

Housing Continuum of Care – Bucks County, Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

September 18, 2015

Present: Matt Uhler, Don Detweiler, Rich Aichele, Marti Woglom, Erin Lukoss, Joyce Schug, Tracy Mellor, Stefanie Hendel, Trish Nye, Joelle Pitts, Roger Collins, Deb Neidhardt

Absent: Debra Kirkner, Marlene Piasecki

Minutes of the July 17, 2015 meeting of the Executive Committee (Don Detweiler): Don called for the approval of the July 17, 2015 minutes. Motion for the approval of the minutes was made by Rich Aichele, the motion was seconded by Marti Woglom.

Introductions: Trish Nye was introduced to the group. Trish is working as an intern at Penn Foundation and will be assisting Don.

HCOC-BC / Subcommittee updates (Don, sub-committee chairs):

The outcomes committee met on Sept. 8, their next meeting is scheduled for Oct. 13. They continued to work with the performance improvement calculator and demonstrated to the entire committee how the calculator works. They were able to demonstrate how to look at the costs associated with the types of services that are provided. The calculator is intended to see how changes to things like length of stay might impact the overall system. It is not a decision making tool, but is meant as a way to examine costs associated with multiple variables within the system. Ultimately, this should help the network of providers establish system-wide goals. There is still a need to bring some of the mental health services in to the bigger picture. The group came to a consensus that they would work together to establish a priority waiting list tool. The group also discussed HousingLink outcomes – numbers served as well as time to assessment. The system is back-logged and lacks sufficient resources.

LHOT did not meet.

Data management continues to focus on the homeless outreach survey – scheduled for Sept. 23 - 24. The survey and script are completed and written and the resource guides are ready for distribution. One goal of the survey is to get an idea of how many people would like to know more about the resources that are available to them. The idea is to identify those that need and want help. Data management will have a debriefing meeting on Sept. 24 before the CoC meeting.

HMIS: The PATH program is now in HMIS. Work is being done with Joelle to get the RHY street outreach program in to HMIS. They continue to work on general updates to improve HMIS.

Training: The training committee has looked in to another Bridges out of Poverty training, and has been discussing working with corrections and possibly providing training on how to help transition individuals who are leaving the legal system. There has also been discussion on revisiting some of the previous trainings. Another focus is on keeping people aware of other trainings. In requesting suggestions for other trainings, it was suggested that training be offered on definitions, acronyms, and a general

overview of the system – an introduction to the Continuum of Care (systems overview). This is tentatively scheduled for the November meeting. There was also discussion on what training might be available through the mental health groups (forensic housing, youth mental health, Magellan trainings, etc.).

Local Preference: Over 30 families have been recommended, 3 are pending interviews. 9 more will be reviewed today. Typically, there are some who drop out of the system. For those that stay with the process it typically takes between 6 to 8 from assessment to obtaining a voucher – they then have 4 months to use the voucher. Everyone who goes through the process receives case management.

Timeline for County Residency: The policy is 60 days. This policy was established through the tri-county regional group (Montgomery, Chester, and Bucks). This is an eligibility benchmark in order to move on to assessment. Mental health requires a longer residency threshold. Anecdotally, it's not a large group of people that don't meet the requirement, but this group has not formally been counted. This is not a regulatory policy, so there is room to work within the policy as appropriate.

Behavioral Health Advocate: Joyce asked the committee if there is a need within the CoC/HousingLink system for an individual who is currently doing some work as a behavioral health advocate. It was suggested that there is a need for 3rd party verification for HousingLink. Another need would be in ensuring individuals make it to their assessments.

Discussion of Non Elderly Disabled Vouchers: NED Vouchers are for individuals who are under 65 and disabled. There is a separate waiting list for these vouchers. It is believed that there might be about 150 of these vouchers, and that the waiting list is at about a year and a half. It is confirmed that they are being used. The executive committee would like to get a better understanding of how this system works.

Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR): The end of the AHAR 2015 year is 9/30. Once more information is available from HUD, an email blast will go out in October stating that it is AHAR time and the CoC intends to continue to participate and that organizations will need to work to ensure that we have good/clean data. A draft will likely be due in November with the final information due in December. There will be new data standards implemented.

HMIS: Client Track has updated the inventory system. While not required by HUD, this is something that needs to become part of the policy and procedures of the CoC. Organizations are afforded some flexibility in how they set the beds up in their system. A motion to adapt the new policy (attached) was made by Rich and seconded by Marti (none opposed). This policy will go into effect on Nov. 1.

HAB update: The next HAB meeting has been postponed (TBD). They continue to work on and refine the recommendations that will be made to the commissioners. Some of the initiatives that the HAB might be considering have already been started.

CoC competition: There is no new information on the CoC competition. Marti expects to hear soon and she expects that we should be able to report on local preference in the narrative. BCOC has received their contracts from HUD for rapid re-housing.

Other Notes: Discussion of multi-family service program: they work with landlords and should be notifying us on what units are available and where. Members of the executive committee will work to get more information about this service.

Tracy re-emphasized the importance of making sure that all agencies are on the same page and applying the same standards to clients to ensure equity.

Agenda for 9/24 CoC meeting

- Update on Outcomes
- Outreach Survey
- HMIS Inventory Policy
- AHAR and HMIS Data Quality
- November Training for the CoC (CoC 101)
- HAB update
- Residency Policy
- Local Preference
- Veteran Outreach Efforts
- HousingLink Impact Report and Feedback

Notes submitted by Matt Uhler, Secretary HCoC-BC

Next executive committee meeting will be on October 16, 2015 at 8:30 am in the library at the Neshaminy Manor (Rescheduled for October 26 at 2:00)