AZBoSCoC LCEH Meeting Minutes

August 7, 2019

Local Coalitions:

Apache/Navajo Counties
OCCAC: Marilyn Johnson, Kevin Davis
Cochise County
Good Neighbor Alliance: Kathy Calabrese
Community Partners: ABSENT
Coconino County
Flagstaff Shelter Services: Ross Altenbaugh
Gila County: Jake Gardner
La Paz County: ABSENT
Mohave County: Nay Covington
Pinal County
CAHRA: Suzanne Payan
Yavapai County
US Vets: Valerie Crossman
Yuma County: Brenda McAdams

Strategic Partners/Stakeholders:

AHC: Shane Groen, Joanna Sagar	**ACESDV:** Doreen Nicholas
AHCCCS/PATH: Danelle Valenzuela	**Northern RBHA:** ABSENT
AZDVS: Jezreel Ramirez	**Southern RBHA:**
CRN: Glorianna Vercruyssen	AZCH: Cristina Benitez (phone)
DES: Alfred Edwards	**VA:** Jeff Willgale

Staff:

ADOH: Karia Basta, Joy Johnson, Melissa Swain, Ryan Vernick
Consultant: Candee Stanton

Everyone was welcomed, and the meeting started at 9:05 a.m. Introductions were performed, and the minutes to the last meeting were unanimously approved after a motion was made by Brenda and seconded by Nay.

LCEH Roles and Responsibilities

Attendance and Participation

- Coconino County: Fairly consistent participation, although consistent leadership attendance at the meeting is a challenge (i.e. attendees are not the ones who can make decisions).
- Mohave County: Participation is going well, in certain areas, so future meeting will be held in these areas.
- Yavapai County: A lot of consistent participation, with some subgroups being formed.
- Yuma County: Participation is a struggle; leadership fell apart when the Salvation Army as the chairperson was redirected to focus their efforts on the refugee crisis, leaving the position vacant. The meetings will be held in a different location which should help promote attendance.
- Gila County: Still very new, but so far participation is going well.
- Cochise County: Struggling with consistent leadership; in May the local coalition gave a Housing 101 presentation to show all that housing people entails. Working to clean-up entering into HMIS for some of the groups.
- Apache/Navajo Counties: Having meetings is really challenging because the area is so wide-spread.
- Pinal County: Same people attend each meeting; have not yet started sub-groups.

As a reiteration, it is important to send Candee the attendance rosters in the correct Excel format; this information is required by the NOFA. Also, please finalize the local charters and send to ADOH.

Accomplishments/Changes

- Gila County: Conducted a summer PIT count in July with the number of 56 individuals encountered who were experiencing homelessness.
- La Paz County: Will also conduct a summer count in August.
- Coconino County: Has been working on the charter.
- Mohave County: Filling gaps in coverage. Mohave found the follow-up list to the PIT count very helpful.
- Yavapai County: A new agency has started entering in HMIS.
- Yuma County: The Health Homes (Community Bridges, Community Health Associates, Community Partners Integrated Health, and Horizon Health and Wellness) are now entering into HMIS. Case conferencing is going well, but running out of units.
- Pinal County: Working on the charter; the housing locators are definitely a benefit, but it is still a challenge getting a landlord to agree to take someone in when there is no income. The newly opened resource center is getting a lot of walk-ins who are new to HMIS.
- Apache/Navajo Counties: Marilyn became the Executive Director May 1, 2019. Possibly purchasing a 14-unit complex in Winslow. Conducting monthly meetings with Change Point for their clients.

In November there should be an RFP issued for State Special Projects with CDBG funding.

New Partnerships

Doreen encourages all groups to partner with their local DV programs for handling sensitive issues. Flagstaff is partnering with the health community (The Guidance Center, Southwest Behavioral Health, Flagstaff Medical Center, North Country HealthCare).

Case Conferencing/Coordinated Entry/BNL Success or Challenges
- Mohave County was appreciative of the new sort by county feature in HMIS.
- Cochise County has problems when people work and live in one county but the housing is in another county, plus the advocate in Sierra Vista is no longer there, and some people with the southern VA do not want to participate in CE.

> *Action Item:* *ADOH will follow up with SSVF that when clients from non-Pima County areas are encountered, to make it clear to them these clients cannot be entered in the Pima County's HMIS system.*

- In Yavapai County, the VA enters into HMIS, but they have taken the stance that if you come to Yavapai County for treatment, you need to go back to your "home" county for housing.

