



**ARIZONA BALANCE OF STATE CONTINUUM OF CARE  
JUSTIC, EQUITY, DIVERSITY, INCLUSION (JEDI) SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING**

**November 26, 2024 1:00 pm to 2:15am**

TOPIC	OUTCOME/NOTES
<p>Welcome and Introductions</p>	<p>Apache Navajo-pending Cochise-pending Coconino- Ross Schaefer (Flagstaff Shelter Services) Gila- Hannah Lynch (Gila County) Graham-Greenlee- Ryann Quick (MCHC) La Paz- Jessica Martin (RCFBH) Mohave- ABSENT Pinal- Heather Patel (Pinal County) Santa Cruz- Ryann Quick (MCHC) Yavapai- Patricia Jacques (CCCS) Yuma- ABSENT</p> <p>ADOH Cristina Benitez David Bridge JoAngel Villalobos</p>
<p>Reestablishing the JEDI committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Purpose- work with unserved or underserved populations</li> <li>b. Goals (HUD Priorities)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Review Equity Statement</li> </ul> </li> <li>c. Engaging Local Coalitions</li> <li>d. Use of Data</li> </ul>	<p>Cristina discussed the reestablishment of the Jedi Committee, which had been inactive for some time. She mentioned that most of the original members had moved on to other positions or had to reduce their involvement due to other commitments. Cristina also highlighted the importance of the committee's work in addressing equity and working with various coalitions and stakeholders in the homeless services system. She noted that the committee's work would intersect with other committees (HMIS, CE, BNL, LCEH) and LCEH's, and that it would continue to evolve as different communities develop their resources.</p> <p>Cristina discussed the formation of a group that recognized a need for equitable service provision during the pandemic. She mentioned a workgroup that was formed to train on data usage in an equity lens. Ross Schaefer, from Flagstaff Shelter Services, provided background on the group's origins, emphasizing the importance of an equity lens in their work. He noted the challenges inherent in their systems and the need for a community- driven conversation. Ross expressed excitement about the group's reinvigoration and the potential for action steps to move the important work forward.</p> <p><b>Addressing HUD Funding and Equity</b></p> <p>Cristina discussed the challenges faced by the Continuum during the Covid-19 pandemic and the subsequent increase in HUD funding question related to the NOFO about racial disparities, involving</p>

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	<p>Persons With Lived Experience, and outreach to underserved/unserved populations. She highlighted the development of a dashboard by Solari to provide a community picture and the formation of an ad hoc workgroup to understand and utilize the data effectively. Cristina also mentioned the creation of an equity statement and the growth of communities, including an increase in unsheltered count numbers due to better organization and volunteer efforts.</p> <p><b>Addressing Equity in Homelessness Services</b>            In the meeting, Cristina and David discussed the importance of addressing equity issues within their organization, particularly in relation to homelessness. They highlighted the need to ensure fair and equitable access to services, especially for diverse populations. David emphasized the importance of moving from theoretical discussions to practical solutions that can make a difference at the grassroots level. He proposed the creation of workshops to identify and address disparities, and to share best practices among communities. The team also acknowledged the need to be sensitive to other types of disparities, such as those affecting the disabled population or the elderly. The goal is to create a safe space for discussions and to ensure that all populations have equal access to homeless services and resources.</p> <p><b>Improving Systems and Data Usage</b>            The meeting focused on improving systems and data usage within communities. Cristina discussed the importance of including people with lived experience in decision-making processes and the need for better data tools. She mentioned the use of dashboards, Solari, and census data, and the potential for grant writing. David encouraged the group to brainstorm and share their experiences and challenges. Patricia Jacques and Heather Patel expressed difficulties in understanding and utilizing the system performance measures, and the challenges of reaching out to specific populations.</p>
<p>Collaboration with HMIS Disparities Work group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Using HMIS data, census, local gaps analysis, HUD tools</li> <li>b. Training in reviewing data-interpretation</li> <li>c. Review equity in outcomes</li> <li>d. Using data to view policies/processes for inclusion through an equity lens</li> </ul>	<p><b>Re-Entry Roundtable Event and Grant Writing</b>            Cristina and Heather discussed the upcoming re-entry roundtable event, which was their second annual event. The focus of this year's event was housing, and the simulation activity was designed to provide a realistic experience of the challenges faced by those re-entering society. Heather expressed her excitement about the event and mentioned that it was well-attended, with 95 people expected to attend. They also discussed the challenges of grant writing and the importance of having the necessary capacity before applying for funding. Heather mentioned that she had conducted a grant writing workshop for her coalition once a year, but could potentially do it more often.</p> <p><b>Addressing Racial Disparities in Services</b>            The group discusses efforts to address racial disparities in their homeless services system. Ross explains that data showed disproportionately fewer people of color were being referred to housing programs despite similar success rates once enrolled. This suggests an access issue in the referral process. Patricia notes they lack data specific to their communities, leaving her unsure of next steps despite wanting to address these disparities. The group acknowledges the need for more focused, data-driven activities to identify and address the root causes behind these inequities.</p>

