

GCEH MC2 Meeting Notes – 4.1.19

In Attendance

Phone: Heather Hoffman, Tammy Laws, Anthony Smith, Tammy Walker, Steve Whitson

In-Person: Amy Bickford, Dottie Kastigar, Jennifer Cart-Dochler, Jayna Gray, Liz Hagar-Mace, Randy Sharp, Amanda Stadler

Social Serve- Liz Hagar-Mace (Department of Mental Health)

St. Louis Area Regional Commission on Homelessness has formally launched their plan to end Veteran homelessness by November 2019. As part of this initiative they are looking at bringing back Social Serve in St. Louis City, County, St. Charles, and a portion of BOS. Social Serve is an online platform to share real time info on rental properties, including Section 8, low income, accessible, etc. Landlords can list properties free of charge and it is easy for clients to access information. The annual cost for this service area is \$40,000 and the estimated cost for the entire state is \$110,000.

Group discussed the benefits of Social Serve.

1. it's a best practice
2. would be utilized across all state departments
3. is a great resource for providers
4. a beneficial tool for clients
5. helps facilitate relationships with landlords

Group discussed options for funding a state-wide implementation – state departments, Governor's office, CoCs.

Several CoCs expressed missing Social Serve when their individual community was no longer able to fund it. Group thinks this is worth exploring and would like to support an effort to fund Social Serve across the state. Identified next steps include:

- Take this idea to GCEH and discuss with other state departments
- Focus on sustainability
 - Can individual state departments make requests?
 - Can this be included in next year's state budget – is there any wiggle room in current budget (ie spend down?)
- Start discussion with representative from Boards and Commissions (Kyle)
- Compile list of what other entities would utilize/benefit from this and see if they can support it (Fair Housing, Mental Health, Corrections/Re-entry, HOPWA, PATH, PHA, CAP agencies)
- Include this as a goal in Action Plan

ESG Written Standards – Steve Whitson (Missouri Housing Development Commission)

Brooke Anderson is coordinating this committee, has 12 representatives from PATH, CoCs, DED/Veteran providers. Their next call is April 8 and they anticipate a quick wrap-up. When completed, standards will be posted for written comment and then taken to GCEH for approval. It helps having a solid template from previous

standards. They hope the written standards will help clarify some of the ambiguity of street outreach programming.

Group discussed challenges that they hope written standards will address and the importance of having broad representation on the committee creating the standards.

- Relationships with street outreach clients and case managers are critical, and its important that this is tied back to CES
- It is easy to engage some emergency shelter providers (ESG and DV) but it can be hard to engage with faith based/grass roots providers. It's important to have their voice at the table.

Next standard will be Emergency Shelters- CoC should be thinking about who they'd like to participate on that committee.

NOFAs – Steve Whitson (Missouri Housing Development Commission)

YHDP NOFA was released last month and is due in May – Kansas City, Springfield, and St. Louis City/County are applying.

- Balance has an information Youth Action Board- not sure if/when it will be formalized.
- Kansas City has had an active Youth Action Board for 2 and a half years. They coordinate advocacy events and give input on the application.
- Springfield has had an active Youth Action Board for 1 and a half years. They meet monthly and work closely with Homeless Youth Task Force.
- St. Louis City/Count have active Youth Action Board

VA Grant Per Diem program has funding available.

Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) funding for PHAs

- Springfield PHA is transitioning to RAD model and is looking at tax credits to ensure sustainability.

Comparable Databases – Steve Whitson (Missouri Housing Development Commission)

MHDC is doing research with DSS and MCASDV on options for DV data – there is a struggle to generate reports and comparable databases are not always user friendly. ICA and MAACLink have an option through their system and can pull in grants that are not mandated to use HMIS. A few agencies within balance utilize these. The Data Sub-committee has also been discussing this- it would be helpful to have one database for everything.

One issue with the MAACLink option is that currently with a DV agency, the program is on a single computer at the agency, which makes it difficult to update and manage the system.

Group discussed

- challenges with comparable databases- there is not clear guidance on the definition and who provides guidance
- how the systems are currently able to accommodate special requests
- costs of DV data management systems

Group felt that if there was one vendor that could meet needs for all grant requirements, DV providers would be on board.

Veteran Innovation Task Force – Grace Link and Melissa Wilding (Missouri Veterans Commission)

Missouri Veterans Commission has created a task force to research components of serving Veterans. The entire task force is comprised of approximately 50 people across the state; group is divided into 8 sub-committees, one of which is homelessness. They would like to have CoC participation in the committee and eventually see this evolving into a state-wide council to end Veteran homelessness that would focus on federal benchmarks, encourage CES involvement and facilitate a coordinated effort to serve Veterans experiencing homelessness. The group will not provide direct services.

Homeless Veteran sub-committee currently has representation from MHDC (Sarah Parsons), VA (Katie Burnham-Wilkins), St. Patrick's Center (Nancy Yowing and Rich Toch), Welcome Home (Terry Roberts), and SSVF. The Veteran sub-committee has reviewed state action plans to end homelessness and is currently looking USICH benchmarks. Several CoCs have Veteran-specific groups and can pull from these groups to support the sub-committee.

Group discussed challenges with serving Veterans:

- lack of communication between VA liaisons and CES since VA cannot access HMIS
- lack of supports for Veterans with dishonorable discharge
- lack of support services in rural areas- case management, emergency shelter, wrap around services

Meeting Logistics – Steve Whitson (Missouri Housing Development Commission)

This month was the first meeting in the new location- everyone on the phone agreed that this location offered much better phone-in options.

Leadership was discussed at last month's meeting- this month group voted Sarah Parsons as chair for another year.

On months when GCEH does not meet, MC2 will meet via phone – MHDC will host the call. Monthly frequency will allow group to be responsive to HUD and have dedicated time to discuss emerging issues.

Parking Lot Agenda Items

- Case Management Standards – case management vs. intensive case management vs. housing navigator
- TA around medical marijuana for shelters