

CT BOS Steering Committee Meeting Minutes
6/2/15

Voting Steering Committee Members Present	Agency/Jurisdiction Represented
Steve DiLella	DMHAS/DOH
Phil Lysiak	Bristol CoC
Lisa Tepper-Bates	CCEH
Milena Sangut	Danbury CoC
Brian Roccapriore	CCEH
Jackie Janosko	CCEH
Kara Capone	New Haven CoC
Nancy Cannavo	Litchfield CoC
Gary Beaulieu	Waterbury CoC
Belinda Arce-Lopez	Waterbury CoC
Lisa Shippee	New London/Norwich CoC
Ellen Simpson	New Britain CoC
Ron Krom	Middlesex CoC
John Merz	ACT
Larry Oaks	CSH
Kathy Crees	Willimantic CoC
Melissa Dzierlatka	Individual
Elizabeth Grim	Partnership for Strong Communities
Meeting Participants	Agency/Jurisdiction Represented
Crane Cesario	Hartford CoC
Jim Bombaci	Nutmeg
Consultants: Suzanne Wagner and Liz Isaacs, Housing Innovations	
Steering Committee Members Not Present	Agency/Jurisdiction Represented
Kim Somaroo-Rodriguez	DCF
Terry Nash	CHFA
Pat Kupec	DOC
Louis Tallarita	DOE

1. Introductions and Announcements

- a. Steering Committee Minutes 5/4/15 approved
- b. CT BOS Housing First Training held on 6/1/15
 - 91 participants, HUD in attendance, evaluations very positive
 - Materials will be e-mailed out
 - Number of follow up topics identified in session and evaluations. More training to be scheduled.
- c. Policies and Procedures and all BOS materials available at:
<http://www.csh.org/csh-solutions/community-work/housing-development-and-operation/2578-2/>
- d. PHA Mythbuster (See page 5)
- e. CT BOS APR training to be held in the fall - date TBD

2. 2015 NOFA Prep and HEARTH Compliance

- a. NOFA timeline and next steps
 - Registration & PIT/HIC submitted
 - Reallocation Plans
 - Agencies have submitted four reallocation plans. Housing Innovations has reviewed the plans and is working with the agencies.
 - **SC agrees by consensus to follow last year's process and** final reallocation applications will be sent to sub-CoCs for approval.
 - New Permanent Housing RFP – Scoring Committee meets 6/5/15
 - 11 applications submitted for PSH and RRH

- Grantees preparation for NOFA
 - Complete Applicant Profile: <https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/Updating-the-Applicant-Profile.pdf>
 - Add/delete registrants
 - <https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/2903/adding-deleting-registrants-in-esnaps/>
 - Add Liz Isaacs episaf@comcast.net as registrant (optional)

F/u: Housing Innovations to prep NOFA Certification of Consistency with Con Plan documents

b. Homeless and Disability Eligibility forms



CT BOS CoC - Disability Verification Fo CT BOS CoC Homelessness Verification Fo

- These forms are available: <http://www.csh.org/csh-solutions/community-work/housing-development-and-operation/2578-2/>
- Steve DiLella will send out these forms to all the applicable DMHAS programs.

c. Leasing to Rental Assistance Conversions update - tabled

d. HUD Systems Performance Measures (SPM)



HUD System PM Guide final.docx

- The NOFA will be released soon and data will need to be provided on the SPM.
- Housing Innovations, Nutmeg, and CCEH are meeting 6/12/15 to go through the SPM.
- The Steering Committee reviewed the SPM and there was discussion around having these outcomes available by Sub-CoC
- It was noted that employment for persons with felony backgrounds is a real challenge. It was reported that DOL has gotten more involved in Opening Doors and the discussion around employment for homeless and formerly homeless persons with criminal histories.
- It was reported that Friendship Center has been successful at hiring persons with criminal histories.

f/u: Ellen Simpson, ED of Friendship Center to provide case study on Friendship Service Center successes with hiring formerly homeless persons and possibly present at employment roundtable in the Fall.

3. Renewal Performance Evaluation Results



Preliminary Renewal Evaluation



Preliminary Performance Report -

a. Summary of final results

- Occupancy, spending, data quality, health insurance scored well.
- Eligibility is 91% and should be 100%. Though all participants should be eligible, the APR is an imperfect data source and adjustments are being made to scoring as needed.
- Providers can be reviewing charts to ensure eligibility documentation is present. If documentation is not present, providers can use new forms and complete the documentation now.
- Leaving to unknown and negative exits – 16%

- HUD evaluates this performance measure and the CoC needs to work on lowering this percentage. This could be an issue of poor data quality in the submitted APRs.
- b. Discussion of 2015 Corrective Action Threshold
- There was discussion around where to set the Corrective Action Threshold. It was noted that scores are lower this year compared to last year. Fewer points were awarded for scoring elements where the program did not meet the standard.
Motion: Scores below 60 are in corrective action. Motion passes. One abstention.
f/u: HI to send out Corrective Action to agencies and copy Sub-CoC rep and HI to review who has been in corrective action two years in a row.

