**Hennepin County**

Coordinated Entry System (CES) Leadership Committee

**Date and Time:** Tuesday, April 6, 2021 8:30am to 10:30am

**Location:** Virtual

**Members in attendance:** Charlotte Moris, Charlotte Kinzley, Ivy Yorm, Jess Nelson, Laurel Lilligren, Sue Hackett, Tenzin Banari, Lisa Williams-Rolle, Laura Knips

**Hennepin County Staff:** Amy Donahue, Eric Richert, Tracy Schumacher, Reneea Stewart, Katherine DeSantis

**Members not in attendance**: Chaltu Hassan, Lanairee, Hayden Brandt, Shae Roberts

### 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 works efficiently and effectively for clients, referral sources, and receiving programs
6. Invest in continuously strengthening the system

**Agenda items**

1. Welcome – What is a ray of sunshine as spring approaches?
2. Last month action items
3. 2021 workgroups
   1. Communications (Jess)
      1. The committee met once so far and has regular meetings scheduled
      2. The first focus will be on a CES basics video. The challenges will be keeping the information up to date and accessible to all (language, deaf/hard of hearing).
   2. Intersystem (Sue)
      1. Group has no updates
   3. Evaluation (Charlotte M)
      1. Committee has started to meet. They are focusing on the “Health of the system” data
4. Update on performance and trends
   1. Assessor Data
      1. Included with the minutes
   2. HC Data
      1. Presentation by Katie DeSantis
      2. Numbers on the priority list remain low
      3. “Replacement” vacancies are higher than in previous months.
      4. Group discussed implication of having fewer households on the priority list that meet the disability eligibility.
   3. DAP data
      1. Included with the minutes
5. Update on priority list numbers and strategy for filling (Tracy/Amy)
   1. Amy, Tracy, Charlotte, and Laurel met to discuss this topic.
   2. Most housing providers that went “outside of coordinated entry” to find households to fill their vacancies are almost always programs that several eligibility requirements.
   3. 25 total projects found households outside of CES to fill vacancies in 2020.
   4. PPL Homework Starts at Home has the majority of vacancies that went outside of CES (14 in 2020)
   5. Case Conferencing group is working on strategies to help the households that have remained stagnate on the priority list.
6. HUD TA and C4 update (Tracy/Amy)
   1. HUD TA project is over. Unfortunately, the HUD TA did not ever get to the point where they worked on revamping the assessment. The knowledge Bites and trainings were helpful. The potion that was supposed to focus on the assessment never came to fruition.
   2. C4 is going to continue on to provide support.
      1. Two listening sessions have been help – One at PSP and one with Street Voices of Change. There will be one more with youth.
      2. The listening sessions focused on how to better incorporate client choice in the assessment process.
      3. Next steps will be to establish a core stakeholders’ group.
      4. The timeline for how long C4 will provide assistance is unknown at this time. \_ Should know more on Monday.
7. Race and equity data (Amy)
   1. The removal of the Vi-SPDAT has made a difference
   2. Since the VI-SPDAT was removed from the assessment process in March 2020, we are seeing movement towards a more equitable distribution of housing resources
   3. Percentage of Single Black/African American HHs being referred to PSH increased from when the VI-SPDAT was being used. Still not to the level of white HHs, but it did increase by 14% post VI-SPDAT.
8. Follow up to Elder for Infants presentation (Charlottes)
   1. Possible action items:
      1. Could case conferencing discuss more about children, especially those 0-3.
      2. What can we track from data gathered in the assessment?
      3. Should we be prioritizing housing referrals differently based on this presentation.
9. Child welfare role vacancy
   1. Chaltu is not able to continue to fulfill current role. The committee is looking fill this role.
10. Agenda-setting process review (Charlotte K)
    1. Discussion around how to increase input in the process to set the agenda.

**Future Agenda items**

Policy/strategy around sharing policy changes with the community.

Requirement for youth providers to do HMIS

**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