HUD 2019 NOFA Overview & PIT Count Update

The 2019 NOFA has been released, and an ADOH information bulletin was sent out on July 31st (see https://housing.az.gov/sites/default/files/documents/files/IB-26-2019-AZBOSCOC-NOFA-Bulletin.pdf) with links to the forms needed to fill out information for your county. Renewal projects are just one portion of it- there is also bonus money for new projects. All forms and instructions are on the ADOH website under 2019 Balance of State Continuum of Care NOFA (see https://housing.az.gov/documents-links/forms/special-needs-continuum). Proposals are due back to ADOH by August 22, 2019.

PIT data was posted August 13 (see https://housing.az.gov/sites/default/files/documents/files/IB-30-2019-BZBOSCOC-PIT-Data%20.pdf). Overall numbers are trending downwards, which is good.

NOFA Collaborative Application Discussion
1. How does LCEHs consider opinions from a broad array of organizations?
    - Mohave County: strategy is to be a familiar face/regular attendee to outside meetings, like at the hospitals, so that Mohave's willingness to participate in their projects will hopefully make them reciprocally receptive;
    - Cochise County: the PATH grant team "sells" the CoC to other organizations in outlying areas, which increases the visibility of the CoC in throughout the county;
    - Coconino County: has used CE to "open the door" or to get the conversation started;

- Yavapai County: every year they make a plan, and everyone who is involved can give input for goals and action items for the upcoming year.
2. Are there innovative approached that have resulted from information gathered?
    - Cochise County: exchanging cell phone numbers (even personal ones) and texting rather than e-mail has facilitated breaking down communication barriers; since the VA cannot accept donations, these are given to Good Neighbor Alliance to administer through a "direct vet assist" account, so when HUD-VASH or SSVF housing is available, or someone needs an identification paid for, or general household items are needed, the case manager can drop off the paperwork and get a check in exchange instead of wading through government red tape;
    - Coconino County: consistent meetings with the same people is beneficial, because it fosters collaboration in other areas as well, which has helped the community leverage other resources;
    - Pinal County: the resource center accepts donations, and they have posted on "panhandling" corners encouraging donating to the resource center instead of to individuals.
3. What are some other communication strategies to get others involved?
    - AHC makes sure to share successes and milestones or upcoming events on social media.
     The rest of this topic was tabled for another time.
4. How does LCEH recruit new members?
    - Yuma County sends out personal invitations and phone calls, and includes information like the cost of homelessness vs. cost of housing them; getting a member with lived experience has been challenging.
    - Coconino County has posted signs on notification boards with moderate success; has also hosted "talking circles" and offered transportation to get to the venue, with local leadership participation.
    - Mohave County does direct and indirect "recruiting" using talking points like if someone says homeless people bring down their property values, well the answer is to get involved in solving the problem; attending community "First Friday" events to talk to people about homelessness (have received donations, found new landlords, people interested in participating).
5. How does LCEH use local data? This topic was not discussed due to time constraints.
6. What is the LCEH relationship with the PHA that serves the area?
    - Mohave County tracks which clients are on the Section 8 waiting list to make sure people don't fall off due to not following through on what is required and tracking them for the first 6-8 months after they receive a Section 8 voucher to make sure they are on track. Mohave County is pursuing a separate set of vouchers and waiting list specifically for those who are homeless or formerly homeless with a disability.
    - Pinal County PHA not currently focused on homeless individuals/families, but they may be amendable to a discussion of giving priority to those experiencing homelessness.

7. How is the LCEH addressing criminalization and homelessness. This topic was not discussed due to time constraints.

8. How does the CE system reach households that are the least likely to request homeless assistance? This topic was not discussed.

9.   What strategies is the LCEH using to prevent homelessness in the community?
    - Yuma County: NCHP is big on Rapid Resolution/Diversion, and WACOG has an eviction prevention program
    - Pinal County: The senior eviction prevention program will help with rental assistance, transportation, and utility assistance.

10. What is the LCEH doing to increase the number of exits from programs to permanent housing?
    - Yuma County: A requirement is that all case managers take every client to both the county and the city housing authorities to apply for assistance; working more to get them on waiting lists at tax credit properties around town; at a person's one year mark in CoC funded housing, if they are still claiming zero income, they are required to sign a "zero income survival statement" on how they are able to buy items like paper products for their home, who is paying their cell phone or utilities, and other similar costs as a way to put them on notice that they are going to have to become self-sufficient, and anything being paid by other programs will count as income and their rent allowance will be reduced.

