



BOSCO Regional Meetings: Summer 2015

Karia Lee Basta welcomed everyone and introductions followed. Everyone was reminded that the next BOSCO meeting will be the statewide meeting in October held in conjunction with the Arizona Coalition to End Homelessness Conference October 7th & 8th in Phoenix at the Black Canyon Conference Center.

I. Committee Updates

Membership Committee: There is a newly revised Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to be signed with the local continuums to have an agreement to participate with the BOSCO. This will allow the continuums to share attendee information as well as communicate more effectively. The template letter for continuums to use to invite local entities to their meetings and to the regional meetings is available on the ADOH website.

HMIS Committee: They are continuing to adopt HUD's guidelines on project set-up in HMIS as well as working with HUD on a PATH protocol. This will map the collection of data while working to engage clients through outreach programs. The HMIS Committee is working toward universal data sharing and hope to have this in place by October. This would be an opt-out option vs. the current opt-in. Runaway and Homeless Youth providers and HOPWA providers would be excluded from data sharing.

PIT Committee: By the conclusion of the October statewide meeting, we need to have a PIT committee established to work on the 2016 unsheltered summer count. In the past, the summer count was completed once in June and once in August. The committee will need to decide to have a consistent date for the summer count much in the same way the winter count is completed the last week of January.

New Committees: The technical submission for the 2014 Planning Grant has been submitted. The planning grant may be used for training and also the work of a new Evaluation Committee and a Monitoring Committee. We would hope to be able to offer travel assistance so that the new Committees could meet in person. The Evaluation and Monitoring Committees would look at criteria for evaluating and monitoring the continuum as a whole rather than individual projects. ADOH

already monitors contracts but we need to establish standards to determine how we are doing collectively.

The presentation on Suicide Prevention was very informative. Kelly Donley offered to present the information before local groups and asked for assistance in getting quick notifications on suicides around the state so that DBHS can bring in services to thwart cluster suicides.

The NOFA is still not out. Hoping it will be out soon. There will be changes in the NOFA and additional information that will need to be collected.

Karia was able to attend two (2) conferences this summer. From the NAEH conference in Washington, DC:

- Karia shared information from the CMCS bulletin issued June 26, 2015 entitled Coverage of Housing-Related Activities and Services for Individuals with Disabilities. <http://www.medicaid.gov/federal-policy-guidance/downloads/CIB-06-26-2015.pdf>
It is intended to assist states in designing Medicaid benefits and to clarify the circumstances under which Medicaid reimburses for certain housing-related activities with the goal of promoting community integration for individuals with disabilities, older adults needing long term services and supports (LTSS) and those experiencing chronic homelessness. She also attended a session which expanded on the importance of the June 26th bulletin and ideas like having an MOU with the FQHC (Federal Qualified Health Center). Medicaid is sustainable funding and could be used to pay for support services. If you would like a committee established for this, please let Karia know.
- Another session Karia attended was Crafting Productive Partnerships with PHAs. It was admitted that PHAs are most concerned with following the rules and regulations which are numerous, having good outcomes for HUD and following their administrative plan. But it is important to note that when working with them to let them know how your agency/program can be of assistance (such as helping with lease up and paperwork, providing support services and providing data). PHA's are ruled by their administrative plan. While Administrative Plans may have a list of folks they cannot serve, we know that these plans are created at the local level and can be changed. From HUD's perspective there are only two offenses that if committed by someone, would preclude them from PHA housing: sex offenses and producing meth on federally subsidized property.
- The next session attended was Ending Homelessness in Rural Areas. Arizona is not as rural as some other areas of the country. Most rural areas have five (5) issues: 1) geography and access to services; 2) limited resources and low capacity; 3) community misconceptions and NIMBY; 4) lack of local champions; and 5) burdensome fund requirements. Karia heard about having a "risk mitigation" fund as a way to work with landlords who have a major concern about damages. It also made her think about how to work with local media.
- DATA is going to continue to guide programs, money, NOFAs, etc. We need to be analyzing our data constantly. Performance data in particular is important. A newer trend is more information on sex exploitation and youth homelessness.

Stephanie Knox, ESG Coordinator with Department of Economic Security, also attended the NAEH Conference. Stephanie attended sessions on the Rapid Re-housing track and shared:

- **Progressive Engagement**, this is particularly important in Rapid Re-housing projects. One size does not fit all, but commit to offering the least amount of assistance possible and then reassess to see if the client needs more.
- **Length of Stay from Shelter/Homeless to Housed** – The goal is thirty (30) days or less (a System Performance Measure identified in the NOFA).
- **Permanent Housing Exits** – Increase the number of positive permanent housing exits.
- **Housing Stabilization**
 - a. *Employment First*. Staffing a Business Developer/Employment Specialist - this includes assessing employment barriers, connecting with local business, training on retention, negotiating job opportunities with local employers, using tools such as a living wage calculator to identify career-based jobs/employment opportunities, federal bonding program, and e-mail blasts to participants on employment opportunities. Child care – skipping waitlist for homeless families with children.
 - b. *Robust case management intervention, supports and engagement including*: Developing a housing search plan: 1) What are my housing barriers? 2) Where do I want to live (location)? 3) Where can I afford to live? 4) Where are my natural supports (family/friends/church)? 5) How can I accomplish self-sufficiency?
- **Landlords Engagement & Retention** – Look for second chance management companies; common marketing message; hold open houses/forum to attract new landlords. Be available when issues arise to problem solve and mediate. GIS Mapping/Mapping System. Develop a Barrier Buster Fund.
- **Working with HUD** – Assist multi-family housing projects to develop an admission preference for homeless households to fill some vacant units.

Karia, Candee Stanton and ADOH staff then shared a presentation on “Data for Better Planning.” Our first goal on ending homelessness is ending veteran homelessness in 2015. The second goal is ending chronic homelessness by 2017. Our third goal is ending homelessness for the rest of the population by 2020. And our fourth goal is to map a plan to end homelessness for good.

The data covered the unsheltered population, housing inventory, turnover rates and sheltered population. An available bed is defined as beds included on the Housing Inventory Count. Turnover rate is simply the number of exits for the program (in this case we looked at PSH). System Performance Measure reports are being written and will be available in HMIS. Karia would like to have a data component at these meetings so your input is important.

Karia thanked everyone for coming and reminded them to share the information from today.