

## **GCEH MC2 Meeting Notes – 2.4.19**

### **In Attendance:**

Phone: Randy Sharp, Tammy Walker

In-Person: Dottie Castigar, Liz Hagar-Mace, Jennifer Carter-Dochler, Sarah Parsons, Amanda Stadler, Tammy Laws, Amy Bickford

### **Statewide Homeless Study- MHDC**

Every 2 years MHDC contracts for a statewide study on homelessness- this year the contract was awarded to Home Base. MHDC anticipates the study will be released fall of 2019. Based on feedback, the 2019 study will have a few updates to make it more user friendly, including the addition of raw (aggregate) data, reviews of System Performance Measures, and an executive summary for the state and each CoC. Home Base will be reaching out to CoC leads regarding access to HDX information and interviews

### **ESG Written Standards - MHDC**

MHDC has completed written standards for Homeless Prevention and Rapid Rehousing. Their ESG Administrative team is now fully staffed, and they will be reaching out to CoCs for input regarding Street Outreach standards. Group discussed how CoCs are utilizing written standards:

- Balance: using as a template for own standards
- Joplin: haven't specifically utilized yet
- Springfield: adopting standards without additions
- St. Charles: using as a template for own standards
- St. Joe: using as a template for own standards
- St. Louis: using as a template for own standards

### **Veteran Innovation Task Force - MHDC**

Missouri Veterans Commission has created a task force to research components of serving Veterans. Sarah Parsons is on the housing sub-committee and has reached out to CoCs to gauge level of activity across the state. Most CoC's have a Veteran-specific group. Eventually this information will be presented to the Governor. Sarah will keep this group updated – Katie Burnham Wilkins is also on the housing sub-committee.

- St. Charles shared that their Veteran numbers have increased with the launch of CES and that they see challenges with different VA and CoC boundaries.
- There are Veterans who cannot be served by SSVF/VA because of discharge status or cannot document status. Group mentioned that some folks could have lost records in a fire in the records department in St. Louis in the past.

### **Point in Time Count - Group**

Group discussed successes/updates from this year's PIT. Many felt that the weather negatively impacted the count, but that they had good engagement with individuals they could count.

Ideas for outreach:

- DSS for survey volunteers
- VA outreach workers to accompany outreach volunteers

- Health Departments
- Transit Authorities – St. Louis and KC use busses as mobile warming centers
- Mo-Dot/Highway Patrol- information on camps they have identified (Balance found this helpful)
- First Responders
- St. Charles shares information about CES when doing outreach to hotels/etc- this changes the conversation since you are providing a resource.

#### Weather impacts

- Discussion focused on how to communicate cold weather numbers – even though sheltered numbers may increase, it is only because the crisis cold weather shelters were open so people weren't camping or the cold forced people to find other options (doubled up etc.)
- Group is also curious to find out if count/outreach were more effective because people were more willing to engage because of cold.
- Joplin – still had campers, but had media coverage and included Project Homeless Connect with count.

#### Data Committee – MHDC

Group has met twice and is comprised of CoC leads and HMIS Lead Agencies – they have had good discussions.

- At the last meeting they brainstormed on ways to make the reporting process for funding requirements easier- Is there a better way for MHDC to ensure that agencies are entering data and report that information – there are often errors in submitted reports. (Could this be improved by training?)
  - General consensus of group was that this is a responsibility related to data quality and it falls back to funded agencies.
  - MHDC will host ESG focus group this spring or summer- this might be a good time to process through this.
- Group discussed desire for more communication of funding awards/grantee performance between MHDC and CoCs – several CoCs are not always aware of who is awarded funding and what they are funded for. This can complicate system planning – from consistency in HMIS to being aware of resources and understanding how they are being utilized.
  - Group realizes that this looks different across the state and the struggle is to balance a communication method that will work for all CoCs.
  - MHDC would like to find a consistent way to collect data across all funding sources, to have that data submitted on a regular basis, and find a way to share information with CoCs (including spending/compliance information)

#### Parking Lot Agenda Items

- Case Management Standards – case management vs. intensive case management vs. housing navigator
- TA around medical marijuana for shelters