April GCEH Minutes

Welcome/Introductions:
In person: Jennifer Carter Dochler, Dottie Kastigar, Joselyn Pfliegior, Ivy Doxley, Liz Hagar-Mace, Sandy Wilson, Amy Bickford (proxy for Vickie Riddle), Michelle Garand, Adam Boondifick, Penny Williams, Alice Stever (proxy for Dena Sikoutris), Rosanna Parker, Brandi Sutherland, Sarah Parsons, Randy Sharp, Alyssa LaVelle, Katie Burnham Wilkins

On phone: Tammy Walker, Edwin Cooper, Jack Lipin, Donna Cash, Chaunceia Mayfield

Coordinated Entry Presentations and Discussions:

* Joplin CoC Coordinated Entry project presentation
* BoS CoC Coordinated Entry pilot projects
* Discussion with participating agencies on what they have learned, challenges moving forward

Joplin

Tammy Walker presented a PowerPoint (will send PowerPoint slides)

Cover all of Jasper and Newton county

Modeled a lot of their project after Indianapolis

Discussion/questions for Joplin:

Q: What is different about the “wait list” with Coordinated Entry

A: There are some people on the bottom of the list that take forever to get to

Q: Who is responsible for documentation?
A: Staff at referring agencies and Shonna – both help out ; challenge bc there aren’t enough case managers but helpful that Shonna has regular contact w/ most people on By Name List

Q: On DV prescreen are they doing a short cut – are they looking at trafficking

A: Yes, they are looking at everything, but they ask specific DV question re services

Q: Are you also scanning all info for DV clients

A: It depends on what the client wants; no one has refused to put their info into the system

Q: What is the purpose of the list if Shonna is the person who decides who goes into what housing?
A: She wasn’t clear, they use the VISPDAT to determine who is on the top of the By Name List, and adopted HUD’s suggestion on how to rank by vulnerability – so she uses the tool and puts the list together based on the score and then pulls by score. Use a Housing First approach, so income is not a factor.

Q: Are they meeting as a continuum to staff the By Name List?

A: Yes, they do case conference their veteran By Name List; the list just happens to run through Shonna’s office. They do not case conference their non veteran By Name List, Shonna makes referrals.

 Q: If you had flexible funding for prevention and diversion how would you use those funds?
A: Lots of people on the cusp of getting evicted, they do have some funds for evictions but the funds aren’t always flexible w/ their guidelines. So more prevention with evictions that had a faster process on administering funds. Comment that at a recent DV conference, a community presented on their success with flexible funds from a private donor, specifics: 1) folks needed to access money quickly and 2) really think about it broadly, one woman was having trouble getting a job bc of a very visible tattoo that her abusive partner had done to brand her, they used the funds to help her remove the tattoo, which would help her gain employment.

Q: Where do they track their outcomes? In HMIS?

A: Yes, some things are tracked in Service Point but she has multiple spreadsheets for people that are taken off the list and tracking if they get housed on their own. Their By Name List is in Excel and not in Service Point/HMIS yet. Sandy checked with Michael at ICA, they have been focused on getting Springfield Coordinated Entry into Service Point and are now focusing on getting Joplin up to date and getting By Name List entered into Service Point.

Q: What type of documentation demonstrates homelessness?
A: Letter of verification from family, Joplin follows HUD guidelines for documenting homelessness. Discussion about difference between self pay at a motel vs. an agency paying for the motel stay bc there is no shelter available.

Q: Just wanted to comment how helpful it is to have ID/documentation up front, allows housing to happen more quickly once a housing unit is open.

A: They agree in Joplin

MO BoS CoC Pilot Project

Coordinated Entry Network Initiative (CENI)

Alyssa Murphy LaVelle and Sarah Parsons with MHDC presented PowerPoint (slides will be shared via email)

Region 8 and Region 10 in MO BoS CoC are participating in CENI

They are using a module called Call Point inside Service Point to show where referrals are coming from – all regions will be able to use this module for at least a while (it is an annual expense).

