

Data Collection, Reporting and Evaluation Committee

January 9, 2020 11:00am MST / 10:00 am PST

Meeting Minutes

Chair:	Susan Thurm
Attendees:	Bob Daugherty, Jordan Spencer, Angela Wartel, Jennifer Otto, Cathy Jones, Lisa Steele
Not Present:	Donna Graybill Region 3 Vacant

NEW ITEMS:

1. Convene meeting/roll call.

2. Review & Finalize Minutes:

- Noted that the minutes themselves were correct for the misspelling of the word “were” from where, on the December meeting minutes. Motion to accept Nov 22nd and December 12th, 2019 minutes as presented. Bob motioned. Angela second. Meeting minutes passed.

3. Approval of updated Governance Agreement

Jennifer presented changes for approval, to the Governance Agreement, in order to present to the CoC for final approval; no substantial changes made – see items highlighted in grey, a few grammatical changes, acronym list added. Motion to approve changes as presented. Bob motioned. Angela second. Changes to Governance Agreement approved.

4. Approval System Performance Measures Draft Report

- Jennifer submitted draft to the committee to review prior to the IHCC meeting on January 23rd. The original due date for submission, to HUD, has been moved up from May and IHCC does not meet again prior to the (new) February 28th HUD deadline. The numbers may change but not much, if at all.
- Measure 1 – Goals is to reduce the average and median times. Measure 1 went up by 6 days for ES only and a decrease of 11 for ES and TH, median decreased but is still within the average range.
 - Susan noted the shortage of housing with a 60 day average of 30.5 seem a bit low, nation-wide numbers are higher and if numbers don't go down we could lose. Measure 1a: look good and Measure 1b: –is the approximate date they became homeless on the street for emergency shelter and any kind. It continues to count people as homeless in RRH and PSH until there is a move in date. How long in this current episode and is the data collection of issue? Susan asked if Bob or Jordan could weigh-in Committee discussed gathering best practices for gathering the data as it is confusing.
 - Bob asks if the question is the verification of homelessness or the process? Jenn stated it is the approximate date. Bob said the information we get is based on two things: verification of homelessness and date of homelessness. Angela said they count 90 days or whatever customer tells them for the three levels of homelessness. Jenn thinks this could be a training issue; data element is for this episode of homelessness, 1. On the streets or in an emergency shelter, 2. In a car or the streets, 3. With family or friends, which ends the episode. Bob will look at adding it to their the intake as it need to be included in metric 3.917. Jenn went on to explained how to decide date of current episode – currently this is not getting updated over 240 days on average. Bob stated that the questions are vague vs accurate. Verification of Homelessness asks. Bob will send a form, which is part of their grant and funding audit. This is a new data element added 2 years ago, strictly for HMIS to identify chronic homelessness. We need to clarify, as a committee, to decide next move: training and best practices.

- Bob suggest, to be more specific; 1.) Eviction notice leads to emergency shelter or 2.) Living under homelessness? Jenn asked for a question to be added, “where were you before that?” in an effort to drill-down to the last form of actual housing. She wants to make sure, as a committee, that we come together to approve an agreement. Bob asked how do all agencies become congruent? We need clarification on program eligibility vs funding eligibility – an HMIS data element requirement. VA, PATH, RHY, VOL, CoC, ESG, each might have a different requirement for grant funding and HMIS data element requirements. Jenn said, “We are happy to provide trainings.”
- Measure #2 – Positive destination: the question, “how many returned to homelessness” this answer looks good, at 20%, 7% of permanent housing return.
- Measure #3 – PIT shows big jumps from 2018 to 2019 – these are actual numbers so there is nothing we can do. HMIS counts are way down, so why is unsheltered count so high? Susan said housing is full – there are just not a lot of housing options. High barriers are hard to house in region 5. Bob said re-entry program is competing for housing. Waiting lists of 2+years for low-income housing, the City is looking to repurpose existing housing and the warming center is the biggest help. Jordan reported the biggest barrier is most people are not truthful so they do not end up qualifying. Jenn asked if the emergency shelters are full? Jordan said the shelters were empty for the holidays and Idaho Falls Rescue Mission is changing their rules a lot lately and she does not know their new requirements. PIT Count 235 less sheltered from 2018 and unsheltered numbers really jumped, why? If we are helping less people, why are there more people reported as unsheltered in the PIT count? Bob said they are always full, 45 days length of stay.
- Measure #4 – Income Growth: 1% higher than the 2018 annual report due to opening a more broad requirement. Jenn, we are going to work up a better way of reporting income. Susan agrees and suggest the committee work on this in 2020 following the system measure that HUD requires. 4.6 exit numbers are not quite accurate, depending on length of stay, 47% of people who exited have increased their income overall. 37% increase of income earned and 18% of non-earned are good numbers. Bob said people are reluctant to report income to avoid paying more of their rent as it is based on their income and lose benefits, because of this, the number of people who increased their income are probably quite a bit higher. “We cannot list income without verification and people just don’t want to provide it.” Susan agrees with Bob, giving the example of a divorce situation. How can we get better information? Suggestions; Housing choice, self-sufficiency programs, savings plans, reassure the client that the information is not shared with DHW etc.
- Measure 5 – Homeless first time; strategic planning with CoC
- Measure 7 – Going to permanent housing or maintaining permanent housing, increased numbers with PATH only operating part of the year. 7.b1 and 7.b2 93% good 6% increase from 2018.
- Jenn asked for questions and none were asked. Bob motioned. Angela 2nd. Motion to approve the System Performance Measure draft approved.

FOLLOW-UP ITEMS: None

POINTS OF INFORMATION: None

New Business: Bob introduced a new St Vincent de Paul center in Spokane as a good model to follow.

Meeting adjourned at 12:04pm