

Coordinated Entry

July 6, 2015

Attendance: Lauren Rochester, Kay Wiles, Alan Witchey, Kelsie Longway-Vince, Karin Thornburg, Leslie Kelly, Michael Butler, Sharon Stark, Cal Nelson, Jeremy Turner, Paul Harris

Meeting began at 12:03 p.m.

Introduction

Group members introduced themselves.

Who were we assessing?

It was reiterated to group members that the data collected only for clients new to Client Track.

Kelsie said the staff at Horizon House did not feel that doing an extra assessment was worth their time or the client's.

Sharon echoed Kelsie's sentiment. Sharon added that this pilot was about referrals and people already know where to go. This tool needs to be adjusted for housing.

HUD's requirements

Leslie asked what HUD's requirements are for Coordinated Entry.

Michael said HUD requires each Continuum's Coordinated Entry system to have equal access to programs and services regardless whether it is by phone call or in person.

What tool should we used?

Leslie asked if there was a way to do this without creating another tool.

Sharon said the housing prioritization tool in the alliance coordinated assessment packet would be an effective tool.

Collecting data

Leslie also asked if there any HMIS reports available to identify data gaps and can we bring Wheeler's data out.

Leslie pointed out that everyone has limited staff and collecting redundant data is not an organization's best use of time. Michael agreed with not creating more work for organization's staffs.

Who should be involved?

There was discussion about involving community centers in coordinated entry.

Leslie said for us to accomplish something we need to have all players. Michael said HUD requires ESG-funded programs to be at the table. ESG acts as operational funds for emergency shelters.

Housing tool

Sharon said there needs to be a tool to assess the type of housing people need and the housing prioritization tool would be able to complete that assessment.

Alan said the tool needs to be compatible with HMIS and it needs to be simple.

Jeremy added that the tool needs to be a part of the application process.

Creating better organizational outcomes and aligning outcomes

Kay said there's been rumors around the community that people coming from shelters are high-barrier. Jeremy said it would be interesting to know how many people in the community actually are high-barrier. This tool would allow people to access the right type of housing.

Leslie said better fits might lead to better outcomes.

Cal said all organizations would have to be aligned so a person coming out of an emergency shelter such as Wheeler would be able to find the best for them. He added that cooperation would lead to savings across the system.

Jeremy suggested having MOUs in place. Jeremy added that we have a long way to go to align organizations and ESG funds because organizations use them for a multitude of things.

Meeting with city and ESG grantees

Michael said he will reach out to Erica and Courtney at the city and request a meeting with them and the ESG grantees.

Leslie suggested meeting the city before meeting ESG grantees.

Jeremy said we won't get everyone to attend without the City on board.

Michael added that HUD requires ESG to be involved in Coordinated Entry.

Leslie asked how organizations can make it work when they have to work with both the city and federal departments and each has their own separate agenda.

Michael said that this committee and this continuum should not be adopting, but should be setting the priority and direction. He added that this group can use HUD/Coordinated Entry as leverage to get people to attend the meeting.

Questionnaire

Kay suggested using Lilly Funds to create a questionnaire to figure out housing prioritization. Karin suggested using Laura Littlepage to create a survey.

Jeremy said this tool could help inform the investment strategy.

Wrap-up

Alan asked if we would have a pilot or if we go full scale. Alan reiterated the next steps to meet with the city, find a tool, and then implement tool with a pilot. The tool needs to be compatible with HMIS.

Group members decided to make sure coordinated entry focuses on housing. And that we need to get ESG providers to sign on to use the CoC housing application and Vulnerability Index.

Michael said he will reach out to Courtney and Erica and then send out a doodle poll. Michael will also send out the ACA Housing prioritization tool.