11. What strategies does the LCEH have to increase employment and income?
    - Coconino County is using CDBG funding to hire a vocational "navigator" who will work directly with providers like Goodwill to target homeless individuals; also working with the labor pools in the community, and a partnership with Walmart to donate steel-toed boots, other funding for bus passes- will be run through CE.
    - Adam Robson with AHCCCS is the employment coordinator who works with the vocational rehabilitation specialists- he has a presentation on Disability Benefits 101 that would be beneficial for the group to be trained on.

12.   Does the LCEH have a formal relationship with the local workforce development board?
    - Mohave County shares an office with the board and can give Candee the contact information.

Stakeholder Updates

DV: Last month ACESDV and A New Leaf met with CE groups to look at how DV clients can access housing through CE, due to some of the challenges this group faces:
- DV clients are either not in HMIS or their information is locked for privacy and they are not showing up on the BNL, and even if they are in HMIS they are not being helped by the housing providers so they are becoming inactive on the BNL;
- Could CE leads manage a de-identified list and how that would work;
- Could DV referrals be integrated with housing referrals;
- Many DV clients do not have a long history of homelessness, so are scoring low on the VI-SPDAT;

- If someone fleeing DV is sleeping on someone's couch they are not considered homeless even though their situation is temporary, even though people fleeing DV are considered homeless even in this type of situation

There will be a phone call on Friday, August 9th with Debbie Fox with the Safe Housing Partnership with the National Network to End Domestic Violence for guidance how other communities across the country are dealing with these same issues.

AHCCCS/PATH: Currently in year 5 of the contract, and has a presence in Maricopa, Pima, Cochise, Coconino, Yavapai, and Mohave. There will be an RFP planned for January 2020 with awards before July 2020, and one goal is to change how the PATH grant is conducted, and possibly add additional counties. Let Danelle know if you have any ideas. For more information go to the website (see https://www.azahcccs.gov/Resources/Grants/PATH/PATH.html).

AHCCCS/RBHAs: There are approximately 3,000 units throughout the state designated for individuals with SMIs or those with general mental health/substance abuse disorder. The main priorities are 1) to standardize activities and use a lot of the same metrics as used by the CoCs; 2) standardizing activities around housing, such as using the BNL, the referral and intake processes, making sure the RBHAs are using the funding consistently; 3) to address service coordination so the RBHAs are coordinating with the CoC and PATH to work together; 4) data sharing using HMIS. There will be a meeting with the CoCs, CRN, and the RBHAs to discuss eligibility and data sharing to coordinate services better.

AHC: Diversion initiative is in the process of creating a schedule for rolling out the training in Show Low, Bullhead City/Kingman, Flagstaff, and Prescott. Let Joanna know if you are willing to help facilitate these trainings- she is looking for dates that will work for people. There will also be a train the trainer focus after initial training is tested and refined. The annual conference is scheduled for October 29-30 at the Black Canyon Conference Center; if you would like to participate, let them know. There is also the annual Networking and Golf Outing on August 19th, and AHC personnel will be attending a lot of Stand Down events coming up in the next few months, including a new contract with the Tohono O'odham Nation to run the registration for their Stand Down events.

> *Action Item: Joanna will send a copy of the Diversion training to Candee and Karia for inclusion in the NOFA narrative.*

AZDVS: Arizona was selected as one of the states to promote the President's Roadmap to Empower Veterans and End the National Tragedy of Suicide (PREVENTS) using the Be Connected model; the Arizona Coalition for Military Families has taken the lead with five main regions with thirteen communities identified to be visited by a roadshow that will work with veterans with a wide variety of assistance (housing, finances, job seeking, access to military benefits, etc.).

Action Item: Jezreel will give Ryan the date for the launch of the roadshow and the communities in the BoS that are part of the targeted communities.

Only a few states accepted the Governor's Challenge to Prevent Suicide, and Arizona was one of the few in an effort to address issues and outreach to connect to veterans before they have a crisis.

If you know of veteran families who need assistance, the Military Family Relief Fund (MFRF) is available as a grant up to $20,000; applications are online (see https://dvs.az.gov/get-involved/donations/mfrf). If an unemployed veteran needs help with purchasing tools, uniforms, etc. for a job they can request help through the Veteran Employment Toolkit (see https://dvs.az.gov/advs-veteran-toolkit-program-0) or they can go to any Goodwill career center or any Arizona At Work location; up to $750 can be used to facilitate employment.

HMIS: Recently conducted CE training in Cochise County, and the CE Hotline is slated to commence operation on October 1st for Gila, Graham, Greenlee, and Santa Cruz Counties. If you know of shelters and other resources in these counties, let Glorianna know.

