

Indianapolis Continuum of Care

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Interchurch Center

Meeting began at 9:03 a.m.

Welcome and Year in Review:

Phil Smith – We've done quite a lot since then. The perspectives in the document are mine. Bottom line is that our organization did a lot in 2014. It provides the structure of our governance charter and elections. It highlights our participation, which is the lifeblood of the continuum. It goes through meetings and committees. People have said they are still confused about the structure of the CoC. That's because it is still in flux. We are getting new people involved.

NOFA

PATA did a great job of creating transparency during the NOFA and the project selection. Some successes: we've had a 20 percent improvement in housing stability, increased utilization rates, created a new vulnerability index, and started a coordinated access pilot.

Committee Updates

Community and Education Policy: Matt Holland –

Proposal 291 is in front of the mayor. The engagement center has been put in to a fiscal proposal. We did some restructuring in our committee. We created a policy document. I would like to give the committee members a round of applause.

Planning and Investment: Jeremy Turner –

We have created the funding matrix and hope it improves the quality of service. We are hoping to bring in more faith-based organizations and a re-entry service provider. We are waiting for the gaps analysis.

Housing and Services, *Coordinated Entry*: Christy Shepard –

There are two organizations involved in the pilot of Coordinated Access. Horizon House and HIP are putting new clients through an assessment and hoping to link them up with best services after sending them through a common assessment. We will look at data in a few weeks and will work on shoring up the process.

Housing and Services, *Housing Task Force*: Karin Thornburg –

We have created a new vulnerability index and measures of vulnerability do not just include medical conditions. We have started addressing the concern of moving people from the streets in to isolated housing and are looking at creating project-based housing. We are also hoping to move people out of housing if they are stabilized to get more people in to housing. A Tuesday housing group meets weekly. This group tries to match clients with housing. We housed 141 people last year and we have additional 29 in process. We are placing 14 people in housing per month. There are 136 people on the waitlist. We receive 5 new applications per week or 20 applications per month. There's a deficit of 6 applications per

month. Jenni White staffs a transitional housing group. That group is educating people on trauma-informed care. Colleen Gore staffs the family homelessness workgroup.

Housing and Services, *Family Homelessness Workgroup*: Colleen Gore –

We started in the summer and we were at capacity and we could not meet the needs. We've been working on collecting common data, trying to pull in other agencies, and we are working to be prepared to meet the need this summer, and are also looking at rapid re-housing and hotels. We meet on the 2nd Tuesday of every month from 2:30 – 4 p.m.

Housing and Services, *Services Taskforce*: Christy Shepard –

Services is looking at the gaps in the system. They have brought 2-1-1 to the table and have helped move through the system. They are hoping to locate other resources in other townships outside of Center Township so people can be better served in those areas.

PATA: Christy Shepard –

NOFA will drop in the summer. We know it will not drop before May. We have dates set for Presenter and Ranker trainings. To be able to score these you'll need to attend one of those trainings. Presenters are highly encouraged to go to training sessions. We've added CoC 101 trainings which will provide information to individuals seeking funding among other information. Amy Nelson has stepped down as committee chair. CHIP will handle the logistics until a new committee chair is named.

Blueprint Council Elections

Phil Smith – Seats are up for election. We are asking for folks to serve on a committee and help with elections. We will draft people if we need to do it.

2015 CoC Activities

Phil Smith presented the upcoming Continuum of Care activities. Phil Smith explained that there are more activities this year including committee meetings and to communicate with committee chairs on future meeting dates.

Facilitated Discussion: HMIS Rubric

Eric Wilka presented on the rubric used for the upcoming NOFA and HUD guidelines.

There was discussion about what was presented during Eric Wilka's presentation.

It was explained that during the draw down rates, organizations can switch from fair market housing to individual. This can impact draw down rates, but you cannot switch back once you have switched over from fair market housing.

An attendee suggested that if you are working with people who earn income, it may also impact your drawdown rates.

It was noted that the standards on chronically homeless ; a majority of folks coming through domestic violence doors are not chronically homeless. It was asked that PATA consider that distinction moving forward. The question was then posed: Do we look at creating specific sub-populations and how much do we draw down in to these sub-populations?

Other points of discussion:

- People that are chronically homeless are on disability; very few will be employed.
- VAWA residential programs will have youth aged up to 24. They would have individual youth over 18, but would not be considered a family. How do we align federal guidelines better along federal guidelines?
- In Transitional Housing, HUD asks people to hold a job and increase income. In PSH, people are asked to maintain.
- Goal is to decrease people's dependence on benefits, but we are being penalized in transitional housing by HUD's goals.
- Some clients may increase annual income, but may be off-season. There isn't a way to gauge that increase.
- It was asked how there can be a push back against HUD. How to get income and look at different points of income?
- PATA has adopted a form to allow applicants to explain process that they would like to change. HUD has established means to report changes that we would as a community would like to see. Eric did remind everyone that if a method is prescribed by HUD that it has to be followed.
- It's important for people during their Community Review presentation to explain why their numbers may not look as good. Christy added that the process was established a year ago. Numbers don't always tell the whole story and that you are dealing with people. This is why input is critical.

HMIS Post-Discussion

The room was divided into self-selected groups of 6-8. These groups were asked to discuss three points in small group format then share with the large group.

- Name one new or important piece of information you learned/heard today.
- One area of clarification needed before the CRP day.
- One priority area for the community to consider for the 2015 NOFA

Group 1

- Name one new or important piece of information you learned/heard today about HMIS.
 - Strategies to ensure we don't give money back to HUD
 - 141 people were housed; this data was pulled using HMIS
- One area of clarification needed before the CRP day.
 - When the rubric numbers will be available for those scoring.
 - What the actual numbers will look like on our forms and what the criteria is.
- One priority area for the community to consider for the 2015 NOFA

- Rapid re-housing and permanent housing with a focus on families and sex-offenders.

Group 2

- Name one new or important piece of information you learned/heard today about HMIS.
 - HMIS does not reflect the data that show the true impact of our programs.
 - We want to figure out a way to measure program elements and client outcomes in addition to HUD standards – how do we do this?
- One priority area for the community to consider for the 2015 NOFA
 - We need a continued forum to make structured community decisions throughout the year.

Group 3

- Name one new or important piece of information you learned/heard today about HMIS.
 - There is a fairly simple and accurate way to track income in HMIS.
- One area of clarification needed before the CRP day.
 - Understanding the specific timeframe for the data being pulled on the HMIS rubric.

In closing, Christy Shepard thanked everyone for their attendance and mentioned that there has been discussion at the Blueprint Council to ensure there are more meetings and learning opportunities for the continuum in addition to the annual meetings scheduled.

Adjourn – 10:30 p.m.