SMAC Committee Meeting Minutes

10/8/2020

9:00- 10:30 AM

Attendance: Abby Guilford, Peter Goldstein, Matt Lewis, Hope Inman, Kabao Lee, Doreen Farrell, Jen Romero, Rachel Bauer, Natalie Engelmann, Sydney Schewe, Alyssa Paulson, Sheena Addis, Heather Duchscherer, Michele Reid, Chu Xiong, Angela Feller, Latrisse White, Linda Hall, Patia Thao, Bill Church, Brittany Clausen, Dana Dumbacher, Leshae Carter, Liz Moen

1. Directors Council Recruitment- Annual recruitment
   1. Background info: The Directors Council shares ideas and experience with the Coordinated Entry process
      1. Looking for up to 12 members- we have 5 existing members currently
      2. They meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday’s of the month from 4:30-5:30 pm
      3. Visit https:www.smacmn.org/directors for more information and email Liz or review contact information on the website for interested candidates
2. Racial Equity in CES
   1. Preface for the data: SPARC Recommendations from June
      1. Racial breakdown equates the total population within the state
         1. Data is coming from ICA (Point in Time) and HMIS
         2. Inconsistent data entry across the Continuum
         3. Washington County is completing all of the Step 1 within the Continuum
         4. Data from PIT is counting all individual and HMIS will be counting households
      2. Feedback from data: The two samples are very alike; they do not reflect who we are serving; dramatically different breakdowns for families vs. singles- curious as to what is driving that; BIPOC is incredibly low to the homeless populations; we need to increase our services to represent who we are actually serving; interested to know representation of those accessing shelter related to race; this data mirrors MN population closely
      3. If we feel like we are missing people, how will we capture the need? Do we use Step 1? Or getting access to the Priority Pool?
      4. Question asked to the committee: What action would you take to further racial equity based on the data?
         1. Responses:
            1. Eliminate access barriers
            2. Figure out what the main access pain points are
            3. What are the youth providers doing to be more effective with assessing youth singles and families?
            4. Explore if there are disparities in who is getting through the full CES assessment and through outreach
            5. Cultural humility training to see if barriers are due to cultural differences
            6. Talk about unconscious bias so people know where the disparities lie so we can target the barriers
      5. Referral Outcomes in Quarter 3: We had more family openings in Quarter 3 than Quarter 2- racial bias was playing into the results of having more White folks accepted than BIPOCs
         1. Responses to the data:
            1. I would want to examine the reasons for denial - not just the cookie cutter reasons, but break the reasons down and dig into the true reason people were denied - somehow.
            2. The disparity on acceptance is extremely concerning, even as it’s not hugely surprising. We need to push providers hard on their denials.
            3. I know that certain programming has particular criteria for entry... How do folks decide this? Does it become a growing bias over the preference?
         2. Interpretation: Urgency for change in acceptance for referrals
      6. CES Exit Outcomes into PH Comparison from Quarter 2 to Quarter 3:
         1. Feedback- What action would you take based on this data?
            1. Prioritize Youth in the Priority Pool-

Recommendations: Explore ways to increase outreach to Native Youth; ensure housing providers and assessors are aware of disparity of folks being deemed “unreachable/disengaged”, and ensure every effort is made before exiting

* + 1. Breakout Group: Liz Moen, Brittany Clausen, Linda Hall, Natalie Engelmann
       1. Providers and assessors need to develop cultural consciousness around cultural stigma
       2. Q: How does that look for you in your work? What if we thought as a community with more standardized questions to providers that we would ask them to use while they are doing in their outreach? Would that overstep our role?
          1. Feedback: We need to learn directly from the community. There has to be some type of real life aspect to the training.
          2. We set up guidelines for interactions once we get a referral but we do not have guidelines for once we are in communication and they have not met with us for an intake.
          3. We should have a collective coming together. We could use the Director’s Council that exists to bring them together to meet twice a year.
          4. We should start from hearing from youth of color voices.
          5. We should also consider prioritizing who’s exiting shelter and how quickly as another voice.
    2. Breakout Group: Michele Reid, Sheena Addis, Lisa (YMCA)

1. Agree once they enter the adult world it can be more difficult to get a housing referral, HUD homeless w/in 90 days or LTH, couch hopping.
   * + 1. Not as adults
     1. Short term shelter 🡪 income 🡪 housed and start with youth to do that.
     2. Intentional in-reach to youth – in adult shelter so they aren’t overlooked.
     3. way to stop the homeless cycle when young.
2. Increase outreach to Native Youth
   1. GO find them, agency specific – list of names in shelter, go hunt them down.
   2. Partnering with agencies with an Indigenous to meet them where they are at.
   3. What agencies are there in SMAC – not specific, some staff identify as Native.
3. Unreachable/disengaged –
   1. Ex – running out of options as youth, tested COVID +, housing provider didn’t give enough time, pushing to get it done, Staff had to advocate for youth for the provider to connect. They wanted to reject and not go further.
      1. Explore all of their situation…no returning of referral when they are actively dealing with health issue. Flexible?
      2. Experiential walk through with CE – some folks with barriers, how would they walk through it.
   2. How far do providers go with contacting active referrals?
      1. Alyssa includes – assessor replies and says they can partner.
      2. Establish strong partnerships between assessors/providers.
      3. Trust and rapport.