

Arlington's Action Plan to End Homelessness
Data and Evaluation Committee Meeting Minutes
September 10, 2019

Present: Kathy Paal – Doorways, Logan Alley – B2i, Terrance Toussaint – A-SPAN, Quincy White – VOA, Dana Murray – New Hope Housing, Ahmad Haj Ali – DHS/HAB, Lucy Yohn, DHS/PSH, Michael-dharma Irwin – QA Manager/DHS

I. DHS Data Quality Initiative

Michael-dharma Irwin gave some background on the DHS Data Quality Initiative, which is an effort to look at equity across programs in collecting data. HMIS has good data quality but it is not capturing language. Michael-dharma asked if we could capture it in HMIS. Ahmad replied that it is on the demographic page but not required, but that it is an easy change to make it required.

Starting October 1, all agency staff and administrators should fill out the language field in demographics in HMIS, which is *the language we serve the client in* (not necessarily their first language). This will follow the LEP policy of making sure we follow client's preferred language.

II. FY19 CoC Report Card

Ahmad thanked the committee for submitting data, noting that there were a couple of programs (not present) who did not submit data for annual reporting. He reminded the committee that it is important to submit all three reports: APR, Data Quality and Bed Utilization Rate, for each program.

The System Performance Measures are newly added to the report card with the same fiscal year as the County (as opposed to HUD fiscal year). The committee discussed the recidivism measure. It measures returns to homelessness within 6, 12 and 24 months of people who were placed in permanent housing. Overall last fiscal year, out of 342 people exited, 59 came back into street outreach or emergency shelter – 17%.

It was noted that employment rates were lower across all program types. For noncash benefits, Ahmad let the group know that Extended Day does qualify as a noncash benefit for families.

III. PIT Planning

The committee vote on changing the time of the PIT Count was put on hold last meeting due to the need to bring it to the Executive Committee. Now that that has been done, the Committee held a vote. A vote to change the PIT Count time to 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. only was held and it passed unanimously.

Ahmad brought up that last year, the chronically homeless numbers in PIT were reported as too high. Errors cost us points on the HUD application. Ahmad asked all shelters to validate chronically homeless and veteran status before submitting data to PIT.

IV. HMIS ETO Updates

2020 Data Standards

New 2020 HMIS Data Standards will be coming out and the estimated deadline is November. There will be new questions or new wording in questions in the HUD Assessment, but it is uncertain what the changes will be. The changes will impact the 2nd quarter HMIS reports.

New User Interface

Outside agencies are all using the new user interface. Because of some technical issues within DHS, DHS programs all went back to the old user interface. Ahmad encouraged the outside agencies to continue to use the new interface.

V. HMIS CoC Refresher Training

Ahmad suggested that the HMIS CoC Refresher Training be postponed until after the 2020 HMIS Data Standards are finalized. At that point, there will be a mandatory training for staff and agency administrators.

VI. HMIS Feedback

No additional HMIS Feedback was noted.