

GCEH

August 2017

Welcome and Introductions:

In Person: Dustin Allen, Steve Whitson, Katie Burnham Wilkins, Dottie Kastigar, Jennifer Carter Dochler, Michelle Garand, Randy Sharp, Evie Craig, Cassandra Kaufman, Irene Agustin, Gary Busiek, Alice Stever (proxy for Dena Sikotris), Rachel Gladow (proxy for Sandy Wilson), Edwin Cooper (proxy for Liz Hagar Mace); Penny Williams, Chiquita Small, Don Stamper

On the phone: Jack Lipin, LaTisha Tigue, Jason Gross (proxy for Senator Nasheed), Jenny Miller (proxy for Sarah Parsons), Jeanette Mott Oxford

Community Systems Performance Measures Overview and Worksheet Exercise:

Group took 10 minutes to review

Review of each metric and discussion about factors

Metric 1: Length of Time Persons Remain Homeless

Metric 1A: Average Number of Days Homeless

Factors –

In KC, Housing Authority takes the max amount of time for housing; they work with clients and encourage them to move more quickly than the deadlines and have tried to negotiate with housing authority on encouraging best practices

In KC w/ VASH vouchers, they work 1:1 resources so if the VASH voucher fails, there is no back-up plan  
Shifting focus to chronically homeless – people who aren't CH or can't prove it sometimes get stuck there

Income – is that a barrier? Yes, it can be a barrier w/ some rapid rehousing programs

Discussion about how with survivors of domestic violence – what they need to help them have stable income is not provided by grants (example of a prominent tattoo that needed removed)

Mental health

Substance abuse

Housing Readiness versus Housing First

Housing availability

Outstanding utility bills

Very high fees for utility bills in Missouri

No housing quality standards – landlords aren't required to maintain efficiency with their units, so utilities are high

Metric 1B: Length of Time Persons Remain Homeless

Factors-

Affordable housing issues

Finding landlords

Landlord relationships

Lack of risk mitigation fund

Metric 2: Returns to Homelessness

Metric 2A: The Extent to which Persons Who Exit Homelessness to Permanent Housing Destinations

Return to Homelessness within 2 Years

Factors –

Loss of employment/income

Housing guilt – lease violations from allowing people to stay with them, etc.

Lack of supportive services – no or not enough long term case management  
Transition into housing can be very isolating  
Lack of ability of case manager to engage client in community integration  
Aftercare is an after thought  
Job retention  
People are housed in difficult zip codes  
Not enough community activities for low income families  
Caseloads are too high  
Lack of training for case workers

Metric 3: Number of Homeless Persons

Metric 3A: Number of Homeless Persons in Emergency Housing, Transitional Housing and Safe Havens  
Factors-

Lack of affordable housing in Missouri

Lack of coordinated street outreach

LGBT people do not feel safe

Drop in center

#s are ^ in communities that have street outreach and drop in centers bc they are finding people they weren't finding before

Case workers need more training on best practices for housing people and keeping them housed

How can communities create a "neighborhood feel" so that people want to stay housed in that unit/neighborhood?

Side discussion about disaster planning; Recovery Support Function (RSF) appointed by the Governor – Sarah Parsons is appointed for MHDC; meeting monthly in Jeff City to plan and prepare inside and outside of state government. Jenni Miller is proxy for Sarah and shared that MHDC continues to be involved in the housing portion of disaster recovery, they work closely with FEMA and CEMA. Primary role is to work with community action agencies in the flooded area's to watch evolving needs, secure additional case management resources from FEMA and CEMA and making sure no one falls through the cracks.

Question about where data is stored? United Way 211 collects data.

Salvation Army added that they do ongoing case management from past floods

Lutheran Children and Family Services is the lead agency and then subcontracts to regional lead agencies for the case management

Salvation Army is the lead agency in mid Missouri

Catholic Charities is a lead agency in southern Missouri

HUD published information on how ESG funds can be used in disaster situations

Metric 4: Percent Increasing Income

Metrics 4.1-4.6 Metrics around earned and unearned income

Factors-

St. Jo is doing a good job w/ getting people jobs but difficulty having clients keep them bc they don't have the skills or life skills to keep them

Wheels to Work in Springfield was started to address panhandling, offers rides to the Career Center for Job Readiness or to a Day Labor site where they can be hired the day and then have opportunity for long term employment. Challenges have been with their local transportation system bc they have to be there at 5:30AM but the busses don't run then.

### Childcare issues

SOAR – discussion about bringing folks into housing who aren't on benefits but don't want to engage with them. Missouri was a SOAR designated state but unsure what that status is right now, Brooke Dawson with DMH is not here today to give an update. Request for information. Brief discussion about history of SOAR and it's purpose. Struggles with turnover with staff. Discussion about need for a full time staff member to be SOAR trained and have that be their primary job duty.

KC is trying to put together a unified application discussion that it would be great for state agencies to work together to have similar process – No More Red Tape website for Governor Greitens is taking feedback via the website

Review of CoC data for St. Charles from these metrics

Discussion and feedback on their metrics

First time running this data, plans to run it quarterly

Discussion about importance of having average length of stay for clients

Discussion about need to work on data quality

Did add some data elements that she wanted to have in addition to the metrics

### Old Business:

Funding updates – will get an update from Jenni Miller with MHDC when she is back on the call  
NOFA and allegations are scheduled to go to the commission on Sept 7<sup>th</sup> and post shortly after, deadline is still TBD. Anticipate due dates for end of October, early Nov but that is still just a guest

### New Business:

Updates from NAEH conference

Randy wants to thank Evie and Heather Bradley Geary who coordinated the Hill visits

Evie updated group on the visits they had

Evie shared that they had a little mini house prop that had homeless stats printed on it that was well received

Letter that opposes Housing First was signed by 12-15 senators that was sent to Secretary Carson – Evie will send out to the group; no Missouri senators signed this document

Really enjoyed a 2 hour session with HUD w/ question and answer and was good to reminded that they have the same goals as our local communities do – to help and people

There was some good session and discussion on human trafficking issue

Jenni Miller wanted to acknowledge Dustin Allen who was a presenter at NAEH – session was on system change in the Balance of State, a panel w/ Nebraska and South Dakota (or South Carolina). Nebraska has a great Coordinated Entry system w/ participation from community action agencies, getting close to declaring

### Member Announcements:

National Action Week of Housing

Week of July 24<sup>th</sup>

-Empower Missouri went to see Sarah Graff in Senator Blunt's office in Columbia and also hosted a press conference from Wilkes Blvd Church who hosts a drop in center Turning Point w/ press

Tour of veterans residents in ST. Louis w/ Salvation Army w/ elected officials

-MCDASV had a soft launch of their new website and did social media posts with stats through the week

Latisha Tigue wanted to acknowledge and congratulate Gary Busiek on their partnership with the Urban League on the new City Empowerment Center in Ferguson, MO

Empower Missouri is hosting their annual conference this year Oct 5 and 6 on food and housing insecurity for low wage workers, lots of good speakers

Donna Cash – shared information on the 2017 funded McKinney Vento communities; list is available on their website

Jennifer Carter Dochler mentioned a new national website to address housing and domestic violence needs, web site is Safe Housing Partnerships @ [www.safehousingpartnership.org](http://www.safehousingpartnership.org)

Next Meeting:

September meeting falls on Labor Day, got feedback on skipping the month vs. scheduling for another date; will send a Doodle Poll to see if people can attend on Monday, 9/11 instead