Roxanna Parker w/ Pettis Community Partnership in Region 10:
Originally brought everyone to the table – had 50-60 agencies participating, but focus ended up getting narrowed to literally homeless, chronically homeless population

Region 10 covers a 9 county area

There are 2 doors into Coordinated Entry:

Northern Door: Pettis County Community Partnership

Southern Door: West County Community Action Agency

1 hotline for all of Region 10

Referrals are to either Northern or Southern Door and then they preform the prescreen and VISPDAT, are added to the prioritization list which is generated in Service Point/HMIS, collect documents up front (id, verification of disability)

United Way funding allows them to purchase documents up front (birth certs, etc.)

Case conferencing every 2nd and 4th Tuesday with major players and state level partners – Probation and Parole, Department of Corrections, Department of Mental Health, etc.

Sarah commented – selling point for state agencies to participate was discussion that their staff spend a lot of time calling around looking for housing and this diminishes that time spent by creating a system for housing in the community

Q: DOC calls are daily, what is the next highest referral/caller?

A: The rest DSS, DHSS, DMH are all pretty close, frequent communication; local food stamp office has a sign w/ info about intake at Pettis County Community Partnership

Q: What is prioritization list like?
A: Typical list is 6-10 people on the list at a time

Q: What is your focus population?
A: Current prioritization list/By Name List focus is: unsheltered/literally homeless; chronic homeless – try to help other populations through prevention and diversion

Brandi Sutherland w/ West Ozark Action Community Action in Region 8:

Region 8 is a 9 county region
1 door at West Ozark Action in West Plains, Missouri

Using VISPDAT to create a prioritization list

Started in Feb 2017, now have 20 people on their By Name List

Monthly meeting is from staff in all 9 counties – usually about 50 people attend

Goals for April and May meetings is to plan for street outreach in each county, educate about what Housing First actually is in rural counties and address ambivalence and resistance to HF

Discussion about engaging health care partners in this process –

Trying to make a clear boundary between the Coordinated Entry staff/part of the agency and the rest of the services the agency is providing at West Ozark Action – bc of case management being so time intensive

Old Business:

* Communications updates
* By-laws mission/vision discussion
* Balance of State Governance – Sarah Parsons shared brief history with new members, that they have been working with a TA provider to establish a governance charter. They have realized that this will take more time than anticipated. If they need a Review Committee for the next NOFA if the governance isn’t set up before then, they may have to rely on GCEH for a review committee as a Plan B during this transition.

Communications:

New list serve through MHDC, reminder to check your junk or spam folder

By-laws mission/vision discussion:
Dottie shared document with old GCEH Mission and Vision statement and a sample from the state of Nevada, but bc we are short on time today, we will defer a discussion until the May meeting.

Balance of State Governance:
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Follow up:

* Agencies send info to Sarah on what data they currently collect around housing/homelessness
* Follow up needed from today’s meeting

Discussion about state performance measures around data. How do we measure progress as a state? Encouraged committee members to share their favorite collected data.

New Business:

* May topic – State performance measures for ending homelessness
* General update and announcements

Jennifer Carter Dochler shared that she found out there was a new subcommittee on Boards and Commissions where they were to hear testimony on boards to include GCEH. Jennifer talked with the staffer, the subcommittee is looking at reducing how many boards and commissions exist (especially if people are paid to attend, reimbursed for mileage, etc.). Jennifer testified on behalf of the GCEH committee, they asked questions about how often we meet, mileage reimbursement, purpose of meeting, are there Governor appointed positions, is there a separate statewide homeless coalition that does similar work, wanted to see Annual Report, etc. Jennifer sent the requested documents – last report to Governors Committee, last Point in Time count data, etc.

Agency announcements:
Empower Missouri requested we forward a sign on letter, will send through list serve

Alyssa mentioned as follow up to the conversation today, their TA will be doing 5 on site trainings and invited people to attend – and info will be going out via email. Should help us to better coordinated between CoC’s.

Chaunceia Mayfield shared that the Larry Rice New Life shelter in St. Louis closed, information on where clients are staying:

Men are at 1415 North 15th Street, Far Street Division Building

Women are at 12 and Park through Recreational Center

St. Louis City and County emergency task force is looking at how to address the issue temporarily and long term.

Brief overview of the issue: New Life Evangelistic Center that was in downtown St. Louis in the City, there had been concerns over last two years about the condition of the building, occupancy code violations and was closed due to these issues last Sunday, 4/2 at 5PM. The St. Louis City and County CoC came together to address the issue. Larry Rice plans to appeal this decision and correct the issues. Should be housing only 39 residents and they had 200 residents residing in the building.