

Home Stretch Meeting Notes – January 5, 2016

Agenda

- I. Introductions
- II. Announcements
 - A. California Proposals on Housing and Homelessness
 - B. Shelter Survey and Meeting
 - C. Operation Vets Home
 - D. 2016 HCSA/BHCS Housing Meetings all at 1404 Franklin St., STE 200
 - Home Stretch – 1st Tuesdays from 2 – 4 pm
 - Mental Health First Aid (housing focus) – 8 hour trainings (8:30 am – 5:30 pm)
 - a. 4/15/2016, 8/19/2016, 10/21/2016 – register with rratner@acbhcs.org
 - Quarterly Health Care and Emergency Shelter Meetings (3 – 5 pm)
 - a. 3/10/2016, 6/9/2016, 9/8/2016, 12/8/2016
 - Quarterly Community Living Facility Meetings (3 – 5 pm)
 - a. 2/11/2016, 5/12/2016, 8/11/2016, 11/10/2016
 - Permanent Supportive Housing (Building) Provider Meetings (Property Management and Services) (3- 5 pm)
 - a. 2/25/2016, 9/22/2016
- III. Review and Discussion of New HUD Chronic Homelessness Definition
- IV. Status Review of Initial Home Stretch List
- V. Review of Planned Documents for Home Stretch Launch
- VI. Next Meeting – February 2nd – potentially 2-5 pm – Coordinated Entry System and Home Stretch
- VII. Tour of TRUST Clinic (optional)—postponed to February meeting

NOTES

Announcements

- A. California Proposals on Housing and Homelessness
 - Senate has proposed \$2 billion initiative to address homelessness statewide, including bond for supportive housing for people living with mental illness. No formal legislation to review yet. Robert will email out press release with proposals. CSH has broad support for recommendations, but there are questions about the governor's level of support.
- B. Shelter Survey and Meeting
 - EveryOne Home will be distributing a survey on January 7th to be completed by all emergency shelters that receive any public funding in order to gather information that will allow our community to move toward common standards of services and funding rates. A link to the survey will be sent via email to be completed electronically on Survey Monkey. Surveys will be due to be completed by January 21st and those shelters

who respond by that date will be entered in a drawing for client move-in kits valued at \$300. This process was initiated by Alameda County Social Services Agency and is in partnership with HCD and BHCS, as well as cities of Berkeley and Oakland.

- Meetings will be held with providers and stakeholders to discuss the project in more detail and answer questions:
 - a. Wednesday January 13th, 1:00 – 3:00, 24100 Amador St, Hayward, 2nd Floor, California Poppy Room
 - b. Tuesday February 16th, 1:00 – 3:00, 24100 Amador St, Hayward, 2nd Floor, California Poppy Room
 - c. March, date/time TBD
 - The survey is meant to be an information gathering tool. Shelters providers are encouraged to be as candid and honest in their responses as possible, including identifying real costs of operation so we can get a better sense of funding needs as a community.
- C. Coordinated Entry System Committee
- First meeting scheduled for Thursday Jan. 28th, 2:00 – 4:30 pm
 - Announcement sent via email earlier this week; please RSVP if you plan to attend
 - Email info@everyonehome.org with any questions
- D. Operation Vets Home
- Number of homeless vets has decreased from 388 to less than 300. Steering committee meetings 1st and 3rd Mondays at Swords to Plowshares.
 - Handout distributed with referral process and phone number.
 - Email jballard@everyonehome.org for more information
- E. 2016 HCSA/BHCS Housing Meetings all at 1404 Franklin St., STE 200
- Several meeting dates/times announced through end of 2016, see details in agenda on page 1.
- F. Update on Meetings with PSH Providers (Cathy Craig)
- Cathy Craig (consultant) and Allison Millar (EveryOne Home) have met with SAHA, EBALDC, and HCEB to discuss participation in Home Stretch
 - Core PSH inventory of Home Stretch includes MHSA and CoC funded units, but there seems to be potential to expand that over time. Some state-funded MHP-Supportive Housing units have a homeless set-aside, but are not currently on our HIC.
 - Next steps include: identifying regulators of units, whether there are tenant selection plans that need to be rewritten or amended and approved, and determining the transition from current wait lists
 - SAHA reports they have a number of 30% income units without homelessness dedication, so they're looking at whether/how those units could also be prioritized for people who are homeless
 - Robert and Allison have worked with Eden I&R to gain access to the A.C. Housing Choices database in order to build on that to track PSH inventory.