4. PIT/HIC

- HIC/PIT Summary and Comparison Report –handout



2014-15 HIC PIT
Comparison Report.p

- Chronically homeless number is much lower than in 2014. The way the data are captured has changed significantly. It was suggested that we should note that the calculation has been reformulated for this year.
- The single adult count in BOS is down by 54 people since 2013 and the number of persons in families is up by 16 for a net change of 38 FEWER homeless people. This is essentially flat over time and suggests the importance of using the CAN's and homeless resources to target resources.
- The full HIC/PIT report is on CCEH.org and CCEH is currently putting together the local reports
- Governor put out a positive news release on the data. DOH also noted that progress comes from great work of providers.
- Some communities suggested to CCEH that the unsheltered count be conducted annually. It was noted that this would provide important data to communities. It was also noted that finding the resources to make this happen annually might be an issue for some communities.
- **f/u: Sub-CoCs to take the idea back to the communities and get a sense of agreement. HI to add to the agenda for July 13th meeting.**
 - CCEH has the results from the CT Youth Homeless Study.
 - **f/u: CCEH to present the results from the Youth study at the next SC meeting.**

5. Coordinated Access (CA) Planning - Updates from DOH and local CANs

- a. New CoC HUD Funded PSH project
- Contract has been executed and CANs have been asked to ensure that they are prepared with eligible applicants.
 - It was noted that there was some confusion over responsibilities in the Central CT CAN in preparing for the new units.
f/u: Steve DiLella to reach out to providers in that CAN to clarify roles.
 - Torrington and Danbury reported that those communities are getting their list of eligible applicants together.
 - Specific challenges on finding eligible persons or any questions on the new PSH units should be reported to Steve DiLella.
 - Providers are asked to send eligibility verifications to ctbos@gmail.com
f/u: HI to make fax number available to providers who cannot email. Consultants will review these forms and let Steve DiLella know if there are any issues with eligibility.
- b. Statewide CAN committee
- The committee is looking at how long it is taking applicants to be processed and that time continues to be reduced and indicators are improving.
- c. Policy on PSH Intake when no CH Veterans left and beds are designated for CH Veterans - tabled

6. HMIS Updates

- a. Conversion
 - Data Quality reports are posted on CTMIS
 - Look out for webinar trainings – next one is June 30 at 2pm
 - Help desk is via e-mail. Phone calls are no longer allowed. Inquiries are responded to w/in 48 hours.
- b. HMIS SC Update - tabled
 - Committee is meeting after the SC today.
- c. Reminder to Sub-CoC's to review data quality reports

7. Reaching Home Update

- a. Dinner next Thursday 6/11/15
- b. I Forum 6/25 on Health care and Housing – will include information on SIF and FUSE and more.

8. Zero 2016 Update

- a. CT is the only state in the campaign that is on-track to meet the Zero 2016 goals.

9. DOH Updates

- a. DOH reported that the Open Hearth ES in Hartford will remain open.

10. Monitoring Update - tabled

11. Updates from the Fairfield County and Hartford CoCs - tabled

12. Next Meeting Dates – CVH, Page Hall, Room 365: Monday, July 13 12-2

REENTRY MYTH

BUSTER!

A Product of the Federal Interagency Reentry Council

MYTH: Individuals who have been convicted of a crime are “banned” from public housing.

FACT: Public Housing Authorities have great discretion in determining their admissions and occupancy policies for ex-offenders. While PHAs can choose to ban ex-offenders from participating in public housing and Section 8 programs, it is not HUD policy to do so. In fact, in many circumstances, formerly incarcerated people should not be denied access.

On January 5, 2011, during an Interagency Reentry Council Meeting, HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan reminded council members that "this is an Administration that believes in the importance of second chances." He further stated, "And at HUD, part of that support means helping ex-offenders gain access to one of the most fundamental building blocks of a stable life – a place to live."

Fact: There are only two convictions for which a PHA MUST prohibit admission - those are:

- If any member of the household is subject to a lifetime registration requirement under a State sex offender registration program; and,
- If any household member has ever been convicted of drug-related criminal activity for manufacture or production of methamphetamine on the premises of federally assisted housing.

Additionally, PHAs must prohibit admission of an applicant for three years from the date of eviction if a household member has been evicted from federally assisted housing for drug-related criminal activity. PHAs must also establish standards which prohibit admission if the PHA determines that any household member is currently engaged in illegal use of a drug or the PHA determines that it has reasonable cause to believe that a household member's illegal drug use or a pattern of illegal drug use may threaten the health, safety, or right to peaceful enjoyment of the premises by other residents. In these cases, however, PHAs retain their discretion to consider the circumstances and may admit households if the PHA determines that the evicted household member who engaged in drug-related criminal activity has successfully completed a supervised drug rehabilitation program, such as those supervised by drug courts, or that the circumstances leading to eviction no longer exist (24 CFR 5.854).

PHAs must also formally allow all applicants to appeal a denial for housing giving the applicant an opportunity to present evidence of positive change since the time of incarceration.

Working within the parameters and flexibilities of the above regulations, many PHAs have established admissions and occupancy policies that have promoted reuniting families in supportive communities and using stable housing as a platform for improving the quality of life.

For More Information:

See 24 CFR 960.204 for Public Housing, and 24 CFR 982.553 for the Housing Choice Voucher program

What is a REENTRY MYTH BUSTER?

This Myth Buster is one in a series of fact sheets intended to clarify existing federal policies that affect formerly incarcerated individuals and their families. Each year, more than 700,000 individuals are released from state and federal prisons. Another 9 million cycle through local jails. When reentry fails, the social and economic costs are high -- more crime, more victims, more family distress, and more pressure on already-strained state and municipal budgets.

Because reentry intersects with health and housing, education and employment, family, faith, and community well-being, many federal agencies are focusing on initiatives for the reentry population. Under the auspices of the Cabinet-level interagency Reentry Council, federal agencies are working together to enhance community safety and well-being, assist those returning from prison and jail in becoming productive citizens, and save taxpayer dollars by lowering the direct and collateral costs of incarceration.

For more information about the Reentry Council, go to: www.nationalreentryresourcecenter.org/reentry-council