SMAC Governing Board Minutes

June 20th, 2023

1:00-3:00

1. **Introductions**

*Which value do you think is most important to move SMAC forward in our work?*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| ***Value*** | ***Number of Votes*** |
| Accessibility | 8 |
| BIPOC Representation | 1 |
| Diversity | 4 |
| Lived Experience | 6 |
| Other (Data Collection) | 1 |

1. **Wilder – Wilder Study**

Information about the survey is [**available for review here**](https://www.wilder.org/mnhomeless/about).

Information about the survey (for Service Providers (may be in line with the information we reviewed during this meeting)) is [**available for review here**](https://www.wilder.org/mnhomeless/get-involved/service-providers).

Have previously worked with County leads

County leads – Please email Rebecca Sales (email incl here: rebecca.sales@wilder.org) to identify that you are the person to connect with for a respective county in SMAC.

Since 1991, Wilder has completed a homeless study every 3 years (last completed in 2018). Work alongside a variety of representatives from government, industries connected to homeless-dedicated services, and continuums (agencies comprising CoCs).

October 26th 2023 will be this year’s survey – anyone residing in shelter (incl. DV shelter) and folks experiencing unsheltered homelessness are included, along with those who are couch-hopping doubled-up. Comprehensive survey to generate a variety of longitudinal trend lines. Utilize this information to prepare and provide reports on populations experiencing homelessness across MN, along with the policy implications for these varying populations.

Conversations in 2020 & 2021 identified the need for postponement due to COVID and work instability/barriers to continuity. Data that comes out of this study is really important but is also founded on relationships with agencies and the folks accessing services with or through these agencies. Acknowledges that the challenges of COVID persist, but needing the data and information from this study is contributing to the return of this, along with establishing a barometer to track impact of programming passed in latest legislative session.

Will be engaging with various providers throughout the coming months to determine coverage and where we need to support outreach activities specifically for the completion of the count.

Participant Stipend: $10/responder

Exploring what a PIT Count / Homelessness Study Combo could look like – could these activities be completed together?

Changes this year:

* Reviewed questions to ensure applicability and tie directly to data being tracked longitudinally. Removed questions and reworded or clarified a significant portion of other questions.
* Thorough review of the questions to ensure that they’re trauma-informed. Will work to support the training process to also include elements of best practice.
* Reviewed with the Minnesota Tribal Housing Collaborative and received feedback about wording and input on new and existing questions.
* Wilder will promote a telephone interview option to providers as an alternative to having their own staff or volunteers interview in shelters. This may be especially useful in scattered site shelters, and county office staff in regions in greater MN
* Wilder will increase efforts to recruit interviewers for sites in greater MN.
* Wilder provides counts reports and detailed data tables for each CoC region or counties, as well as greater MN vs. Metro. Seeking to offer more “data parties” after the 2023 study.
* Seeking funding to offer these targeted data provision efforts
* Hoping to be available to us to respond to questions and heed feedback throughout planning and roll out of the count
* Provided a thorough overview of the areas where this data (or reports) is used.

Timeline

* (May – June) Working on drafting a list of sites – emergency shelter, shelter voucher programs, transitional housing, and DV Shelter sites
	+ Confirms with CoC Coordinators to review site lists and provider contacts.
* (June – July) Wilder gathers and confirms participation details directly from all programs (sites)
	+ Connects directly with staff at these sites to determine how many folks they expect to serve, whether they need support doing interviews, how best to contact folks, etc.
* (August – September) Wilder develops plans to interview people not in shelter (w/ others!)
	+ CoCs, advocates, and Wilder develop a plan to find and interview folks not in shelter
* (Sept – October) Preparing for Count and Completion of Count

Training

Will be offering a live, Zoom (or other, online format) training and will seek to record them to offer them for ongoing purposes

Willing to potentially coordinate for existing meetings with providers to offer live trainings

1. **Director’s Council & Coordinated Entry updates**

DC is working on revising the Coordinated Entry Assessment questions. Focused on making the experience less painful on those being assessed. Seeking to ensure that the questions align with needs for data collection, and that there can be more opportunities to explain why the questions are being asked. Their feedback is being provided to the Coordinated Entry workgroup. Focused on areas where assessors can support connectedness to other resources in addition to an addition to CE, hoping to support a connection to some resource (local food resources, shelter access info, etc.). Hoping to have a new draft for us to review and provide feedback around in the coming months. Anticipating that this will be available for review in July with a potential vote needed in August.

1. **NOFO**
	1. *GIW*

This was released, sent to providers via targeted outreach by Laquita. Many providers have responded, but there are still some who have yet to respond. Additional outreach will commence around that. This usually serves as the precursor to the release of the NOFO.

* 1. *Who Submitted the LOI? & Who didn’t?*

LOI Responses for Existing NOFO Providers have started to come in. There has been at least one provider identifying that they do not intend to respond to this.

(*Laquita will be resending some iteration of this message*): “Any renewal project wishing to apply for Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Continuum of Care (CoC) funding in the 2023 FY HUD CoC competition must **complete the**[Intent to Apply](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fsmacmn.us17.list-manage.com%2Ftrack%2Fclick%3Fu%3Dbfe3dca1e4d660b82c519897e%26id%3Dffad43feec%26e%3D58ca76df0e&data=05%7C01%7Cpgoldstein%40co.scott.mn.us%7C61522a864d4641b0353e08db661169f9%7C39599519020d41f18539387d21bf24ec%7C0%7C0%7C638215998046060741%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=eRkVVew6Jj4Iokx3I1El%2BZPUiB73CW7dI4BVepZZqpM%3D&reserved=0)**and submit to the CoC** by End of Day**June 19th**. Your project will not be eligible to apply in the FY23 competition if you do not submit this form by the deadline.”

There will be opportunities to recruit new providers to participate in this year’s process. Laquita will be providing an updated overview of the funding available to assist in these solicitation efforts.

*Providers missing a response* (follow-up needed):

* CommonBond
* Tubman – Laquita will follow up with them, as staff frequently working alongside Laquita is on leave
* Carver CDA – Jen will follow up with them
* (Laquita will follow up with them) MHR
	1. *Scoring Tool*

Laquita reviewed the tool with us and provided an overview of the recommendations that will be going to the Monitoring and Evaluation Committee (M&E Committee). The intent is for these recommendations to be reviewed and discussed by the M&E Committee, and then those recommendations will go back to the Governing Board for further vote.

Reallocation: We have traditionally outlined priorities and communities of service in prior solicitations. Will need to create something similarly this year.

1. Action Items/Next meeting
	1. Monitoring and Evaluation -If you have not given your availability via the doodle poll please do so today 😊
	2. If you’re interested in joining the M&E Committee, please email Laquita with your interest - laquita@mesh-mn.org
	3. Match Discussion Continuing – There is a need for a match to be offered for the NOFO Planning Grant. Will be seeking cash and in-kind contributions for the Planning Grant. After this year, SMAC will be requesting cash contributions from communities for the Planning Grant. This has been a source of general disagreeableness or concern in the past, so would be unsurprised if an ask centered around supporting this conversation follows.