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Strategies to implement and use a Justice Equity Diversity Inclusion Lens Local LCEH policies Recruitment of stakeholders, People With Lived Experience Compile a Resource Library Tools Available	<b>Incorporating Equity and Justice Principles</b> David led a discussion on the importance of incorporating equity and justice principles into all aspects of their work, including service policies, funding prioritization, and governance. He suggested focusing on three main areas: ensuring equity principles are integrated into all activities, creating practical tools and education for communities, and measuring the impact of their work. David also emphasized the need for greater representation from diverse groups in their decision-making processes. Cristina proposed scheduling a follow-up meeting in early January to further discuss these goals.
Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Christina to schedule next Jedi Committee meeting for second or fourth week of January.</li> <li>• David to prepare workshop materials on defining equity and using data to identify disparities.</li> <li>• Jedi Committee to identify 2-3 key focus areas for the upcoming year at the next meeting.</li> <li>• Jedi Committee to explore ways to increase diverse representation and participation in the committee.</li> <li>• Jedi Committee to develop practical tools and guidance for communities to address identified equity gaps.</li> <li>• Jedi Committee to consider how to incorporate equity principles across all Continuum of Care activities and committees.</li> </ul>

The purpose of The Justice Equity, Diversion, and Inclusion (JEDI) Sub-Committee of the Balance of State Continuum of Care is to provide leadership and guidance to the Governance Advisory Board to establish comprehensive and evolving processes that ensure equity. The Justice, Equity, Diversion, Inclusion shall be transparent, trauma informed, and representative of the communities served. The scope of work shall include addressing board processes, procedures, policies, documents, outcomes, membership, workgroups, etc. Members should have lived experience within the scope of this work, to provide insight and knowledge of the Diverse issues within the Communities and peoples served including homelessness, Domestic Violence, Mental Illness, Substance Abuse, etc.

**Arizona Department of Housing Contact Information**

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**[Link](#) to ADOH Bulletin List Serve**

**ADOH AZBOSCOC [website](#):**

- Updates regarding NOFO
- AZBOSCOC Policies/guidelines/initiatives/Governance Charter
- Meeting agendas and notes (GAB, LCEH, Subrecipient, Coordinated Entry Committee, HMIS, Veterans, JEDI

**Special Needs Documents Upload [Portal](#):**

**System Performance Measure Links**

- [County Comparisons](#)
- [HMIS Profile](#)
- [System Performance Measures Dashboard](#)

List of [Acronyms](#)

United States Interagency Council on Homelessness  
<https://endhomelessness.org/ending-homelessness/policy/united-states-interagency-council-homelessness/>

Housing Assistance Council—with a focus on rural areas  
<https://ruralhome.org/>

Local First Arizona –Rural Development  
<https://localfirstaz.com/rural-development>

Arizona Housing Coalition  
<https://www.azhousingcoalition.org/>

Resources for Funding and information—many of them have list-serves so you will be updated on information:

Peer Run Organization Services  
<https://www.azahcccs.gov/AHCCCS/Downloads/PeerRunOrganizationsFlyer.pdf>

HEAplus communities  
[https://www.azahcccs.gov/Resources/Downloads/community/HEA\\_plus\\_handout.pdf](https://www.azahcccs.gov/Resources/Downloads/community/HEA_plus_handout.pdf)  
[https://www.healtharizonaplus.gov/app/Info\\_Assistor.aspx](https://www.healtharizonaplus.gov/app/Info_Assistor.aspx)

USICH resource tool for funding for Social and other related Services  
<https://www.usich.gov/tools-for-action/federal-health-and-social-service-programs-that-support-people-experiencing-homelessness/>

National Alliance to End Homelessness  
<https://endhomelessness.org/>

All things HUD  
<https://www.hudexchange.info/>

Vitalyst Health Foundation- <http://vitalysthealth.org/>

**[Resources and Links:](#)**

COC Analysis Tool: Race and Ethnicity v4.0-  
<https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/5787/coc-analysis-tool-race-and-ethnicity/>

HUD releases 2023 Update to Equity QAction Plan, Outlines New Commitment to advance equity-  
[https://www.hud.gov/press/press\\_releases\\_media\\_advisories/hud\\_no\\_24\\_029](https://www.hud.gov/press/press_releases_media_advisories/hud_no_24_029)

National Alliance to End Homelessness-  
<https://endhomelessness.org/blog/addressing-racial-equity-in-the-field-is-a-must-the-racial-equity-learning-series-can-help-you-get-there/>