SMAC Governing Board Minutes

November 20, 2020

1:00-3:00

Attendees: Abby G, Liz Moen, Ann Lindquist, Betty Notto, Christina Fort, Dan, Dana Dumbacher, Denise Smieja, Doreen Farrell, Eric Gentry, Heather Duchscherer, James Baron, Jen Romero, Kim Lieberman, Matt Lewis, Michele Reid, Rebecca Bowers, Rochelle Washington, Trisha Cummins-Kauffman

1. Introductions

1. Approve October minutes

* Motion Heather, 2nd Dan, Motion Carried

1. Update
   1. Coordinated Entry
      1. Directors Council Demographics

**Population**

* Youth families - 1
* Youth singles - 0
* Adult families - 5
* Adult singles – 2
* Ever experienced DV - 7/8

**Race:**

* White - 3
* Black - 3
* Multiracial - 1
* Native - 1
* Hispanic - 1

**County:**

* Anoka - 3
* Carver - 2
* Dakota - 4
* Scott - 1
  + 1. Chronic numbers for Youth and Families

We are working on ending Chronic Homelessness for Families and Youth, and we are getting close. We had 11 CH Families and 9 CH Youth at last count - and only 1 CH Family did not have a CE referral. All CH youth had referrals.

* 1. SPARC
  + Kalina presented the final SPARC recommendations to Anoka county this month. Dakota will be in December and is working to have the other counties on her schedule.
  1. CHAP
* Over 65 Million in requests. Process has been slow. Working to get applications processed as quickly as they can.
  1. HMIS
* Annual meeting. Gave update on software vendor and reporting tool. They are currently pausing development of new reports. Sabbatical until April.
  1. HUD (NOFA and PIT)
* Nothing official yet on NOFA. But hearing that Heroes Act includes language around programs receiving funding based on the GIW that was submitted.
* Guidance on PIT this week. Expectation is that CoC’s can chose to do the unsheltered PIT count. If we are doing different we need to apply for exception from HUD. There are things we can do to not have to apply for exception including a 14 day period where we can ask people if they were unsheltered on the day of the PIT.
* Counties:
  + Dakota is okay not doing the PIT.
  + Anoka has outreach partners willing to do it but County Staff would not be able to do in person work.
  + Washington has 2 outreach workers going out to do face to face and keep track of numbers of people staying outside. They could give that info. Do not have much capacity to do beyond that.
  + CAP could do observational count
* Abby will reach out after the coordinator meeting next week to those that coordinate the PIT. Goal is to have a meeting in early December to discuss PIT.

1. Governing Board Infrastructure progress report

* Abby will send bi-laws out next week for our review. Bring to local groups. Will vote to approve in January.
* Governing board infrastructure group meets next week.
* Looking to push back change by one month
* Meeting Tuesday the 24th at 11:30 to discuss changes
* If we need to move this back again we will in order to make sure all concerns are addressed

1. Centralized Access Exploration

* The Directors Council is recommending that we have one central place for people to call when they are experiencing a housing crisis where they can get help with problem-solving and assistance with connecting to services and housing.
* Access is a concern in the community
* Changes over last year include revisioning of assessment process and system mapping, elimination of VISPDAT, Priority pool shift, phased assessment, prioritization discussion based on racial equity in homeless response system, implemented new prioritization to further racial equity goals
* Recommendations
  + Prioritize youth
  + Increase outreach to native youth
  + Educate provider community about racial disparities
* Access discussion in Directors council. Would like a system that is less confusing and easier to navigate. Want a better front door.
  + Problem solving
  + Prevention assistance
  + Emergency shelter
  + Housing stab services
  + Low barrier, non-homeless housing
  + Subsidized housing lists
  + Supportive housing
* What changes
  + First call/access marketing
  + Crisis counseling
  + 3 way calling, mobile to meet in person when requested
  + Referral source for prevention, shelter, etc.
  + Housing stabilization consultation (eligibility/person centered plan)
* Next steps
  + Meet with each county with 1-2 Directors council in the next couple weeks
  + Discuss program design at CES Committee
  + Explore funding options

1. County CARES Planning update

* Washington requests – 3 million with 1100 applications. Paid out about 2 millions
* CAP has 15 vouchers for motel block rooms running since January (scott - 5, 10 Dakota) through a Pilot via ESP. We have also applied for ESG-CV2 dollars to add another 12 vouchers, mostly for Carver county. We also have applied to Pohlad for an additional shelter navigator

1. COVID Check in
   1. Local shelter development
      1. What exists that is new since COVID?
      * Hotel models in Anoka, not an increase in capacity. Partnered with Anoka schools to support families.
      * Guidance on shelter/HMIS
      * Washington has 60 rooms, low barrier access. Budget thru 2021 COVID times. Contracted with Stepping Stone.
      * Carver 18 unites funded by CARES Act. End in December. Applying for OEO ESP funds.
      1. What is in development?
      2. How to include new shelter capacity on the HIC?

* Our sheltered PIT count may go up and our unsheltered count may drop and anything we record on the PIT we will need to reconcile on the HIC.  Hopefully HUD comes out with some brilliant guidance so we can understand how one-time capacity impact us long term!
  1. Other COVID programming updates
     1. Any RRH/PH being developed?
     2. Increased outreach?