

HMIS Committee Meeting

October 11th, 2022 – 10:00am – 11:00pm Eastern Time

Attendees: Jim McShane (CareerSource), Eric Layton (BBCoC), Broderick Seabrooks (BBCoC), Lovena Basquin (BBCoC), Micha Allen (BBCoC), Jackie Fortmann (Leon County), Kimberly Davis (Ability 1st), Markeisa Tassy (Ability 1st), Ashlee Barbel (Apalachee Center), Halle Bush (Brehon), Jeannine Fier (City of Tallahassee), Robyn Wainner (City of Tallahassee), Diovionne Clifton (Catholic Charities), Taketha Branton (Catholic Charities), Gina Dozier (CCYS), Gwynn Virostek (CCYS), Regina Flowers (CCYS), Emma Jones (CESC), Megan Duncan (CESC), Nick Maddox (Family Promise), Alyssa Westmoreland (Family Promise), Derek Hubble (Family Promise), Kescia Troupe (Family Promise), Denise Thomas (Family Promise), Marie Vandenberg (Family Promise), Amy Ingraham (Family Promise), Jaquandra Bess (Family Promise), Shileatha Washington (Family Promise), Tamika Fields (Family Promise), Kiamani Troupe (ECHO), Horace Thompson

1. Welcome and Introductions

- **Jim McShane** called the meeting to order at 10:01am.

2. Recap: FY2024 HMIS Data Standards Updates

- **Eric** provided a quick recap of HUD's changes that took place in HMIS at the beginning of October. These changes include:
 - **Client Full Legal Name** is no longer required (unless required by the program funder). Clients may provide a "preferred" name instead. While this is HUD's guidance, the CoC still strongly urges agencies to collect client full name, to avoid potential for client record duplication.
 - **Client Social Security Number** – Clients may now provide only the last 4 digits of the SSN. Just like the legal name, the CoC still strongly encourages everyone to collect the full social, as this helps to prevent client record duplication.
 - **Race & Ethnicity** have been merged into one single data element, so if a client identifies only as Hispanic, they are no longer forced to

select another race. In addition, a new race option has been added for “Middle Eastern or North African”.

- **Gender** options have been reworded. “Female” has been changed to “Woman, Girl if child”, while Male has been changed to “Man, Boy if child”. “Gender Other than...” has been changed to “Non-Binary”. “Cultural Specific Identity” has been added, as well as an option for “Different Identity” with a text box to add additional detail if clients do not identify with the available options.
- **Exit Destinations** have had headers added to categorize temporary and permanent exit destinations.
- **Living Situation** has been updated from “Approximate date homelessness started” to “Approximate date *this episode* of homelessness started” for clarity.
- **Translation Assistance Needed** has been added to identify clients needing translation assistance, and what language.
- **Ethnicity, Wellbeing, Last Permanent Address, and Worst Housing Solutions** have been retired.

3. Preview: 2023 in review, and CoC-wide Annual Reporting Results

- **Eric** provided an early, sneak peek at a few of our 2023 Annual Performance Measures. Not all measures are available for reporting yet, and these numbers may change slightly due to data quality cleanup. HUD’s due date for this data is late-February of 2024.
 - **Measure 1: Length of time persons remain homeless**
 - Our CoC shows a continued drop in this measure since 2020, indicating our emergency shelter and transitional housing agencies are working to move clients on from homelessness to temporary or permanent housing solutions. This measure shows an average of 112 nights homeless for ES and TH providers, down from 120 nights in 2022. The national average for 2022 was 158, so our community is significantly below the national average.
 - **Measure 3: Number of persons homeless**
 - This metric utilizes our Point in Time (PIT) data to measure total number of sheltered and unsheltered homeless clients in our community.
 - Since 2018, we have seen a year-over-year decrease in this metric, until 2021, when this number started to increase. This was expected, due to increases in national average rental prices, and lifting of the eviction moratorium, and trends with national averages.

- Our community saw 1846 total homeless individuals in 2023, up from 1693 in 2022.
- **Measure 5: Number of persons homeless for the first time**
 - Similar to Measure 3, we have seen a continual downward trend in this measure until 2021, when the number began to increase. Again, this is due to national rental rate increases, and the eviction moratorium lifting, which caused our community to see 1376 people become homeless for the first time this year, up from 1194 in 2022. This trend agrees with the national average.
- **Eric** encouraged everyone to check out the [BBCoC website](#) for the latest updates to our [data dashboards](#). These dashboards provide breakdowns to the total number of clients served, by race, gender, ethnicity, chronically homeless, veterans, DV survivors, and many other factors, in addition to housing rates, increased income, household composition, and lots of other data, which truly showcases the amazing work of our community partner agencies.

4. HMIS Jeopardy

- We played a game of HMIS Jeopardy, which showcased some of the topics in our recent Annual HMIS recertification training, HUD's recent HMIS data standards updates, data quality, and general HMIS knowledge. **Gina Dozier (CCYS)** won the game, with **Jackie Fortmann (Leon County)** taking second place. Gina won a \$25 Visa gift card as her prize.

5. Community Partner HMIS Concerns, Questions and Comments

- **Taketha Branton (Catholic Charities)** asked if clients disappear and are not available for an exit interview from the program, will this count as a data quality error. Eric explained that while we encourage following up with clients after the exit (to determine their destination and reason for leaving), we will not penalize anyone for selecting "unknown/disappeared" and "No exit interview completed".
- **Gwynn Virostek (CCYS)** asked if the uptick in number of homeless clients is being compared to other like-sized communities. Eric explained that there are resources available online (not specifically our own CoC's resources) that compare to similar-sized CoCs, and other CoCs in the same state. This data will be made available after our data is submitted to HUD in early 2024.
- **Em Jones (CESC)** asked about the "Approximate Date *this episode* of homelessness started" question, and what constitutes a break in the homelessness for chronically homeless clients. For example, Em had a client who was hospitalized for a time, and Em asked if that period still counted as

homelessness. **Jackie Fortmann (Leon County)** said she believes that does count as a break in the homelessness status of that client if the hospitalization was for more than 90 days.

6. Adjourn

- Eric adjourned the meeting at 10:52am.

Next HMIS Committee Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 13th, 2023 - 10-11am