VA: Some Maricopa VASH vouchers can be used in Apache Junction in Pinal County, if the veteran qualifies. For veterans in the Florence prison, the VA has been providing some justice outreach and reentry through the Healthcare for Reentry Veterans (contact Cynthia Huerta-Montoya at 602-291-0666 or Cynthia.huertamontoya@va.gov).

DES: One of the main focuses recently has been to increase funding for homeless programs statewide through grants, so a grant writer was hired and is available to assist communities contracted with DES to put in for grants. Let Alfred know if there is a grant your community would like to pursue (although some grants the state is not eligible to pursue). The homeless prevention funding in general has been increased from last year, so rather than having money left unspent in rapid rehousing due to lack of affordable available housing, spending money to prevent homelessness in the first place.

Southern RHBA: Have been entering into HMIS from the behavioral health side and it's been a learning experience; assisted ADOH with SOAR TA in July in both Phoenix and Tucson. AZCH has turned in a project to AHCCCS for a joint collaboration with the Yuma Public Housing Authority; the city of Yuma will donate the land and AZCH will construct housing units for behavioral health recipients. The housing authority will also give three section 8 vouchers per unit that is built.

With no further business, the meeting was concluded at 3:01 p.m.

COALITION	2018.11-15	2019.03-28	2019.05-29	2019.08-07
Apache/Navajo	X	X	X	X
Cochise	X	X	X	X
Coconino	X	X	X	X
Gila	X	X	X	X
Graham		No local coalition		
Greenlee		No local coalition		
La Paz		Inadvertently left off contact list		
Mohave			X	X
Pinal	X	X	X	X
Santa Cruz		No local coalition		
Yavapai	X	X	X	X
Yuma	X		X	X

STAKEHOLDERS

ACESDV	X		X	X
ADE	X	X	X	Vacant
AZDVS	X			X
AHCCCS/PATH		X		X
AHC		X	X	X
CRN	X		X	X
DES	X	X	X	X
NAVAHCS	X	X	X	
Northern RBHA	X			
SAVAHCS			X	
Southern RBHA	X	X	X	X
VA	X	X	X	X

Commonly used acronyms:

ACESDV= Arizona Coalition to End Sexual & Domestic Violence
Achieve= ACHIEVE Human Services, Inc.
ADE= Arizona Department of Education
ADOH= Arizona Department of Housing
AHC= Arizona Housing Coalition
AHCCCS= Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System
ALIP= Arizona Landlord Incentive Program
AZBoSCoC= Arizona Balance of State Continuum of Care
AZCH= Arizona Complete Health
AZDVS= Arizona Department of Veterans' Services
BNL= By-Name List
CAHRA= Community Action Human Resources Agency
Catholic Charities Community Services
CDBG- Community Development Block Grant
CE= Coordinated Entry
CoC= Continuum of Care
CRN= Crisis Response Network
CRRC= Community Resource Referral Center
DES= Arizona Department of Economic Security
DV= Domestic Violence
ESG= Emergency Solutions Grant
GAB= Governance Advisory Board
GPD= Grant and Per Diem
HMIS= Homeless Management Information System
HUD= U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
JAVC= Jerry Ambrose Veterans Council
LCEH= Local Coalition to End Homelessness
LIHTC= Low Income Housing Tax Credit
NAVAHCS= Northern Arizona VA Health Care System
NCHP= National Community Health Partners
NOFA= Notice of Funding Available

OAT= Online Application Tracking
OCCAC= Old Concho Community Assistance Center
PATH= Project Assistance in Transition from Homelessness
PHA= Public Housing Authority
PIT= Point-in-Time Count
Primavera Foundation
PSH= Permanent Supportive Housing
RBHA= Regional Behavioral Health Authority
RFP= Request for Proposals
ROI= Release of Information
RRH= Rapid Rehousing
SAVAHCS= Southern Arizona VA Health Care System
SMI= Serious Mental Illness
SNAP= Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
SOAR= SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery
SPDAT= Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool
SPM= System Performance Measures
SSA= Social Security Administration
SSDI= Social Security Disability Income
SSI= Social Security Income
SSVF= Supportive Services for Veterans Families
TA= Technical Assistance
US Vets= U. S. Veterans Initiative
VA= U.S. Department Veterans Affairs
VASH= Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing
VAWA= The Violence Against Women Act of 1994
VI-SPDAT= Vulnerability Index- Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool
VOCA= Victims of Crime Act
WACOG= Western Arizona Council of Governments