HMIS Committee Meeting
April 12th, 2023 – 10:00am – 11:00am Eastern Time

Attendees: Jim McShane (CareerSource), Eric Layton (BBCoC), Broderick Seabrooks (BBCoC), Jeannine Fier (City of Tallahassee), Ariel McPherson (City of Tallahassee), Mandy Bianchi (Ability 1st), Jackie Fortmann (Ability 1st), Kim Blan (Ability 1st), Tamika Fields (Family Promise), Melissa Bourcier (Family Promise), Derek Hubble (Family Promise), Eleanor Vliek (Family Promise), Tracie Simmons (Catholic Charities), Taketha Branton (Catholic Charities), Gina Dozier (CCYS), Jacara Wright (CESC), Ron Evans (CESC), Kia Troupe (ECHO), Danni Hickey (International Rescue Committee), Horace Thompson

1. Welcome and Introductions
- **Jim McShane** called the meeting to order at 10:02am.

2. Recap: 2023 Point in Time (PIT) Data
- **Eric** presented a brief explanation/definition of Point in Time and a report showing our most recent PIT data, with comparisons to years going back to 2009. In our 2023 PIT data, which recorded all client data for the night of Monday, January 23rd, BBCoC recorded 414 persons in Emergency Shelter, 118 persons in Transitional Housing, and 269 unsheltered persons, for a total of 801 total homeless persons on that night. This was an uptick from previous years data (621 persons for 2022), which in the last 2 years had less total volunteer turnout due to the COVID pandemic. This year, more volunteers allowed us to canvas more homeless encampments and survey more clients, so the jump in client numbers does not necessarily indicate an increase in total homeless individuals in our community.

3. Presentation: 2022 System Performance Measures
- **Eric** presented a look at our CoC-wide System Performance Measures, which looks at performance of all agencies through HUD's 6 measures of performance. This presentation can be found on the BBCoC annual reports page (https://bigbendcoc.org/annual-reports/):
  - **Measure 1 - Length of Time Persons Remain Homeless**
    - 2023 saw a notable drop from 2022 in length of time clients spent in Emergency Shelter. While 2021 and 2022 national average data is not yet available from HUD, BBCoC has

historically trended lower than the national average in this category (which is great), and forecasts this will continue.

- o **Measure 2 - Returns to Homelessness**
  - 2023 recorded an overall 6% return to homelessness from all program types within a 6–12-month period, which is below the 9% national average.
- o **Measure 3 - Total Number of Persons Homeless**
  - Over the last 5 years, we have noticed a downward trend in our total homeless count, however, as noted in our PIT section above, 2023 saw an increase in PIT count, which is attributed to higher volunteer turnout, allowing us to survey more homeless individuals.
- o **Measure 4 - Jobs and Income Growth**
  - 2023 showed that 75% of all homeless clients remaining in the system at the end of the reporting period (stayers) increased their total income (an increase from 52% in 2021). National average data for this category was 38%. In addition, 40% of all homeless clients who left the homeless system during the reporting period (leavers) increased their total income. National average data for this category was 33%.
- o **Measure 5 - First Time Homeless**
  - While over the last 5 years, BBCoC has recorded a significant downtick in first-time homelessness, 2022 showed an increase of 298 new homeless clients (1194 in 2022 vs. 896 in 2021). We attribute this uptick to increases in national average rental prices, and the lifting of the COVID eviction moratorium, which caused a significant number of individuals to lose their homes. This uptick is reflected in nationwide data trends as well.
- o **Measure 7 - Successful Housing Placements**
  - This measurement had an error in its data, which caused a significant downtick for 2022. While historically, BBCoC has shown a 70-80% permanent housing placement rate from street outreach, 2021 and 2022 showed a stark downtick to 24%. This data is incorrect, and was caused by one of our street outreach representatives erroneously entering and exiting clients on the same day for each contact – each with an exit destination of "returning to homelessness". Typically, street outreach clients should have their program entries kept open until they are placed into housing or shelter, or leave our community. The CoC data team is working to correct this data, which will be resubmitted with updated numbers during our 2023 submission (in early 2024).

4. New HMIS Feature: Mobile HMIS App for Clients

- **Eric** reported that an exciting new feature is coming "soon". The CoC is working with our software vendor, Wellsky, to test a Mobile HMIS app for clients to enter their demographic and homelessness history. We anticipate this will help to save anywhere from 5-10 minutes PER CLIENT during program intake processes. In addition, this mobile app will allow clients to present a digital ID card, which can be scanned at HMIS-participating agencies, allowing the client record to be pulled up immediately, and reducing/eliminating duplicate client record entry.

5. Community Partner HMIS Concerns, Questions and Comments

- **Tracie Simmons (Catholic Charities)** asked if this information can be emailed to everyone. Eric reminded everyone that the information will be made available on the CoC annual reports page for public download.
- **Eleanor Vliek (Family Promise)** asked if there was a date when the new HMIS mobile app will be available. Eric mentioned that this is still being internally tested by Wellsky, and training materials/announcements will be made available in the coming weeks.

6. Adjourn

- **Jim McShane** adjourned the meeting at 10:54am.

Upcoming 2023 Committee Meetings: June 14, August 9, October 11, December 13