

AZBoSCoC LCEH Meeting Minutes

November 15, 2018

Members Present:

Adriane Clarke (DES)	Jeff Willgale (VA)
Alexis Clermont (ADE)	Jezreel Ramirez (ADVS)
Alfred Edwards (DES)	Kathy Calabrese (Cochise County)
Barbara Mikkelsen (Steward Health Choice Arizona)	Kathy Medenblik (Achieve)
Bre Williams (Catholic Charities)	Kevin Davis (OCCAC)
Brenda McAdams (Achieve)	Malissa Buzan (Gila County)
Camie Rasband (Catholic Charities)	Marilyn Johnson (Old Concho CAC)
Carole Benedict (U.S. Vets, Yavapai County)	Ryan Louis (NAVAHCS)
Christopher Moller (Catholic Charities)	Susan Newby (Gila County)
Cristina Benitez (AzCH)	Suzanne Payan (CAHRA)
David Love (Crossroads Mission)	Tatum Covey (Catholic Charities)
Doreen Nicholas (ACESDV)	Terrance Watkins (Community Partners)
Greg Culver (Crossroads Mission)	Valarie Donnelly (WACOG)

Staff & Guests

Candee Stanton (Consultant)	Melissa Swain (ADOH)
David Bridge (ADOH)	Ryan Vernick (ADOH)
Joy Johnson (ADOH)	Ty Rosensteel (Crisis Response Network)
Karia Basta (ADOH)	

Everyone was welcomed, and the meeting started at 9:13 a.m. Introductions were performed.

LCEH Lead Progress Reports:

Pinal County

- Membership has grown.
- Coordinated Entry (CE) and Case Conferencing is still a challenge; it's difficult to get partners to the table (turnover is high, so it's never the same person showing up to meetings).
- Need to get smaller communities to become engaged and step up.

Cochise County

- Working on getting core people to meet; people don't volunteer.
- Going to go to committee work instead of big meetings- assign work instead of expecting people to step up.

- Housing 101 meeting at every CoC meeting because there are so many changes and turnovers, so a bi-monthly refresher is necessary.
- The By-Name List (BNL) is under control.

Yuma County

- Same membership struggles.
- Crossroads is committed- they will be the CE access point.
- Point-In-Time (PIT) supplies fundraiser was successful.
- The Rock Church in Yuma has an recreation vehicle donated, and it was converted to a mobile shower unit.
- Moving to a bi-monthly committee work.

Coconino County

- Subcommittees seem to work.
- Term limits/timeframe for serving helps, and then they have to train their replacement.
- Most work has been around the BNL and Case Conferencing.

Yavapai County

- Attendance is good.
- Lodge-model housing is being planned and built (community kitchen and meeting rooms, with individual bedrooms)- three are planned for this year with one in escrow.
- CoC could give help on what smaller groups can do, with clear deliverables and goal setting.
- Mobilize AZ (www.mobileaz.com) may have funding for substance use/abuse or Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) projects.

La Paz

- Good representation from the Regional Behavioral Health Authority (RHBA) and the Veterans Administration (VA).
- People do not step up; the leader ends up taking on most of the duties.

Navajo/Apache

- Will be meeting with the Catholic Charities in Flagstaff, to attend meetings to see how it is done (people don't want to travel).
- Might have to separate Navajo and Apache Counties due to travel and lack of locations for larger groups to meet.

Mohave

- Case Conferencing with a phone call is going well.
- A housing locator position was recently hired and will work with the Case Conferencing group.
- There is a new, unnamed 501(c)(3) entity that will be opening a Domestic Violence (DV) shelter in Lake Havasu (21% of homelessness is a DV issue).

Gila County

- Newly established and still trying to get up and running.
- Trying to get elected officials interested in the issue.

Strategic Partner Updates:

Arizona Department of Education (ADE)

- Works with approximately 350 liaisons in the state school districts.
- One of the main goals is to have at least one ADE liaison on each of the regional steering committees.
- Go to the website to see a list of every single school and contact for coordination purposes (www.azed.gov/homeless/liaisons/), for help navigating the school side of things.

Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES)

- Looking at new Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) reporting and hope to roll it out soon.
- Through the Arizona Management System (AMS) program directive from the Governor's office, working with the Arizona Department of Housing (ADOH) to strategize areas of collaboration and alignment so the two similar programs aren't conducting business in radically different ways.
- All ESG (Emergency Solutions Grant) recipients should be participating in the local groups.

Northern RHBA

- On October 1st, the Complete Care programs were implemented, which put a split between the RHBA providing SMI (Seriously Mentally Ill) services, and the Access Complete Care (ACC) plans providing coordination and supportive services for the General Mental Health Substance Abuse (GMHSA) population.
- Coordinating with Maricopa County is difficult.
- Every year within the Housing Spending Plan process, there is a certain amount of funding for acquisition and rehabilitation projects; AHCCCS asked to delay allocating the money to a certain project so that the money can be pooled to supplement larger projects to build more housing stock; still looking for projects.

Southern RHBA

- Many more health plans have been added, which makes everything more difficult.
- Working with ADOH to develop a Arizona Complete Health CE system through HMIS to develop a separate assessment just for SMI issues that no one else will have access to.
- Partnering with the public housing authority in Yuma to provide some money to build a housing project and in return will get some housing vouchers; would like to expand this project into Pinal and Cochise Counties to increase housing stock designated for SMI individuals.
- Assisting members with employment services or having disability income restored so program funding can be extended to additional people.

Action Item: David will reach out to the Association of Arizona Food Banks and invite them to meetings.

Veterans- Northern VA

- Getting CE going.
- Domiciliary information will now be entered into HMIS.
- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development-Veterans Administration Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) vouchers are still available nationally, but they have to be requested by the local CoCs.
- There is a local developer talking with the Mohave County housing authority about building an apartment building where project-based vouchers could be used.
- There is still in the works a lease program to use underutilized federal buildings for housing.
- Medically fragile beds and transition-in-place programs are still working.

Veterans- Phoenix VA

- Community Resource and Referral Centers (CRRC) are a good resource to send homeless veterans to in the Phoenix area.
- The Be Connected resource line (1-866-4AZ-VETS or 1-800-273-8255, option 1) is also a resource.

Veterans- AZ Department of Veterans Services

- Arizona Veteran State Homes (in Flagstaff and Yuma) will be constructed and will be a 80-bed facilities/nursing homes and are hopefully be completed by the end of 2019 or early 2020.
- Military Family Relief Fund (<https://dvs.az.gov/military-family-relief-fund-2018>) will help with specific needs, like utility assistance, and assistance for catching up on bills, eviction relocation funding.
- Arizona Veteran Toolkit (<https://dvs.az.gov/advs-veteran-toolkit-program>)- will help purchase tools or vehicle repairs to be able to get TO work, up to \$750, for those with a job offer in-hand.
- National Veterans summit (<https://www.heropreneur.com/>) taking place November 14th, 15th, and 16th to help veterans start of expand a business, plus there is a job fair.
- Small grants up to \$4,999 that can be applied for, for any veterans program, and large grants up to \$75,000 are open between November 1st through December 31st.

Arizona Housing Coalition

- Undergoing staff changes, and in the process of purchasing a building.
- Finished up the Stand Down in Yuma, where 3,218 Veterans were recorded as attending.
- Will continue to do Vulnerability Index - Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (VI-SPDAT) trainings throughout the state.

Arizona Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence

- This past year had a partnership with Arizona State University (ASU) to have a master's-level social work intern conduct a project to fill 25 housing vouchers released by the City of Phoenix specifically for DV recipients, with follow-up work to be conducted.
- ASU is providing a semester-long class on DV, and most of the interns will be placed in programs around the state.
- There is another ASU research project on DV-related fatalities around the state to identify gaps in service or response (i.e. was there an order of protection, had they ever called the police, etc.); if anyone knows of DV-related deaths in your community, including deaths of persons responding to help, let them know so they can make sure to include the data in the project. Over 100 DV-related deaths are recorded in Arizona each year.
- ACESDV is a statewide organization, and they travel all over the state to provide training and technical assistance; there is also a helpline, so please give out this information if anyone comes across someone experiencing sexual or domestic violence (602-279-2900 or 1-800-782-6400).

