

Strategic Plan Oversight Commission Meeting Minutes

Date: December 13, 2023

Attendees

<u>Name</u>	<u>Agency or Organization</u>
Amy Brown	SPOC Co-Champion
Taura Brown	SPOC Co-Champion
Julie Schneider	HRD
David Bowser	HRD
Safiya Merchant	HRD
Tasha Gray	HAND
Sarah Rennie	SPOC
ReGina Hentz	CoC Board
Roquesha O'Neal	SPOC PWLEH Representative
Ma'Jenaya Johnson	SPOC PWLEH Representative
Amber Matthews	SPOC PWLEH Representative
Barbara Poppe	BPA
Matthew Doherty	BPA
Elijah Earnest	BPA Lived Experience Consultant
Kourtney Clark	BPA
Matt White	BPA
Donna Price	BPA Lived Experience Consultant
Kristy Greenwalt	BPA
David Dirks	BPA

Brief Summary of Discussion

System Modeling

BPA team member Matt White gave an update on the system modeling group. This included:

- The annual prevalence numbers are being updated to reflect addition of households experiencing domestic violence and sexual assault. Results will be available later this week. The new data reflects agencies who don't put their data in HMIS.
- Homelessness prevention vs. diversion program definitions are being further refined.
- System gaps (current vs optimal) are significant so the modeling results are being updated to show improvements over a 5-year period as well.

SPOC member Sarah Rennie said one aspiration is to get a comparable database that allows us to compare DV/homelessness data in the future. The data, as of now, is not perfect but it allows us to paint a more specific picture for our current system modeling.

More General Feedback From SPOC Members on Draft Plan Strategies and Objectives

SPOC members said they needed more time to review the draft objectives and strategies. SPOC member Julie Schneider said she would like to see further prioritization of strategies and the removal of redundancies.

BPA team member Barbara Poppe said the question at hand is if the document is moving in the right direction. Work will be done to further refine and prioritize the draft. SPOC members are expected to provide detailed feedback before the holidays, including on priorities and timeline of activities.

SPOC Member MJ Johnson said she wants to do her own housing summit to get more community feedback. She said you must meet people where they are at, and that the word “program” can be traumatic. She said she feels insulted when the first thing people mention is the cost of interventions or lack of funding. She also highlighted that people really need to have a deep, authentic understanding of trauma.

Framework for Justice, Equity, and Belonging

No additional comments were provided by SPOC members.

Comments on Strategies/Objectives For Reducing Unsheltered Homelessness, Reimagining Shelter, and Improving Rehousing and Housing Supply

SPOC member Sarah Rennie said while we want improved services in our shelters, we may need to first focus on getting our system out of an “overflow seats” situation by getting more shelter space.

SPOC member Taura Brown said it’s hard for staff to conduct outreach to unsheltered individuals when there aren’t resources to connect them to. She also highlighted that providers need to be held accountable to a standard of care.

SPOC member MJ Johnson said she doesn’t believe we have a housing crisis because there are resources we could use to provide housing, such as the Land Bank inventory.

SPOC member Amber Matthews said there have been plenty of youth who have had a hard time navigating the shelter system because they're being told things that aren't true and have nowhere to go. For example, they aren't being told their rights.

SPOC member ReGina Hentz said landlords and the City are not working together. She said landlords are increasing rents, which then makes the units out of reach for some households. She said not everyone wants to live in the apartments in new affordable housing developments, and some can’t live in these units because of their mobility needs.

SPOC member MJ Johnson said the City of Detroit does a good job at blaming the victims. She said we blame landlords, but landlords are also living off the rent from tenants.

SPOC member Taura Brown said she used to be a landlord. She said if people can't afford to be landlords they absolutely shouldn't. If a landlord cannot afford inspections, certifications, and due diligence to keep their tenants safe and comply with the law, they shouldn't be leasing property.

Building Momentum and Implementation Framework Workgroup Discussions

BPA team members Matthew Doherty and Kristy Greenwalt gave updates on the draft strategies/objectives for the Building Momentum and Implementation Framework topic areas.

SPOC member Tasha Gray asked if the racial equity committee is a stand-alone committee because the original recommendation was to have that work live in the Executive Committee.

SPOC member Taura Brown and BPA team member David Dirks highlighted the importance of the system having a dedicated space to monitor progress on equity initiatives and keep the work moving forward.

Creating a Vision for the Plan, Engagement Strategies, and Next Steps

BPA team member Matthew Doherty said he will be seeking feedback on the plan's vision and draft strategies and objectives from SPOC members. SPOC member Tasha Gray said the vision from the NIS work should be the starting point for the plan vision.

HRD Project Manager Safiya Merchant went over a preliminary engagement plan for the upcoming phase of the BPA contract.

Next Steps: Merchant will provide vision notes from the community planning sessions to Doherty. She will also work with SPOC PWLEH representatives and others to flesh out the engagement plans, including the plan to engage people with lived experience.