

**Minutes for Meeting of the HCCSC's
Coordinated Entry System Committee
August 28th, 2108**

Welcome & Introductions

Scott welcomed everyone at 9:05am and thanked them for attending the meeting. Everyone provided introductions and Joy Brubach, of ICAN Housing, was welcomed to the committee as a formal member.

Approval of Minutes from April and May Meeting

Scott shared that the April and May meeting minutes were approved via e-mail vote and noted that over half of the members voted and all who voted were in favor.

CoC Board Updates

Marcie provided the CoC updates.

The Low Barriers training, originally and tentatively, scheduled to take place on this day with the Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH) had to be cancelled. CSH's schedule was booked and their timeframe for conducting the training was limited per funding.

Marcie also gave an overview of the National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH) Conference which several representatives from Stark attended in Washington DC. There were a few main areas of focus/priorities identified which included the following:

- VAWA and Domestic Violence cases - requirements related to DV and HMIS confidentiality – discussions have begun locally between DVPI and HMIS.
- Progressive Engagement – all conversations, by all staff of a program, should be housing focused.
- Rapid Rehousing – should be a very flexible program – not a one size fits all. Should help clients see beyond themselves from the initial conversations and should only provide assistance for as short of a timeframe as possible.
- Move-On Strategy – there should be regular conversations with clients about moving on – signage should be posted about moving on strategies – everyone should be speaking to clients about moving on. The System Performance Committee will meet with the Quality Assurance Workgroup for their October meeting to discuss this further.
- Dynamic Prioritization – related to scoring and placement of clients and using RRH flexibly across the spectrum of clients (i.e. using RRH even for clients scoring for PSH).
- Racial Disparity – HUD is encouraging continuums to review data including success rates of participants within the homeless system to ensure that the homeless system is not perpetuating racial inequities.

Related to Dynamic Prioritization – there are a lot of outstanding questions and this should be discussed further at the next meeting. Scott agreed to email the presenter at the NAEH conference with questions.

Jennifer added that Diversion was another key expectation that HUD made clear during the conference. She also felt that we may be ahead of the curve in some respects with our current shelter diversion program and prevention program. Bridge Housing was another concept discussed at the conference which involved providing funds to households that are keeping friends who are homeless housed in doubled-up situations in order for the households to continue to house the friends.

One suggestion raised during the meeting was that perhaps we should collect financial information on PSH clients who could potentially be RRH clients.

It was shared that there is a need for improvement in the communication with SMHA on the status of folks on the waiting list for affordable housing/section 8 through SMHA. Lisa indicated that she could assist with this.

A question was raised about whether PATH funding could be used for “Bridge housing”. Other communities are using PATH funding to pay for motels for example for a couple of weeks while a household is transitioning into housing. Natalie shared that she did not believe the Stark PATH program, run by ICAN, had sufficient funding to keep someone in a motel for that length of time but that in certain situations PATH may put someone up for a night or two in a hotel/motel.

QA Updates

Melissa and Jennifer provided the Quality Assurance Workgroup updates. They shared that the Q.A.W. made a motion that persons on the transfer list can turn down two (2) transfer options but should then be removed from the transfer list.

There has been discussion about whether the transfer request reason of causing harm to self or others should be revised / removed. Also, the broader conversation about whether transfers should be used to prevent evictions should take place.

MOTION: Teresa Ponchak made a motion to accept the Q.A.W. motion which states that clients on the transfer list may refuse two (2) appropriate placements before being moved to inactive on the transfer list. “Appropriate placements” shall be defined by the Quality Assurance or By Names workgroup. A second was made by Lisa Waikem. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Some other items that were discussed included:

- Possible re-naming of the Housing Promotion Meetings that the CoC is now hosting as they involve much broader topics than the StarkMHAR Housing Promotion Meetings and to avoid any confusion between the two.
- SPDAT rescoring to ensure all providers are being consistent in how and when rescoring is conducted. Discussion about a 30 day required SPDAT rescore and the validity and reasonability of the Hotline conducting these. More discussion should take place at Q.A. on this.
- If folks are referred out of the county due to there not being room at our shelters, the time spent out of the county should not count against them and their 60 day requirement of being in Stark.

MOTION: Teresa Ponchak made a motion to create a policy that states that if a client has left county to seek shelter because there is none available in stark that they would not be subject to the 60 day rule to be eligible for housing. The client would need to be registered with CE and directed out of county by either CE or a provider. It would be the providers responsibility to let CE know that they directed a client out of county. A second was made by Melissa Terrell. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Policy Changes

Natalie explained the policy changes in D3 and D2 that were distributed via email with revisions tracked. The changes were related to the additional language about the By Names meetings, change in language related to “accepting” clients from the prioritization list rather than “selecting” clients and the additional information provided on “case conferencing” which explains the CoC’s Housing Promotion Meetings.

MOTION: Scott Schnyders made a motion to accept the policy changes as presented to the committee. Marcie Bragg seconded the motion. Jennifer Keaton and Teresa Ponchak abstained from the vote. All other members voted in favor. Motion carried.

Other Business

Another topic that surfaced was regarding shelter transfers. It was agreed that the shelter QA should discuss this further.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:55am.

Coordinated Entry System Committee Meeting Schedule

Tuesday, Sept 25th – 8:30am – 10:30am @ ICAN

Tuesday, Oct 23rd – 8:30am – 10:30am @ Goodwill

Tuesday, Nov 27th – 8:30am – 10:30am @ Goodwill

No meeting in December (*lands on the 25th!!! 😊*)