Arizona Department of Housing

- Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) is run by DES, where employment is a key strategy being pushed by Housing & Urban Development (HUD), so ADOH will be reaching out to learn more about the program and coordinating with them for case management services and to ensure they are working with the local CoCs.
- ADOH has initiated an Eviction Prevention pilot program to start at the beginning of the year, and will fund the justice courts with the highest eviction/writs of restitution rates, to provide funding to keep people in their homes and/or to provide legal services (two courts in Maricopa County, certain zip codes in Pima County, and other courts in Pinal, Mohave, Yuma, and Yavapai Counties).
- The Recidivism Prevention housing pilot is three-pronged;
 - Eventually all of the halfway houses who serve the formerly incarcerated will in a searchable database on socialserve.com instead of as a large printed and out-of-date set of pages that is nearly impossible to wade through. Correction officers can access this information on behalf of inmates who are being released.
 - Starting in December, in coordination with the Southwest Fair Housing Council, to offer what is being called the Second Chance Rental Training Program, where inmates who are being released can learn how to read a lease, how their credit affects their ability to rent, what does their score mean, how do they talk about their history when looking to lease, etc.
 - A Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) was just issued on November 2nd with a public hearing on November 8th, and two non-profit organizations are interested in applying for funding to facilitate a project where rental assistance

and/or Rapid Rehousing (RRH) is offered to a randomly selected set of released inmates, to see if the housing-help component will help prevent recidivism. ASU will be doing the evaluation of the effectiveness of the program.

HMIS Update:

The Annual Homelessness Assessment Report (AHAR)- the format this year is different and will be taken directly from HMIS, so data entry needs to be accurate; there will not be a chance to clean up the data before the report is submitted, since it's a more instantaneous process.

How training is being conducted is going through an overhaul as well. Smaller components will be offered more frequently, such as refresher training, permanent housing training, etc.

Bringing on new partners into HMIS is more of a recent focus, such as the Northern and Southern VA and RHBA partners.

Point in Time Count:

The PIT count survey night is scheduled for January 22, 2019, although events can go on all that week. If you haven't already let David know who the county/continuum lead is, please inform David as soon as you can. Posters for advertising to raise awareness and volunteers can be downloaded or viewed at www.hudexchange.info/resource/5770/2019-pit-count-poster/.

The PIT count survey form used last year was reviewed and suggestions/comments were discussed.

Coordinated Entry:

There is a CE Workgroup, where each continuum has been asked to send two people who are heavily involved in CE to the Workgroup meetings. The RHBAs and Veterans groups are also encouraged to participate. The next meeting will be in early January 2019. The three big policies the Workgroup has passed and is waiting for concurrence by the Governance Advisory Board (GAB) is:

- Accepting people's self-identified gender;
- All the CE sites are required to be compliant with the DV laws on confidentiality;
- Wherever possible, families will be kept together

The CE policies and procedures is also being worked on by the Workgroup. There are uniform system-wide requirements that everyone must follow (i.e. non-discrimination, confidentiality, etc.) but there are also local continuum-specific issues that can be mandated at the local level without broader oversight by the Workgroup.

LCEH Functioning and Effectiveness:

There is a coalition functioning instrument available to help you see if you are being effective in an easy to follow format.

Action Item: David will send out an example based on the Gila River Coalition that can be adapted for local use.

If you go to the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness' website (www.usich.gov) and type in "continuum of care" into the search bar, it will bring up several helpful tools.

David showed HUD's Housing First Assessment Tool, which is an Excel spreadsheet located at <https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/5294/housing-first-assessment-tool/>. You can enter information and see where you fall on the "speedometer" to see if you are truly Housing First when it comes to "we say it," "we document it," and "we do it."

With no further business, the meeting was concluded at 2:38 p.m.