June 2023 DAC Meeting Minutes

June 9, 2023

Members present:, Kim Sanders, Joann Markley, Shamika Agbeviade, Titiksha Fernandes, Megan Coffey, Melissa Corzine, Sydney Idzikowski, Stephanie Shatto

Guests present: Branden Lewis, Erin Nixon, Katie Church

Members absent: Anisse Puryear, Ron Clark, Thomas Montaglione, Kathryn Firmin-Sellers, Mary Ann Priester

April Meeting Minutes

April minutes were reviewed. Melissa motioned to approve, with a second by Titiksha. No objections, motion passes.

Bitfocus Transition Updates

Erin discussed recent progress in our transition to Bitfocus; the County HMIS team continues to meet with Bitfocus staff twice weekly. Project configuration in the new system is now complete, and data will soon be moved to the live site. After this, we will begin the testing phase. We will learn more about reporting in upcoming trainings.

System Performance Measure Updates

Kim reviewed the rolling SPMs, with a data period from June 2022 through the end of May 2023; this encompasses part of the previous reporting period as reports must be run for a year. In looking at length of time homeless, it was noted that while there are small increases in measure one, there continue to be large increases in measure two, which includes prior living situation. Joann noted that affordable housing plays a role. Kim asked if the group thinks data quality issues are an issue; Joann and Sydney both agreed. Joann noted data quality issues likely have occurred every year though, so it doesn't necessarily explain the increases. Megan pointed out the competitive housing market, while Joann noted that landlords have more power now, and they do not want to deal with vouchers and inspections.

In looking at returns to homelessness, Melissa noted that many system leavers are not able to sustain payments on their own. Erin added that the CoC is trying to implement more transfers from RRH to other RRH projects.

The annual count is also increasing; Stephanie noted that many people who come to Giles do not touch the system elsewhere and can contribute to higher counts, and also that Room in the Inn increased capacity compared to last year.

In looking at increase in income, increases for system stayers continues to remain low. Stephanie noted that this continues to be a data quality issue, as cash income changes frequently. Joann added that the current system is hard to use to record income updates.

The tight rental market was also mentioned in regard to increases in the first time homeless measure, exits to permanent housing, and retention of permanent housing. Joann also noted that 50% of their RRH clients are now taken from CE and seem to have more barriers to housing. Katie added that people

who hit a rough patch but transition well to RRH are often successful, while some who are coming from CE have greater challenges. Regarding retention of PSH, Joann stated that if a client is evicted, it has become harder to move from one unit to another due to lack of affordable housing and fewer landlords willing to accept a voucher.