

HMIS Committee Meeting

February 9th, 2022 – 10:00am – 11:00pm Eastern Time

Attendees: Eric Layton (BBCoC), Jim McShane (CareerSource), Broderick Seabrooks (BBCoC), Johnna Coleman (BBCoC), Jackie Fortmann (Ability 1st), Chloe Bare (CESC), Jeannine Fier (City of Tallahassee), Bret Oglesby (BBHC), Melissa Bourcier (BBHC), Delmas Barber (City of Tallahassee), Ashley Bennett (BBHC), Vicki Butler (CESC), Sara Ramkissoo (BBHC), Justin Barfield (CCYS), Gina Dozier (CCYS), Marie Vandenberg (BBHC HOPE), Haley Kenny (BBHC HOPE), Jennifer Harris (Brehon Institute), Ashley Barbel (Apalachee), Amy Ingraham (BBHC), Tranesia Walker (CESC), Tracie Simmons (Catholic Charities), Alissea Merritt (BBHC), Astoria Harris (Ability 1st), Jude Dugas (BBHC), Alicia Gibson (BBHC), Shileatha Washington (BBHC), Kiamani Troupe (ECHO),

1. Welcome and Introductions

- **Eric Layton** called the meeting to order at 10:02 am

2. Data Quality and Annual HUD Reports

- **Eric** took a moment to acknowledge and thank all HMIS users and agency administrators for their hard work on community data quality initiatives. The two big annual HUD reports (Longitudinal Systems Analysis and System Performance Measures) which provide aggregate community data to HUD are due this month (February). Due to the hard work of our HMIS users, we are ready to submit our data ahead of the national deadline with an error free submission. Great job!

3. New HMIS Data Element – Sexual Orientation

- **Eric** noted that, as voted on during our previous HMIS committee Meeting (December 2021), a new question was implemented in HMIS – client sexual orientation. Eric explained that this question has been added to ensure that all vulnerable populations in our community are served. We are seeing this question being answered by several agencies during client intake, and Eric reminded everyone to be sure to ask this

question during all intakes. This question is optional for the client to answer, however we do request that all HMIS intake personnel make sure to ask the question.

- **Haley** asked if the answers to this question will be reportable in HMIS. Eric confirmed a new report is in the works which will show results of this question, and it will be available in ART (Advanced Reporting Tools) for agency administrators to view. This is estimated to be available mid-March 2022.

4. Community Discussion – Emergency Shelter Diversions

- **Chloe** at Kearney Center uses a custom Diversion assessment which identifies if the client can be diverted from entering into an emergency shelter (and thereby into homelessness). This assessment asks questions such as “does the client have a friend or family member to stay with” and “does the client have money in savings to allow for a hotel/motel rental for the night” among other questions, which help identify potential diversion opportunities. Chloe mentioned this diversion assessment allows them to divert approximately 1 out of 5 clients from entering into the Kearney Center emergency shelter.
- **Eric** suggested making this custom diversion assessment available to all Emergency Shelters CoC-wide.
- **Marie** said they use something similar for their waiting list, and would be interested in this assessment.
- **Eric** shared what the diversion assessment currently looks like so the community can review and ask questions or make suggestions to improve this assessment.
- **Gina** suggested the question “Do you have dependent children” have an additional description, as the term “dependent” has different meanings based on whether you’re talking about tax dependents or wards of the state. Eric confirmed we will review and elaborate on this question.
- **Chloe** followed up that if the client can be diverted, they provide the client info to their diversion specialist who reaches out to the client and provides necessary services (hotel stay, bus fare to stay with friend/family member, etc.)..
- **Gina** asked if shelter providers would be required to use this assessment, or if this will be voluntary. Eric confirmed that while it is encouraged, it is entirely optional for shelter providers.

- **Eric** asked that all questions and ideas for improvement on this assessment be submitted no later than the 25th of February, so we can implement this for ES providers in March.

5. Community Partner HMIS Concerns, Questions and Comments

- **Eric** opened the floor to all participants for any questions or concerns.
- No questions or comments were presented.

6. Adjourn

- **Jim** adjourned the meeting at 10:43 am Eastern time.

Next HMIS Committee Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 13th, 2022 - 10-11am