

AZBOSCOC News



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Data for Better Planning

We were pleased with the feedback from the data presentations at the Summer Regional Meetings that took place in July. The presentation was focused on examining our priorities to make sure that we are providing the appropriate level of services to meet our client's needs. That means for most folks providing the lightest touch possible: diversion, short-term rental assistance or SHORT stays in emergency shelter.

For a small number of folks, less

than twenty percent (20%), the Continuum provides long-term permanent housing. As you know, this housing is only for those with long-term physical and mental disabilities, folks who have cycled in and out of homelessness over long periods of time, and those with substance use issues. Coordinated entry will help us triage the people that we come into contact with to ensure that we are placing those most acutely in need of our services in these precious resources.

The data presentation painted a picture of:

- who we are trying to help,
- what resources we have to bring to the table,
- how to plan for openings in your projects, and
- what is the picture of the folks we are currently housing

We are hoping that this journey gave us food for thought on how we run our projects and what decisions we need to make in order to end homelessness.

Fall 2015
Volume 1, Issue 1

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Updated Data Standards

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has issued revised data standards that will take effect on October 1, 2015. Some new elements will be collected on **new** clients beginning on October 1st and some elements will need updating on **existing** clients prior to October 1st or shortly thereafter. Below is a summary of the changes.

There are two (2) changes to the Universal Data Elements (elements that must be collected on all clients). Exit destinations will be collected for all persons exiting the project not just the head of household. Please know that exit data for all members of the household will only be required to be **collected from October 1, 2015 forward**. In addition, the questions related to time on the streets, in emergency shelter, or safe havens will

change. However, the existing data related to time on the streets will carry over to the new questions so **providers should not need to update this information for existing clients**.

There are a few changes to Program Specific Data Elements (elements that are collected for some programs but not all programs). Beginning October 1, 2015, we will be adding a clarifying question on domestic violence to determine whether the client is currently fleeing. **Back data entry on existing clients is not required**.

Runaway and Homeless Youth providers will be required to collect data on commercial sexual exploitation and commercial labor exploitation. These records will need to be **updated for clients with open records**.

Supportive Services for Veteran Families programs will need to begin collecting the Homeless Prevention Screening Score in HMIS and the Veteran Affairs Medical Center for each head of household. **These records will require updating and must be updated prior to the November SSVF data export**.

Finally, HOPWA projects will need to collect T-cell and Viral Load information. **Back data entry is encouraged, if the information is known**.

Providers should refer to the updated HUD Data Standards Manual (July 2015 version) for more detailed information or contact Community Information and Referral at:

HMISsupport@cir.org



Housing Forum by Karia Lee Basta

The ADOH Housing Forum, held at the Arizona Biltmore Resort August 26-28, 2015, was a rousing success. Our theme this year was “Into the Light” with a strong focus on ending homelessness in the state of Arizona. I was fortunate to be the moderator at five (5) sessions on Thursday and Friday starting with a Coordinated Entry update from Maricopa County who has two (2) central points of entry, one (1) for families and one (1) for singles; a panel discussion on National Goals and Objectives to End Homelessness with Beverley Ebersold of USICH, Stephanie

Smelnick of the Phoenix HUD office and Amy Schwabenlender, Valley of the Sun United Way. Lloyd Pendleton of Utah was back for a fourth time speaking on Housing First, while Darrel Christenson of the Arizona Bridge to Independent Living and Cheri Horbacz of Southwest Fair Housing Council spoke on Equal Access being everyone’s responsibility. Friday afternoon ended with Rian Balch, City of Phoenix, and Scott Hall of Community Bridges, presenting on Rapid Re-Housing and how it is a major solution for Ending

Homelessness.

All the presentations along with the marvelous videos shown during Director Michael Traylor’s opening remarks may be found on the ADOH website at:

<https://housing.az.gov/2015-arizona-housing-forum-presentations>.

Please do take a few moments, especially if you were not present at the Forum, to view “Into the Light.” It will make you smile.

Mark your calendars for the 2016 Arizona Housing Forum to be held August 24-26, 2016 at the J.W. Marriott Starr Pass Resort in Tucson.

HUD NOFA

The HUD NOFA was released Thursday, September 17, 2015. Everyone will be receiving notices in their email as a timeline and plans are developed for both the consolidated and individual project applications.

Conferences

Karia Basta has been a traveling fool this summer. She attended the NAEH (National Alliance to End Homelessness) conference in DC in July and came back energized with new ideas on moving the Continuum forward to maximize our efforts in ending homelessness.

In August she presented, with Brande Meade of MAG and Pam Moseley

with TPC, at the Arizona NAHRO conference in Phoenix. Karia then spent a week in San Diego at the Bowman Systems **Collaborate 2015**, expanding her knowledge of HMIS and how we can use data to strategize and achieve our goals. She was one (1) of nine (9) from Arizona at the conference.

Once again at the upcoming AzCEH

conference in October she will be presenting on the statewide picture of homelessness and what all three (3) Continuums are doing with her colleagues, Brande Meade and Pam Moseley of MAG and TPC, respectively.

Karia will be sharing at the statewide AZBOSCO meeting being held in October her energy and ideas. She asks that you bring your energy and ideas as well!



*22nd Annual
Statewide Conference
on Ending
Homelessness will be
held in Phoenix at the
Black Canyon
Conference Center on
October 7th and 8th.*

