

MC2 MEETING MINUTES: MONDAY FEBURARY 7, 2022

Attendees: Amanda Stadler (DMH), Ann Benson (Jobs Plus, Independence MO), Anthony Smith (BOS), Dottie Kastigar (St. Charles), Janelle Williams (MOCADSV), Kelli Kemna (DMH), Randy Sharp (St. Joseph), Sandy Wilson (ICA), Sonia Campbell (Catholic Charities – St. Joe/BOS), Tammy Walker (Joplin)

PIT Updates:

- Tammie (Joplin CoC) - Count went very well, they had about 20 volunteers (more than in past). Because of all the street outreach we have done in the past we had 7 different teams that divided the county, and we were everywhere.
- St. Louis Co conducted the count in January as well - went well, they found 43 or 53 unsheltered individuals in their count (preliminary numbers of course).
- It was indicated that GKC was conducting the count in February like the majority of the State.
- Dottie (St. Charles CoC) - conducted their PIT Count in January. Modified our street count due to Covid because of not a lot of volunteers. Had our known locations and engaged with first responders - we got really good information from the first responders. Everyone felt like they had a good sense of what we were doing with the first responders (especially in the encampments) and efforts were a lot more directed. We also called everyone on the Prioritization List - took 3 days to do calls this year and it was very helpful. It helped us clean up our list and get more accurate information on who is actually on the street.
- Anthony (BOS) - We put in a formal request to extend the count due to COVID concerns until February 28th, in alignment with other CoCs in the State.

Warming shelters updates:

- Randy (St. Joseph) - Not really working in some counties due to not enough volunteers, and some (overnight shelters) were opening at 9pm at night with the same dedicated volunteer staff, and they had to leave at 7am. In January, it was finally determined that this was not working very well this year and just not working out primarily due to lack of volunteers. We saw more individuals asking for motel vouchers than wanting to stay at the shelter(s). We have been averaging about 18 people a night. No churches wanted to volunteer for warming shelter due to Covid last year, this year we had 2 churches that stepped up.
- Dottie (St. Charles) - We have been using a hybrid of both years, averaging 20-30 in our church-based shelters and 45-50 in our motels; this week we have been doing more hotels because of the snow, our shelters are operated solely on volunteers when weather is under 20, we have 1 paid coordinator that leads the process, we have had a lot of donations last year, so it's been paid by those donations. DMH is offering a 24/7 Crisis Stabilization Centers around the state, where people can come that are not combative and that are off their meds or detoxing and they can stay there for 23 hours, they assess them and have doctors and specialist in mental health working with them and it has had good feedback, law enforcement has been utilizing them for individuals that they have encountered. Supposedly, there are (6) of these around the state.
- Tammie (Joplin) - Only have 2 shelters that open overnight, we do not have motel rooms, or anything set up, so it has been a challenge.
- Anthony (BOS) - In the Bootheel we do not have any overnight shelters, we have gotten with churches, but all warming centers here are during the day. We are doing the best we can at this

point trying to help people with motel vouchers or faith based day shelters in conjunction with referrals to out of state shelters willing to take MO residents; we can of course provide transportation assistance and outreach.

CE processes for Interstate referrals across HMIS platforms: The topic of sharing CE information with other CoC's has come up in some areas.

- Dottie (St. Charles COC) – When we have someone call from outside our geographic area we try to find where their connections are based on their location - is anyone having issues with people outside their COC getting connected to CES? Because we've been told that these connections are not happening in some areas of the State.
- Sandy (ICA) - How do we ensure we can update COC information quickly so we can all know where to do warm hands off for that geographical area the client is currently in? Contacts of course change within a CoC, and we want to ensure that everyone has access to updated CE providers/contacts. Everyone has their own version of training.
- DMH shared their state-wide CES directory (posted at <https://dmh.mo.gov/media/pdf/missouri-cocs-coordinated-entry-directory>), which they are in the process of updating.
- Groups discussed that sometimes clients do not get connected because CoCs don't have updated CES contact information for other CoCs. It would be extremely helpful to have emails, for one it leaves a paper trail, and then we can have that as an official deposition of that call, that a referral was made. There is no way to stay on top of that because of so much turnover, but we can also have someone alerted about any hiccups we have had and let them know how to solve it so that we do not have the client having to be reassessed.

LSA challenges: The Longitudinal System Analysis (LSA) is a federal report submitted to HUD that informs the Annual Homeless Assessment of projects. Sandy Wilson shared that ICA works with agencies independently to look at errors and warnings to address the LSA process and facilitate report clean-up. Katlyn with ICA may have a tool that can assist agencies with looking into their report and dealing with unique situations that may not be typically programming or operating data collected.

Update on MHDC programs: No representative from MHDC available at the MC2 meeting, we assume that an update will be given at the MICH meeting.

Possibility of COC Trainings around NOFA questions: Amanda (DMH) - Now that NOFA process is over - is there interest in looking back to see where CoCs could strengthen their applications and facilitating system level trainings across CoCs?

- Randy (St. Joseph) - Using the planning grant to contract out their NOFA process with a TA provider was the best thing they ever did. If you can figure out how to contract people, they produce the entire NOFA and did all the program review etc. It worked out great for us. I have seen one-time assistance with policy/procedure and timeline/process development for the entire NOFA and have seen programs really thrive. If you can't afford a specialist for the NOFA, there is a question-by-question analysis document, it is exhausting, but it has a wealth of information that they analyze on what points need to be made, and then you can contact the experts and it is worth a shot.