

PORTLAND CONTINUUM OF CARE

Wednesday, May 20, 2015

MEETING MINUTES

Present:

Aaron Geyer	City of Portland, Health & Human Services Department, Social Services Division, Home to Stay
Jeff Tardif	City of Portland, Health & Human Services Department, Social Services Division, Family Shelter
Cindy Namer	MaineHousing
Vickey Rand	CHOM
Norm Maze	Shalom House
Ginny Dill	Shalom House
Jon Bradley	Preble Street
Chet Barnes	SAMHS

I. Introductions

Aaron welcomed everyone and brief introductions were made.

II. 2015 PIT/HIC Submission Update

Cindy stated that it has all been submitted. Once her team gets the data back, they will work on presenting the data to everyone.

III. HMIS Data Quality Implementation Plan Update

Cindy discussed the Data Quality Implementation Plan. All the data needs to be backfed from October, referring to the email from Clif regarding what reports to run and how to go in and update the data. She pointed out there are currently 6,000 records that are missing data; the only data fields missing are the new fields. According to the letter-grading system, Portland 7 and SSVF are the only programs without Fs. Cindy stressed that this is needed for the NOFA; if the data is not entered in time for the NOFA, reporting may not be accurate for the CoC application. Vickey stated a lot of the errors are just HUD UDEs (Universal Data Elements) with a few Bowman glitches, not necessarily all user error.

On May 22, a new report will be run to see how the data is being fixed; followed by May 28. The team discussed giving all agencies the drop-dead date of June 1.

Cindy reminded everyone the Governance states data reports will be pulled quarterly and distributed to push programs to increase their quality data so there is no yearly scramble. Chet stated that the projects committee is ready to move forward with what they have developed, but would like more input from the Portland CoC.

IV. HMIS Data Quality Implementation – New HUD Directives

Cindy discussed the HUD TA session and reviewed the system changes and policy briefings. TA used to just be there for guidance and support, but is now more directive and pushing what is necessary to ensure funding is kept intact. TA did suggest we move to one statewide CoC, as it is system performance-based, not just by program. Even though Portland is separate, they still impact the entire CoC system in the state. The five-year plan for HUD will include program funding shifts, including prioritization of Long Term Stayers and most vulnerable: Get them into Permanent Housing; if no Permanent Housing is available, get them into Rapid Rehousing.

Be creative in what you need to do to get people into permanent housing. There should be no waiting lists, with a 30-day benchmark to get people housed out of shelters. Maine, on a whole, the average length of stay is 66 days. We need to set benchmarks to the 30-day requirement. Chet pointed that if we don't set the original mark, we can't just move it.

Decrease any and all barriers to programs, barring possible injury to self and others.

Future NOFAs will focus on system performance, not just program performance, including monitoring findings and spend downs. If they are not spending in one area, the funds need to be shifted elsewhere.

Transitional housing is still on the chopping block, as it is not a wait list for permanent housing. Even programs that are not HUD-funded; if they are not performing, it needs to be addressed.

Cindy pushed that a leadership group be established in the Continuum to reach the HUD benchmarks. Bowman has 6 months to get them into the HMIS system.

Self-pay

Rapid Rehousing should be pushed harder than transitional housing. Transitional housing and consumer-choice are also big topics. Chet stated BRAP is changing its approach to focus on recovery as a PSH with no time limit.

System performance measures guide (big 7); you need to couple performance measures for them to work correctly. CoCs should use this data to compare themselves to their own community, not others, to set their own benchmarks.

Those not participating in HMIS are still on the hook. Money can NOT be a barrier. Performance measures will be out by July.

Cindy stated that TA can now talk to us during the NOFA process, but can't give us an edge over any other CoC. How this is handled will be discussed by the Leadership Committee (this group will be involved, as well as Cullen and Betty). Jon stated that Joanie will be taking over for him.

Ginnie stated that a group attended a Coordinated Meeting in Manchester, NH. Vickey stated that HUD is pushing the "system" idea as the entire CoC, as they impact each other. New Hampshire has been working on this since the original HEARTH Act and cross CoC barriers to work together as an entire system.

Cindy addressed the topic that organizations want to lock down fields. She stated this is against what the data sharing initiatives.

HMIS billing needs to be addressed next month and this needs to be on the next agenda. Jon asked that the scenarios be sent out (see attached).

V. 2015 CoC Application Update

Norm addressed the application this week. He suggested a committee be established to help City staff with the burden. Krista will send out an email with a NOFA checklist.

Amy Pulaski will be handling the Betterment Fund and Aaron would like her to meet everyone at that meeting.

The next meeting date to discuss the NOFA and Betterment Fund will be June 3, 2015 at 10:00 at Shalom house.

VI. Mainstream Resources Committee Update

Aaron asked for volunteers to take this on. He said they have always struggled with numbers, so there may be no point in continuing. Jon suggested combining multiple trainings. Norm suggested sending out notices of other trainings in the area, and asked if that would count as the requirement. Aaron said yes, but there need to be attendance sheets showing who was there.

VII. Other Business

None at this time.

Next Meeting:
June 17, 2015
10:30 AM – 12:00 PM
REFUGEE SERVICES CONFERENCE AREA
190 Lancaster Street

Please contact:
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Social Services Division
at 482-5131 or
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if you have any questions