Homeless Alliance monthly meeting

2020-02-19

Ken Gholston called to order at 3:03PM

Introductions

Sheldon Tetewsky presenting about the System Performance

* HUD is requiring us to submit system wide performance metrics next week
* Sheldon presented about more global metrics - Number of homeless people, which has shown a small decrease of those measured in HMIS
  + TREND HOLDS FOR THE shelters
  + Includes the point in time
  + There is a slight increase in the unsheltered count over the last year
  + Mean number of days homeless is 56 days
  + National average is 168
  + Median number of days homeless is one day shorter from 23 days to 22 days
* Successful placements in the retention of permanent housing - 97% of clients in PSH retained permanent housing or they exited to an acceptable permanent destination
* Recidivisim
  + Those who exited to permanent housing destinations who returned to homelessness, generally a tricky metric to try to prevent
* All of these are being submitted to HUD as part of the required the system performance
* We don’t have a great understanding of what circumstances are leading to returning to homelessness, at least not in a global perspective. We’re trying to figure out why. Kexin emphasized the utility of accurate HMIS data
* Dale argues that looking at those who return to homelessness is going to be a key part of how we reduce homelessness overall
* Ken Gholston notes that the permanent supportive housing clients have a decrease in returns to homelessness, which is pretty optimistic because it shows that chronically homeless people are staying housed
* Dale argues that we need more SRO and one bedroom apartments that are accessible to low income single people. So while redevelopment like the Lafayette Hotel are a positive development on a building or per unit basis, we have not replaced the needed inventory of housing and in that way it has decreased
* Dale notes that these are the system performance measures that HUD scores our application on, and because it impacts our score, these metrics on an agency basis are used to score individual local projects in our CoC application locally
* (Question about the denominator for the PSH)
* Dale notes a pretty good success rate, shows the success of Housing First and that the policy is statistically supported
* Dale encouraged the providers to share their insights with us
* Ken encouraged everyone to make sure the HMIS data is up to date

Ariel on the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program

* Ariel notes that we are nearing the end of the YHDP coordinated community plan
* Ariel thanked everyone for taking part in all of the meetings
* We plan to submit the plan on February 28
* We have been meeting with the Youth Action Board weekly, “they have been amazing”
* They have been working on what projects to be prioritized, and so on and so forth
* We will most likely be sending out the Community Coordinated Plan for comment before we send it out to HUD
* Dale added a few things
  + HUD is driving the timeline for the submission
  + They are only reviewing the plans every two weeks, therefore we need to get in sooner in order to actually receive comments
  + We need it signed by the HAWNY board on 3/16/2020 and then get the local signatories
  + And then we submit the final document to HUD for approval
  + PLEASE COMMENT ON THE DRAFT! Good, bad, or otherwise
  + It is putting a strain on the staff; we might be absent at other meetings in the community until this is done
  + Dale says that he has to compliment the staff, and that these are the best technical assistants that we have ever had (rare praise from us!)
  + We want to ensure that we submit early enough to reconcile any differences with HUD
* Our next Youth Task Force is March 5 on 2:30 at 960 Main Street
* Our goal is to get the RFP to the Homeless Alliance board on March 16 with a release date early April, such that we can have the entire selection and submission process finished by July 1
* Dale complimented the staff, again
* Ariel started to discuss the program outcomes
  + Discussions with the youth action board, some from best practices, but many of the visions of what success looks like have come from the Youth themselves

Dale discussing the HAWNY membership drive

* Notices have been sent out to current members
* There is a fee, but also a waiver process.
* We do very few fundraisers - this and our partner agency. This is on purpose because we don’t want to detract from the agencies that serve clients

We are still waiting on the Tier Two announcements

Community Announcements

* Soldier On is having some staff changes, losing a staff at the end of the month, current staff are taking on more responsibility
* Kara Butcher is the new Erie County Assistant SPOA coordinator
* Ken Gholston announced that the Homeless Alliance will be forming a racial equity committee. Interested? Email Kexin
* HEAP is looking for temporary employees

Meeting adjourned at 3:41PM