

HMIS Committee Meeting

December 8th, 2021 – 10:00am – 11:00pm Eastern Time

Attendees: Eric Layton (BBCoC), Jim McShane (CareerSource), Broderick Seabrooks (BBCoC), Melissa Bourcier (BBHC), Jo Gewanter (BBHC), Justin Barfield (CCYS), Gina Dozier (CCYS), Chloe Bare (CESC), Kim Ladner (CESC), Tori Callan (Tallahassee Veterans Village), Mike Solomon (BBHC), Sara Ramkissoon (BBHC), Marie Vandenberg (BBHC), Haley Kenny (BBHC), Haley Kenny (BBHC), Greg Downing (Gadsden County), Jennifer Harris (Brehon Institute), Shington Lamy (Leon County), Delmas Barber (City of Tallahassee), Alissea Merritt (BBHC), Micha Allen (BBHC), Juliet Brown (ECHO), Jackie Fortmann (Ability 1st), Regina Flowers (CCYS), Sunshine Scott (CCYS)

1. Welcome and Introductions

- **Eric Layton** called the meeting to order at 10:03 am

2. Provider Descriptive Data Element Updates

- **Eric** informed the committee that ahead of upcoming annual reports to HUD, the CoC will need to update the provider information on file for all HMIS participating projects. This information includes project start/end dates, bed count information, what services are provided by each project. The CoC HMIS team will be sending out emails in the next few weeks to confirm or update the info on file, as HUD's annual reports are coming due in late January/early February.

3. Proposal & Vote: Sexual Orientation Data Collection in HMIS

- **Eric** noted that the CoC HMIS team has received several requests to begin collecting information client sexual orientation.
- **Kim Ladner**, a founding member of the Mayor's LGBTQ+ advisory council, spoke on the merits and needs of collecting this client data in HMIS. Kim also noted that there are grant opportunities for LGBTQ+ housing, and once a baseline has been established for these clients, we can start seeking out this funding to support housing for this population.

- **Eric** noted that while the consideration is to make this a system-wide data element for all projects, answering this question would be optional for clients.
- **Justin Barfield** asked why this data has not already been collected in HMIS. **Kim** answered that this has not been a HUD-required data element, and therefore was not prioritized. Even though it is still not required, HUD is beginning to recognize the importance of collecting this data.
- **Kim** also asked that this question be included on the PIT (Point in Time) questionnaire. **Eric** confirmed this has been and will continue to be included.
- **Jim McShane** called a vote. The proposal passed with no objections.
- **Jo Gewanter** suggested when asking this question, to be trauma informed and to ask this question away from others for the client's safety.
- **Gina Dozier** asked to make sure there would be no penalty or need for data cleanup if/when the client refuses to answer, or if the client changes their answer depending on the assessor or location. **Eric** acknowledged that there would be no data cleanup or penalties, as this question is optional for clients.
- **Justin** asked when this question would go live in HMIS, and if backdating of the data for existing clients is necessary. **Eric** stated this would go live at the beginning of 2022, and that no backdating is required unless individual programs already have the data and wish to do so.

4. Community Partner HMIS Concerns, Questions and Comments

- **Eric** opened the floor to all participants for any questions or concerns.
- **Kim** mentioned that the Kearney Center is looking for a new Data Manager position, and any interested candidates should reach out to her at kim.ladner@cesctlh.org.

5. Adjourn

- **Jim** adjourned the meeting at 10:34 am Eastern time.

Next HMIS Committee Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 9th, 2022 - 10-11am