Hennepin County Singles Coordinated Entry System (CES) Leadership Committee

**Tuesday, December 1st 11:30-1:30 via Microsoft Teams**

**Attendance:**

**Committee Members**: Kim Lieberman, Susannah King, Tim Deen, Stacy Sweeney, Qually Neal, Tim Deen, Mark Miller, Cherita, Zarita Hester, Lucy Bullock,

**Hennepin County Staff**: Katherine DeSantis, Eric Richert, Amy Donahue, Lindsay Anderson,

**ICA staff:** Scott McGillicuddy

**Not in Attendance:**, Travis Earthwerner

### *Guiding Principles:*

1. Ensure service accessibility
2. Prioritize swift exit from homelessness
3. Align services to client need
4. Prioritize services for clients with the greatest need
5. Build a system that is efficient and effective for clients, referral sources, and receiving programs
6. Invest in continuously strengthening the system

| **Agenda Item** | **Action** |
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| 1. **Intros/community share** | **Updates:**   * The state of MN exploring the possibility of opening an isolation hotel that will be shared between Hennepin and Ramsey * St. Stephen’s and House of Charity are merging |
| 1. **New Member** | * One opening on the committee remains open * Another member has not attended in several months * Committee is asked to help recruit new members |
| 1. **OEH update** | * Housing stability area update – postponed |
| 1. **Policy Discussion** | * Transfer policy   + The RRH providers identified that transfers to PSH programs was burdensome   + A small group met to identify new benchmarks that had to be met in order to qualify for a transfer   + The policy has a proposed revision: If RRH providers are unable to find a PSH provider they can notify the CES team and the household will be added to a transfer waiting list and then be prioritized for incoming PSH vacancies.   + The transfer request from was updated slightly to reorder the questions.   + The new policy will be presented to the Homeless prevention and RRH advisory subcommittee   + **VOTE to approve the policy revisions: Revisions approved** * Workgroup report out |
| 1. **CES Team updates** | * HUD TA equity demo   + The HUD TA has provided Trainings (knowledge bites) which have gone well   + The process to revamp the assessment has been very slow.   + The Core group is only meeting once every two weeks   + The group is trying to identify questions they want to investigate and answer |
| 1. **Assessment Process Workgroup** | * Diversion workgroup update   + Diversion has been set up in HMIS (thanks Scott!) and providers are starting to use the workflow   + A guide was developed to help in the process   + The Family diversion program has been so busy they had to pause for a little while to catch up   + Simpson is in the process of hiring to start up their Diversion program for singles   + A Diversion training is set for Jan. 14th (check the Scoop for details)   + Youth Diversion through the YMCA is going well. Exit rates to positive destinations has been high. |
| 1. **Multiple Declined Referral Policy** | * Quarterly policy check-in * Review data   + 47 people since June have been skipped due to declining multiple housing referrals   + The goal for the next review is to have a more complete data set |
| 1. **Annual Retreat** | * Discussion focused on having two meetings in January   + Meeting 1: Review workplan and set a new workplan   + Meeting 2: join family committee for a training |
| 1. **Data Equity Workgroup** | * Amy asked if the committee could have access to the data being pulled by the Hennepin County BI team |
| 1. **System report** | * Presentation by Katie DeSantis * 21 RRH vacancies reported * 49 Housing Support vacancies * 120 new people added to the priority list * 76 people left the priority list |
| 1. **Other business** |  |
| **Future Agenda Items** | 1. Youth Providers using HMIS policy (February meeting) 2. Communication strategies |
| **Tasks for this month** |  |
| **Reminders** |  |

**Acronyms**

* **AMI:** Area Median Income.
* **CES:** Coordinated Entry System, a process operated by CoCs to assess and connect people residing in shelters and/or on the streets with homeless-designated housing programs
* **CoC:** continuum of care for the homeless; funding made available by HUD via the annual CoC program competition process
* **DHS:** Minnesota Department of Human Services
* **FHPAP:** Family Homelessness Prevention and Assistance Program; biannual grant from MHFA for homelessness prevention and rapid rehousing
* **EA:** Emergency Assistance for families
* **EGA:** Emergency General Assistance for single adults
* **ESG:** Emergency Solutions Grant; annual grant from HUD used by Hennepin County and City and Minneapolis for rapid rehousing
* **FMR:** Fair Market Rent, a calculation completed by the federal government
* **GRH:** Group Residential Housing, a State benefit that pays for housing and some services for people with disabling conditions, also called Housing Support
* **HMIS:** Homelessness Management Information System; database and reporting application
* **HUD:** United States Department of Housing and Urban Development
* **LTH:** Long-term homeless, a Minnesota designation of people who have been homeless or doubled-up for 12 continuous months or for 4 times in the last 3 years
* **MFIP:** Minnesota Families Investment Program, Minnesota’s Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program
* **MHFA:** Minnesota Housing Finance Agency
* **PIT:** point in time count, a required count of people experiencing homelessness every January
* **PSH:** permanent supportive housing
* **VI-SPDAT:** Vulnerability Index – Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool, the tool used in Hennepin County’s Coordinated Entry System to prioritize households for different housing programs