HMIS Committee Meeting

June 11th, 2025 – 10:00am – 11:00pm Eastern Time

Attendees: Jim McShane (CareerSource), Eric Layton (BBCoC), Broderick Seabrooks (BBCoC), Johnna Coleman (BBCoC), Micha Allen (BBCoC), Ciara Tucker (BBCoC), Robyn Wainner (City of Tallahassee), Jackie Fortmann (Leon County), Mandy Bianchi (Ability 1st), Madison Heck (Apalachee Center), Artemis Dove (Brehon), Diovionne Clifton (Catholic Charities), Taketha Branton (Catholic Charities), Tamika Fields (Family Promise), Red Caloca (Family Promise), Victoria Alvarez (Family Promise), Saline Mendelsohn (Family Promise), Justin Barfield (CCYS), Larry Gallien (CCYS), Megan Duncan (CESC), Horace Thompson

1. Welcome/Call to Order

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

2. Final Point-in-Time Count Results

- **Eric Layton** presented the final results of the 2025 Point-in-Time count. These results did not change from those presented during our last (April) Board and Membership meeting, but we were unable to present the final numbers until HUD opened their reporting website/tool for data validations.

- This year's total number of individuals and households served shows a decrease from last year. However, this decline reflects data limitations rather than a reduction in community need. Specifically:

    o Some programs elected not to participate in HMIS during the count period, which impacts the accuracy of our regional data, affects System Performance Measures, and limits our ability to fully demonstrate need for HUD funding.
    o Additionally, some programs did not utilize their full bed capacity at the time of the count, which may further underrepresent actual availability and service levels.

- A notable decrease in the number of individuals identified as chronically homeless (from 209 to 139) is not tied to housing placements, but rather to the absence of data from a key provider no longer contributing to HMIS or opting to participate in this year's count. As a result, many individuals likely served are not reflected in this year's count.
- In summary, while some figures may appear improved on the surface, they do not present the full picture. Continued efforts to strengthen HMIS participation and optimize bed utilization during future counts will be essential for accurate reporting, effective advocacy, and equitable resource allocation.
- The full 2025 Point-in-Time Count report, along with a 5-year comparison, are available on the BBCoC website.

3. Potential Coordinated Entry Assessment Replacement – HAST

- The CoC is initiating a discussion around transitioning from the SPDAT assessment tool, which—despite its long-standing use—has raised concerns related to length, intrusiveness, trauma sensitivity, and potential bias. In many cases, the SPDAT's scoring does not align well with actual client outcomes or housing needs.

- As an alternative, the Homelessness Assessment and Solutions Tool (HAST), developed by Social Data Analytics in New Zealand and piloted in U.S. communities like Allegheny County, PA, offers a data-driven approach. HAST uses existing HMIS data and predictive modeling (not surveys or interviews) to identify individuals at greatest risk of future homelessness.

- Early comparisons show that HAST has stronger predictive validity than SPDAT, more clearly correlating risk scores with future homelessness and mortality. It also significantly reduces staff time and subjective bias during assessments.

- A meeting with Social Data Analytics and WellSky is scheduled next week to explore logistics, integration options with Community Services, and model training using our local data.

- This represents a significant opportunity to enhance equity, efficiency, and accuracy in our assessment process and improve overall housing outcomes.

4. Upcoming Training: Performance-Focused Data Entry

- Despite strong direct service work across our programs, recent HUD System Performance Measure (SPM) results show no year-over-year improvement, resulting in a score of zero across all SPM categories in the latest NOFO. This isn't due to poor outcomes or inaccurate data, but because the data doesn't fully reflect the impact being made.

- The goal of this training is to align data practices with program outcomes — ensuring that client progress, housing placements, and service success are accurately captured and reflected in our reporting.

- Key reminders to improve SPMs:

    - Shelter programs: avoid daily exits and re-entries — keep clients enrolled unless they have definitively left.

    - PSH/RRH programs: enter Housing Move-In Dates as Interim Updates, not at enrollment. HUD requires this placement to count housing outcomes.

    - Record any improvements in income, benefits, or insurance as Interim Updates to show client progress over time.

    - Annual Assessments are critical for all programs — they demonstrate long-term system impact and are required for HUD evaluation.

    - Exit destinations matter — verifying where a client went can significantly impact measures like housing stability and returns to homelessness.

- These adjustments are simple but essential to strengthening our data, improving performance scores, and ultimately securing the funding necessary to sustain and grow our work.

5. Community Partner HMIS Concerns, Questions and Comments

- **Madison Heck** (Apalachee Center) requested additional training on HMIS referrals. **Eric** expressed that the CoC will be providing training for all HMIS users on HMIS referrals in August. This will benefit all HMIS-participating agencies and providers by being able to view and track inter-agency

referrals and their results (accepted/not accepted, duration from referral to acknowledgement/, and if not accepted, the reasons why).

6. Adjourn

- **Jim** adjourned the meeting at 10:45 am.

Next HMIS Committee Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 13th, 2025 - 10-11am

Additional HMIS Committee Meetings:

October 8, December 10

Previous Meeting Agendas and Minutes can be found on the BBCoC HMIS Committee Page:

https://www.bigbendcoc.org/hmis-committee/