

# August 13, 2020 - 2:00 - 4:00pm

**Zoom call**

Board Minutes

**Attendees:**

Due to CV-19, the meeting was held via video conference on Microsoft Teams.

**MDHI Board:** John Feeney-Coyle, Elissa Hardy, Jennifer Biess, Mike Malloy, Kelli Barker, Carla Respects Nothing, Brian Arnold, Rachel Vaughn, Ben Ryan, Alix Midgley, Ken Hayes, Kristen Toombs, Jenna Hansen, Karissa Johnson

**MDHI Staff:** Matt Meyer, Kelly Hellman, Jamie Rife, Rebecca Mayer, Sae Hong, Midori Higa, Jackie Hernandez, Layla Said, Elizabeth Murray

**Administrative:**

Meeting began at 2:08 as we waited for Brian to join. Layla discussed the organization’s move to Microsoft Teams and how the Board can access documents and have a repository for those documents in the future. Brian joined and thanked Layla for her work on MDHI’s Teams.

New Board member Jenna Hansen introduced herself and provided a brief summary of her background.

Brian asked that we all participate in an exercise to list all the cities that we have lived in with the person with the most, getting a prize. Kristen Toombs had the most with 10.

**Consent Agenda:**

Brian covered the consent agenda which included the financials.

***Vote - Rachel motioned to approve consent agenda, John seconded, no opposed, motion passes by acclamation***

**Topics:**

**Board Emails**

Brian discussed communication between the Board, specifically email interaction. He went on to say that emails are a way of conveying information but not communicating. When sending emails, we should ask ourselves, does everyone need to see this? Is this something that should go to the Board *only* and not the homeless services community? John added that he has used Microsoft Teams before for communicating and it has proven to be a useful tool for communicating information.

**Policy Governance and Training**

John stated that we need to discuss 2 topics, Policy Governance Models and the Board Retreat. Both are intended to make a transition to a more formal governance model for the Board. Initially, this was to be worked on and rolled out via the Board retreat, but due to CV-19, we will have to improvise. John went on to say that he, Matt, Layla, and Rachel interviewed 2 consultants who can assist in making this transition. This model gives the Board more ownership of the organization in a more proactive role, rather than a reactive one. We want to establish a set of high-level guidance to hold all of us accountable. This will include checking in on a consistent basis to make sure we are abiding by our principals and policies. Rachel added that this was a learning experience for her and liked the idea of transitioning from managers to owners of policy governance. The consultant will establish clear roles and responsibilities and introduce specific policies that have metrics. Karissa asked if there will be an equity lens applied to this training. John replied that yes, the consultants were asked about equity as part of the interview process and that one of the consultants didn’t provide a good answer to the question. John continued by saying that policy governance will allow for certain principals to be created, and that the staff would then be directed to abide by those principals. Brian added that yes, we will design policies to make sure we include what is important to us, including Equity. Matt added that as a nonprofit, Boards tend to have less ownership of the organization that for-profit Boards do, and that this will allow the Board more oversight. Karissa asked for clarification on Board representation vs email communication. Ben replied that as an organization, we don’t have anything to hide but that emails can be misconstrued if it is shared widely with people that do not have the context.

Next, John discussed the time commitment; the Board training will likely take a 25-hour commitment. In a normal year, we could do all of it during a retreat, but during a virtual world, it will look different. We could spread it out over 2 or 3 days or, we could spread it out over blocks of 4-5 hours and stretch that over a month or two. Rachel stated that she still wanted to have a modified retreat and asked if Board members would be willing to have it on a weekend. Board members did not have an issue with this, but it would be based on schedules.

**Covid Cares Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG)**

Matt provided an update for the Covid Cares ESG money that will soon be coming to Colorado for homelessness via an Emergency Solutions Grant. This will come in the way of 2 waves of funding for Rapid Rehousing and Homeless Prevention. The first wave will provide MDHI with 2.7 million dollars that will include a small portion for Admin related costs. He went on to say that 7.3 million was awarded in total to Colorado for the first wave of funding. We will work with the current ESG subrecipients for the first round of funding. The second round of funding will include considerably more money – 25.8 million for the state of Colorado. Kristen added that we are getting input from all Stakeholders, and that the next meeting is on August 31st at 2p.m. Three items for discussion are 1. *What are the priorities for the funds?* 2. *Do we have the capacity to take on these funds?* 3. *Individuals might need a place to stay while we are finding housing, such as shelters. Do these shelters have the capacity?* Kristen added that the current money can be used for expenses incurred back in March. Matt also suggested that we use some of this money for Navigation Centers.

**Board Matters and Updates**

Matt said that we currently have 4 positions posted: the Coordinator for Consumer Engagement, the Coordinator for One Home (paid in part by the Community Solutions Grant), the Controller position which is on response to the ESG dollars, and the Improvement Advisor, to work with Built for Zero. Brian asked how we are recruiting for these positions, and Matt stated through networking and making connections.

Carla added that the Native American Community is creating a new shelter for Native American people, and that she would like to discuss this with Matt soon.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:51 pm.

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