PA-509 Data Management Outcomes Committee

MEETING MINUTES

MEETING TIME	January 21, 2016, 10:30AM – 11:30AM
TYPE OF MEETING	PA-509 Data Management Outcomes Committee Conference Call Conference Call Information - 1(855) 750 - 1027 Access code: 560646
FACILITATOR	Madra L. Clay, Committee Chair

__Committee Responsibilities:__

The Committee is responsible for conducting and coordinating research into the characteristics and needs of homeless, or at risk of homelessness individuals and families. It will review the availability of housing and services, conduct gaps analyses, provide data to the CoC, and make recommendations to the CoC to encourage potential areas of change/ improvement. In this capacity, it oversees all data collection and use of data within the CoC. This includes, but is not limited to: ensuring compliance with HMIS regulations and compliance with the CoC's data quality plan, privacy plan, privacy policies, and Standard Operating Procedures, and recommending changes to the board, as necessary.

Mission Statement: To maximize available data resources in order to reduce, prevent, and end homelessness in the Eastern PA Continuum of Care Collaborative (CoC).

Vision: To establish performance benchmarks in PA HMIS to help the Eastern PA Continuum of Care Collaborative meet its goals.

I. Welcome/ Introductions: Madra Clay, Committee Chair – meeting called to order at 10:33 a.m.

Attendees:
Madra L. Clay, Homelessness Program Manager, Data Committee Chair
David Weathington, PA HMIS Administrator, HMIS Lead Agency
Brian Miller, PA HMIS Consultant, HMIS Lead Agency
Joseph Artiaco, Lehigh Valley Center For Independent Living (SSVF)
Joni Bussler, YWCA Williamsport (Northern Tier)
Dawn Vioral, Cumberland County Housing Authority (Central Valley)
Lisa Day, Family Promise of Monroe County (Pocono)
Weston Brehm, Columbia County Housing & Redevelopment Authorities (Central Valley)

Not Attended:
Maria Garlick, Clinton County Housing Coalition (Northern Tier)
Kristine Blasco, Community Action Committee of Lehigh Valley
Carol Gordon, Family Service, Inc. (South Central)

II. HMIS Technical Assistance

We had planned to schedule an in person meeting with the committee and TA provider agents, although due the timing of when this would have occurred we felt as though to bundle this meeting with several other items during the holiday season would not generate enough attendance. We will be reviewing our HMIS implementation to identify specific HMIS areas that need addition TA request and will request HUUD TA at a later date.

III. Governor's Veteran Challenge

Challenge took place between 10/22/2015 – 12/31/2015 where 695 Veterans were housed during this time period. I was noted that none of the HMIS data from the Balance of State was used for this challenge. Although, the BOS CoC is taking part in the Vets @HOME TA, which will use HMIS and the VA data system to collaborate and utilize a Veterans Master List.

IV. Veterans @HOME Technical Assistance

A Veterans subcommittee has been developed and has met once already to discuss how the CoC will move forward in ending Veterans homelessness. One of the first items that were discussed at the meeting was and will result in a Veterans Master List of those Veterans currently experiencing homelessness.

a. Veterans Master List

Part of this list will be pulled from the HMIS system from Emergency Shelter, Transitional Housing, and Safe Haven projects. This data will then be copied over to a VA Master List Template that will also include veteran data from the VA Medical Centers, Grant and Per Diem, and TIP.

i. HMIS Data Privacy concerns

The current privacy agreement relates to the rights that a client must give consent to have their information shared among participating agencies. Currently the HMIS database has a 75% of clients fully sharing their data. The percentage of veterans that elect to not share their data would not have any of their personal identifiers shared, although they would be added to the list based on their HMIS ID and Organization where they receive serves. The goal is to have an outreach worker with a participating agency be able to contact the agency where the veteran is and have that agency talk to the veteran to encourage them to allow their information be viewed on this master list so that they can be connected to the right services for additional housing services.

ii. HUD VASH Programs

It was brought the meeting that there are several Housing Authorities that do not have a Veterans preference for the housing waitlist. It is not an issue of Housing Authorities not being a HUD VASH recipient; rather the concern is a lack of knowledge around the homeless definition used for Veterans.

HMIS is now used by the federal partners and their respective programs in the effort to end Homelessness, which includes:

- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)
- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
- U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

The definition can be found at the following location:

HEARTH "Homeless" Definition Final Rule

The other concern is the understanding of who is considered a Veteran, as the

SSVF definition refers to a Veteran using the following criteria:
- A person who served in the active military, naval, or air service, and who was discharged or released there from under conditions other than dishonorable.
- The period of service must include (at least one day) service in active duty for purposes OTHER THAN training.

The Veterans Affairs and the Department of Veterans Affairs definition following criteria states:

- The term "veteran" means a person who served in the active military, naval, or air service, and who was discharged or released therefrom under conditions other than dishonorable.

V.   HMIS Reporting

a. Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR)

The summary reports for the AHAR will be posted to the Point In Time (PIT) page of the pennsylvaniacoc.org webpage.

All Persons Data
5 out of the 6 categories were marked as useable for the 2015 AHAR submission for PA-509. The following areas will need to be review and assessed by the data committee:
- 44% Bed Coverage rate of emergency shelters service single individuals; we will be looking to address this issue through research methods to find ways to bring on Non-HMIS participating agencies.

b. Point in Time (PIT) - The point in time will be January 27, 2015 the sheltered data will be generating through PA HMIS this year.

  c. Housing Inventory Count (HIC) – online surveys are collected for bed and unit configuration. For the clients enrolled in the participating agencies in PA HMIS for RRH and PSH data is pulled.

  d. 2014 HMIS Data Standards

    i. Chronic Homeless Definition/ Reporting

    Updates have been made in the PA HMIS system to all reports and forms to the latest algorithm.

    ii. System Performance Measures

    These measures are currently being updated in the system with the latest release from HUD.

VI. Coordinated Entry

Next meeting of the taskforce is on February 3, 2016 and will provide an update at the next meeting as well as any information will be added to the CoC committee webpage.

VII. CoC Plan

Reducing homelessness;

Providing a Plan to meet benchmarks;

System to review and monitor programs;

HMIS participation – developing talking points to help with engagement.

Next Meeting Thursday April 21, 2016

Meeting adjourned at 11:22 AM