

Balance of State Continuum of Care Homeless Steering Committee

March 23, 2016 Webinar | 2:00 PM – 3:45 PM

Agenda

- Local reports from attendees
- Subcommittee Reports

Families with Children Committee Report:

The 100 Day Challenge in Cowlitz, Thurston etc. counties. Sheltered diversion served as primary tool to intervene and assist Families with children. It is important to let go, promote self-sufficiency, offer re-engagement opportunities as necessary. Connect clients to longer term services as necessary. There is the Federal plan to end family homelessness by 2020. The 100 Day Challenge should inform the discussion surrounding that federal effort. Survey for what technical assistance needs there are, variation amongst subpopulations and counties. Report from 100 Day Challenge is due at the end of June, will be distributed to offer any lessons learned.

Singles/Chronic Homeless Committee Report:

Use of a vulnerability index to identify most appropriate intervention for clients. What are different strategies amongst counties? Street outreach? In the office? Request that recipients of BoS CoC information distribute that information to pertinent entities within their community/provide contact information to subcommittees so that the information is sent out appropriately. Survey of continuums on technical assistance needs. Lack of PSH inventory, de-emphasis on emergency shelters (from HUD), cause a concern that Singles/CH are left unsheltered because there is not a bridge program specific to that population.

Youth Committee Report

Additional focus on foster care transition (Theresa will introduce potential committee member from DSHS). HUD youth demonstration project - \$33 million for about 10 grantees (4 rural). CoCs apply. Nick will forward webinar information. 2017 will be a big year for counting youth in PIT. HUD will have extra tools and guidance, use 2017 as baseline year for homeless youth.

Veteran Committee Report

Local continuums of care, some grantees and CoCs are only connecting entities with overlapping services for Veterans (SSFV, HUD-VASH, CHG). CE system brings programs together and fills the gaps where needed. Is there an initiative to coordinate services specific to veterans? Commerce is getting technical assistance to assist with focusing efforts on veteran homelessness. Lisa Chapman from Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH) TA provider is heading up that effort. Discussion of Veteran Service Provider summit perhaps at Ellensburg (Craig at HopeSource). Joe Ingram and Veterans Committee will organize the event with Commerce assistance.

- HUD announcement of Tier 1 project approvals/comments on Tier 2 projects

Timeframe for Tier 2 is May or June (hopefully by end of April). Tier 2 strategy was to maximize dollars and saving as many projects as possible. Use bonus funds for programs that would be competitive. HUD wants to be able to announce Tier 1 & 2 before the end of the competition year. NOFA process (2016) may be distributed before Tier 2 (2015) to expedite the application process (goal of 90 day competition). HUD's goal: Spring registration, summer competition, winter announcement. Newly funded projects (not renewals) will slow down the process.

- HMIS - Status of conversion to new vendor/delay in releasing Quarterly Project Performance Report

April 1 Go Live Date

Trainings and paperwork are due to Commerce.

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All Agency Partnership Agreements are due 3/31/16

- Report on status of potential conversion of SSO/TH projects in 2016 competition/CoC Strategy

Several policy changes that decreased the point value of SSO and TH programs making them less competitive in the NOFA process. Some of these programs will switch to a more competitive program type depending on NOFA policy. 2016 likely to be very similar to 2015 process.

Importance of 'transitional' housing programs=> Bridge Housing with low barrier/housing first characteristics. There is a need for/nuance surrounding a family experiencing homelessness that needs to have RRH paperwork processed.

Four Options:

1. Convert only programs that want to convert to PSH or RRH
2. Leave them alone and rank them by the criteria
3. Adjust their ranking to give them opportunity to be funded
4. Mandate conversion to PSH or RRH

- Brief on SOAR TA and Medicaid waiver

Washington CoC was declined SOAR TA grant because we are further along than other CoCs. Glitches in state budget will hopefully be worked out to allow Medicaid waiver to take place in June.

- Survey on TA needs throughout CoC, provided by Commerce and areas to search for TA.

Small group of committee leads will get together, write survey, distribute to CoC for comment, and administer to entire state.

- Report from COSCDA Program Managers Training

HUD is continuing to emphasize monitoring performance for the CoC. CoCs are required to use project performance as criteria in project ranking for Tier 1 and Tier 2. HMIS bed coverage (for all project types) is also a priority and CoC's with limited coverage will lose points. Snohomish County and Cincinnati join Columbus and Long Beach as only CoCs designated Unified Funding Agencies (UFA) receiving 1.5 percent admin (out of maximum 3 percent). A Coordinated Entry notice will be out this summer. HUD is working on a final ESG rule (not many changes). A new HMIS rule will be out in "a few months" followed by three notices (security, functionality and governance).

- [Conference](http://www.wliha.org/conference) on Ending Homelessness in May <http://www.wliha.org/conference>

Next in-person meeting, at conference Wednesday, May 11 dinner time? Nick will email everyone to confirm.

Strong location preferences for in person meeting in August/September email Nick.