Review and Discussion of New HUD Chronic Homelessness Definition

HUD's new definition of chronic homelessness becomes effective 1/15/16. The most significant change is that the 4 episodes of homelessness over past 3 years must now add up to 12 months and at least 7 nights must separate each "episode". There was question about the severity implied by the language "impedes the individual's ability to live independently" which has been interpreted as pertaining to barriers to maintaining housing without support.

- [Link to Final Rule on new Chronic Homelessness definition](#)
- Links to SNAPS in Focus: Final Rule on Defining "Chronically Homeless"
 - [Part I: How We Got Here](#)
 - [Part II: Policy and Practical Implications of the New Definition](#)

Review of Planned Documents for Home Stretch Launch

The forms subcommittee met in late December to provide additional feedback on the forms. Revised forms will be emailed to everyone with feedback invited by Friday January 29th. The committee committed to using version 1 of forms through 2016, compiling a list of any changes needed for version 2 to be introduced in 2017. Updated Home Stretch Document Flow Diagram distributed. The intention will be for staff to look-up clients in Home Stretch and be able to see whether a particular person has already been referred, in order to prevent duplicate referrals. All 3 versions of the VI-SPDAT (single adult, family, and TAY) will be in HMIS and we are planning to be able to upload required documents in HMIS. If a SIF was already completed with a client, a duplicate SIF does not need to be completed unless the SIF is more than a year old and/or any information has changed; if any information may need updating a new SIF should be completed. The ROI for Home Stretch includes all agencies in HMIS and some additional healthcare agencies, but healthcare agencies may still require a separate ROI to release records and/or provide disability verification (in most cases, that is determined by the provider releasing records).

The committee discussed at length the documentation of law enforcement and healthcare high service use (one of the ways of establishing high priority). A new form will be added to allow law enforcement or healthcare providers to easily verify one of the following in the past 12 months (if applicable). The new form will include name and badge number (or similar identification).

- 3 or more admissions to Cherry Hill Detox or Sobering Station
- 3 or more medical and/or psychiatric hospitalizations
- 3 or more incarcerations
- 5 or more Emergency Medical Services transports
- 5 or more law enforcement contacts

The committee discussed the need for clear guidance to law enforcement on what constitutes a "contact". This has been described as "calls for service". Some concern was expressed that what would result in a "call for service" in some jurisdictions or neighborhoods may not result in a "call for service" elsewhere, so those living in areas where law enforcement is stretched most thin may not be as likely to have a high number of police

contacts. Ultimately, the committee decided to proceed with the number of contacts as previously discussed, but will monitor for geographic discrepancies as Home Stretch rolls out.

Discussion was also had on the topic of criminal background checks. The committee cautioned that criminal background checks should be framed as a problem-solving strategy (allows housing navigator to work with client to prepare reasonable accommodation request, etc.) rather than a factor for exclusion from *any* housing, including in jurisdictions with “crime-free housing”. Criminal background information should not be used for matching with housing opportunities. It is the role of staff affiliated with Home Stretch to help clients understand the likelihood of particular housing opportunities given any factors that may be barriers (inc. criminal history) but never to dissuade a person from pursuing a housing opportunity. In the experience of committee members, crime-free housing ordinances are not uniformly followed so should never be considered a reason to not refer. Committee members also cautioned that criminal background information must be protected and extra consideration should be given to which staff have access to it and personal biases staff members may have.

Status Review of Initial Home Stretch List

Robert reviewed all 259 people on former Home Stretch list and will email findings/updates, including geographic analysis. Of the 259 people, only 6% were categorized as level 3 or level 4. All of the level 4 people have been housed (3 people). 32% of the 259 people have permanent housing. People with higher prioritization levels (3 or 4) had higher rates of permanent housing compared to lower levels (1 or 2).

Next Meeting

Tuesday, February 2nd, potentially 2 – 5 pm, may combine Coordinated Entry System and Home Stretch. Tour of TRUST Clinic postponed today.