve consent agenda, Shelley seconded, no opposed, motion passes by acclamation

Topics:

Equity Planning

Matt asked the board the question of when they would like to see a draft equity plan presented. Ved replied back as to what would be most comfortable for the organization? Brian stated that he would like to see it presented in September and Shelley agreed. Alix asked about Marc Dones and if he was going to present the follow-up work. Matt stated that he is waiting to hear back from his office. Shelley asked the group if there is any way that Marc could provide the board training. MDHI will look into that possibility but didn't think it was part of his offerings.

Board Recruitment

John asked the question as to what equity goals should we have for board recruitment and how to we meet those diversity goals? We had not gotten a lot of response to our call for the open board positions. John went on to say that diversity must be balanced between the professional need for the board as well as trying to provide for diversity. Brian added that we tend to look just within our trusted circles for new members and we must expand outside those circles. Rachel thought that MDHI could do a better job of marketing ourselves in the community to build awareness. Ayashe asked about the process and consequences of if we don't get candidates that are diverse? John said that we must cast a wider net if that were the case.

Ben added that it is our responsibility to recruit people with lived experience and racial diversity. He also added that we should further define our goals as far as what percentage of the board should be made up of people that fall under those two categories. He said that the Executive Committee will put a document together. Kelli stated that it would be beneficial to have these goals in writing. Ved asked if we have a communications person at MDHI who can spearhead the recruiting effort. Matt replied that this is part of Jamie's job as Director of Fundraising and Communications. Matt also added that board recruitment is typically a board activity so he would like to see the board take a more active role. John added that the recent recruitment made him realize his lack of diversity in his own network and it was eye opening.

John stated that we do have one candidate to put forward. Her name is Jenna Hansen and she is the Community Health Specialist for Kaiser Permanente. She also has lived experience. John recommends her for the board. Jennifer added that Kaiser Permanente is a big supporter for fighting homelessness and Built for Zero. Ben said he was impressed with her knowledge and passion.

Vote: John motioned to approve the request to add Jenna Hansen to the board, second by Mike, Approved by acclamation.

2020 Point in Time

Jamie presented PIT data to the board. This included data on various categories and compared data for the last 3 years. She stated that there will be a release of the PIT data on 7/15 and an overview and press release will be sent out. In lieu of a PIT Report, MDHI will release a State of Homelessness report which will combine several data sets, discuss the causes of homelessness, and present next steps. Matt added that we are confident in these numbers for this past year. Ved asked if we are cross referencing data to check accuracy. Jamie replied that it is difficult to cross reference since this is based on one night in January, and it would not be an apples to apples comparison. Brian asked how we compare to other cities of similar population. Jamie answered that we can compare data to other cities in the next few weeks.

Performance Measurement

Matt discussed a training opportunity that came up for Jamie, Rebecca, Jackie and Kyla that involved integrating data in performance measurements. This training was through the Harvard Kennedy School and can be part of a strategic conversation for the board driven by the staff. Rebecca summarized the training and how they developed what is called a Question Zero which is essential to what drives the mission and what is the goals of the organization. Kelli asked more about what defines or makes up Question Zero and Rebecca said that she would send out examples. Matt added that MDHI as an organization is in good shape with its mission statement and ends policy as part of defining its Question Zero. This is something that will be presented in more detail at future board meetings.

Safe Outdoor Space and Sales Tax

Brian spoke about the letter that Mayor Hancock put out regarding outdoor camping space. Matt stated that this plan has had mixed reviews in the past with cities like Portland implementing something similar as a short-term plan. Shelley thought that it was a good idea to reign in the complaints and to keep people safe. Brian said that as a long-term plan, this has not worked well in the past. Matt is reaching out to Cole Chandler who is heading this up. Jamie learned from a town hall meeting that people overwhelmingly preferred to be housed instead of at an encampment. Ben didn't want this to stray from our mission of getting people housed. Matt added that this is a complex issue that is not a new one and will need collective wisdom to make it work. John stated that the letter only went out to 6 of the districts who voted yes and will evolve into a political fight as the location sites get discussed. Alix would also like to see it as a venue where individuals can also access services.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00

MISSION: *Leading and advancing collaboration to end homelessness in our region.*