

February 2022 DAC Meeting Minutes

2/9/2022

Members present: Kim Sanders, Thomas Montaglione, Courtney LaCaria, Joann Markley, Melissa Corzine, Shamika Agbeviade, Mary Ann Priester, Megan Coffey, Sydney Idzikowski

Guests present: Branden Lewis, Erin Nixon

Members absent: Anna London, Maya Marshall, Anisse Puryear (on leave), Vickie Craighead-Davis, Hannah Stutts

The committee reviewed the December meeting minutes; motion to approve by Melissa, seconded by Shamika. No objections. Minutes approved. The DAC welcomed Sydney, who is taking on Justin's seat.

HMIS Sub-Committee Report

Mary Ann gave the group an overview of the January subcommittee meeting; during the meeting, Shamika shared helpdesk data, the group looked at the most recent MCAH invoice (note that we are under-spending), and looked at the new proposed Policies and Procedures. The subcommittee also talked about action planning for the year and how we can center race equity in data practices.

Note that the subcommittee does still need a Chair – we are proposing changing the policies to allow non-DAC members to join the subcommittee. The Chair will still need to be a member of the DAC. Mary Ann will send the P&P to the DAC so that everyone can review and comment.

System Performance Measures

Kim went over the SPM PowerPoint with comparison to benchmarks and the group discussed whether each benchmark was still accurate and attainable.

- **Annual counts** (total people homeless): numbers increased this year; Courtney asked if decreasing capacity is really goal as we do not want to increase unsheltered numbers. Tom agreed, adding that we are trying to increase capacity so are we going against our own goals by benchmarking a decrease? Erin asked if the beds are being utilized and are we seeing a decrease in unsheltered counts? Mary Ann noted that these questions make sense, but HUD wants to see our annual counts decrease because that would be indicative of reducing total homelessness. The group decided to keep this benchmark at a **5% reduction**.
- **First Time Homeless:** We are seeing an increase in first time homeless numbers, however we believe this may be Covid related. The DAC decided to keep this benchmark at a **5% reduction** in first time homeless numbers.
- **Length of Time Homeless:** We are still seeing increases in LOT compared to last year. Joann noted that the market is very tough right now for rentals. The DAC agreed to keep this benchmark at a **3% reduction**.
- **Exits to Permanent Housing:** There are concerns about the tight rental market and increased rental rates. The DAC decided to keep this benchmark at a 10% increase for street outreach and a 5% increase for other projects.
- **Returns from Permanent Housing:** Overall, the 25% return rate is the same as last year. Mary Ann wondered if the returns in less than six months are due to rapid exits or short term

subsidies that were unable to sustain on their own. Joann stated that Roof Above does have short term (three month) subsidies but they can roll into other projects for up to 12 months. Kim noted that many of the returns in this time category are exits to friends/family. Per Joann, some landlords have become less tolerant of certain behaviors and are becoming harder to work with. Some people are starting from scratch when it comes to household management skills; are more services needed? The group would like to look at the whole cycle of exit to returns, though Shamika noted we would need to collect better data on why they are returning. Joann agreed, saying it can be hard to tease out when looking at aggregate data. Mary Ann noted that prior living situation and reason for leaving fields should be there, but the missing piece is the journey from housing to return to homelessness. Perhaps more qualitative data can be used on a subset of the population? Are additional drop-down questions an option? Joann also wondered how many exits to family/friends on a permanent basis are legitimately permanent; Megan respond that CE is more likely to select to permanent that temporary. The DAC decided to **table the returns benchmark** for now.

- **Changes in Income:** Increase in income for stayers remained roughly the same as last year; the group reiterated that earned income is difficult to keep track of. The DAC decided to keep the following benchmarks: a 2% increase in employment income, a 3% increase in non-employment income, and overall **increase of 2%**.

CoC Performance Reports

The DAC looked briefly at HUD produced CoC performance reports for Mecklenburg, North Carolina, and the whole of the US. Kim input the link to the reports in the chat so that members can look at them more in-depth.

Next Meeting

The next DAC meeting will take place March 9, 2022.