

Home Stretch Meeting Notes – February 2, 2016

Agenda

- I. Introductions/Announcements
- II. Home Stretch staffing update
- III. Update on Home Stretch Forms Feedback Received
- IV. Update on Efforts to Consolidate Existing Waiting Lists
- V. Filling PSH vacancies prior to full re-launch of Home Stretch

NOTES

Announcements

- Encouraged participants in the Home Stretch committee to also participate in upcoming Coordinated Entry System Committee meetings of EveryOne Home (http://www.everyonehome.org/get_involved_committees.html)

Home Stretch Staffing Update

- HCSA will be moving forward with the hiring process with at least one position to be formally posted on the county website next week (<http://www.jobaps.com/Alameda/sup/bulpreview.asp?R1=15&R2=0307&R3=01>)
- HCSA will be holding an information session for individuals interested in applying for the positions on Friday, February 29th at 1414 Franklin St, STE 200.
- Individuals interested in any of the three Home Stretch/Health Care for the Homeless positions should send there cover letter and resume to Suzanne Warner at Suzanne.Warner@acgov.org.
- Program Director hiring likely to be completed by early April 2016.

Update on Engaging PSH Providers

Cathy Craig prepared a Q&A sheet for PSH providers to answer common questions they may have about Home Stretch. So far, most PSH providers have said they would work through their existing lists before drawing from Home Stretch, but people on current wait lists could also be contacted to get them on Home Stretch registry (if homeless and disabled). More clarity is needed on which units are required vs. which units are encouraged to participate in Home Stretch (what the policy/legal authorization is)—this information will be added to Q&A sheet. The HUD notice on prioritization applies to certain programs; to the extent that we want Home Stretch The second question of the Q&A sheets needs more clarification on what the coordinated entry system is vs. what Home Stretch is. The Q&A sheet should also include that Home Stretch should make it much easier for housing providers to fill units and is intended to work much better than the current wait list process.

A question was asked about filling PSH units via Home Stretch that only have a low level of services available and whether Home Stretch will fill all PSH units or only chronically homeless designated PSH units. The current

intent of Home Stretch is that all PSH units will be filled based on Home Stretch prioritization. Clarification is needed on whether the EveryOne Home Leadership Board prioritization policy covered all PSH units or only chronically homeless designated PSH units. Another conversation is needed to address the adequacy of supportive services in relation to Home Stretch.

Another question was asked about whether referrals through Home Stretch would have access to move-in funds. If not, it could either significantly delay the move-in process or mean we may need to skip over the people with the highest need and house people who have the move-in money, which would be contrary to the intent.

Recommendation to create a "What is Home Stretch" document for the general public, community partners, etc. (different from the Q&A intended specifically for PSH providers). It should also describe Home Stretch vs. the broader coordinated entry system.

Update on Home Stretch Forms

A few people submitted feedback on the forms the most recent time they were distributed.

There is a question about whether all three 2.0 versions of the VI-SPDAT are currently available from Bowman.

When should chronic homelessness be documented? During the referral, self-verification of chronic homelessness status is sufficient. Housing navigators will do the formal verification of chronic homelessness.

Housing navigators will be assigned to everyone identified as high priority. A question was asked about those who may in reality be high priority, but do not have the documentation to establish high priority. How can they receive support to be moved up to higher priority? If no support is available, we may be missing some of the highest need people.

Could we create one application for affordable housing that everyone agrees to? While this is long-term goal, it is not prioritized to be worked on in the short-term.

There is concern that the SIF does not easily reflect whether a person is chronically homeless. It used to include a yes/no check box, but HUD has shifted to just asking the questions that would yield a chronically homeless status.

Training will be needed on exactly what the release form allows and means. It should also include a version number.

Interim Plan for Filling PSH Units Prior to Home Stretch re-Launch

Need to continue merging existing lists previously identified and ensure slots can be filled quickly. Clients who are on existing lists need to be informed if they will be added to a combined list for housing opportunities other than those they originally applied for. A meeting will be held on 2/8 between all who operate the lists involved to more clearly develop a plan.