Central Virginia Continuum of Care

Homeless and Housing Services Committee Minutes

August 30, 2017

Present: Judy Brooks, Megan Wood, Jeff Bennett, Lara Jesser-Abell, Kristen Nolen, Jim Meador, Michele Bauman, Rayanne Boley, Kate Donaldson, Tashama Carter, Joanna Casey, Jacqueline Jones, Linda Ellis-Williams, P’trice Johnson, Denise Crews, Chris Howell, Tab Robertson, Laurie Lynch, Kassie Baumann, Lisa Bailey, Vince Sawyer, Evelyn Jordan, Melissa Yuille, Jamie Warrick, Ken Vance, Sarah Quarantotto

1. Sarah Quarantotto, Chair of the HHS Committee, welcomed all in attendance and everyone introduced themselves
2. HHS Committee’s Role in the Strategic Plan to End Homelessness- Sarah reviewed with the committee the Year Two and Three Goals of the Strategic Plan to End Homelessness that had action steps assigned to the HHS committee. The action steps are below in order of priority set by the committee with the progress, future steps, assignments and deadlines:
   1. **Conduct service gaps analysis and identify solutions to unmet service needs.**
      1. The working group identified during the July HHS meeting that singles not able to pass a drug screen, repeat visitors to the shelter, individuals banned from shelter and sex offenders were subpopulations with barriers to shelter entry. Approximately 15% of individuals seeking shelter through CHIA are not able to access shelter. The group announced that they met in August and decided that developing solutions to the above gaps was best left to the CoC Board. Later discussion ensued and the HHS committee agreed to develop these solutions as a committee rather than assigning to a working group. Solutions to the above barriers will be developed during the September HHS meeting.
   2. **Create and regularly update a housing and service resource list for display at CHIA, emergency shelters, etc. to help divert people away from the response system and to facilitate self-resolution.**
      1. A working group (identified below) met in August and divided the CoC by geographic area so that each member is responsible for collecting resources within an area. The group has requested resources be sent to each member and will form the resource list next month.
      2. The working group consists of:
         * Denise Crews (convener)
         * Ken Vance
         * Lisa Bailey
   3. **Get feedback from consumers through surveys.**
      1. The working group met to review a number of consumer input surveys. The draft of this survey will be sent to all HHS members for feedback.
      2. The working groups consists of:
         * Kristen Nolen (convener)
         * Faye Hicks
         * Chris Howell
   4. **Begin attending monthly Re-Entry Council meetings and regular McKinney-Vento meetings to advocate for cross system collaboration.**
      1. ***COMPLETED***
   5. **Submit consumer stories to the Advocacy and Outreach Committee to be the foundation for ongoing education and awareness around system successes**
      1. Denise has emailed each provider to request system stories and will collect these this month for inclusion on the website and in presentations.
   6. **Create a prevention assessment tool based on the characteristics of current and former shelter clients that indicates imminent risk of homelessness**
      1. The working group met last month to review the SSVF prevention screening tool. This has been adapted to VHSP and the working group is meeting today to review the draft.
      2. The working group is comprised of:
         * Melissa Yuille (convener)
         * Sarah Quarantotto
         * Evelyn Jordan
         * Kate Donaldson
         * Tammy Venables
         * Jacqueline Jones
   7. **Develop an orientation training for front line staff to understand the importance of coordinated assessment, prevention, and diversion. How CHIA operates; and how their role connects with the system’s ‘Front Door’.**
      1. Revisit at the September HHS meeting to determine whether it is a good time to move forward with this.
3. CHIA Update- Megan Wood
   1. Diversion from homelessness in July: 9 households
   2. Referred to homeless prevention in July: 41 households
   3. Referred to dv shelter in July: 8 households
   4. Referrals to emergency shelter in July: 15 households
   5. Next step referrals in July: 13 households
   6. Persons not served by homeless response in July: 12 single females, 4 families and 3 single males were not served due to either space or the inability to pass a drug screen. Discussion ensued regarding the increase in families and single women not being served by shelters. It was suggested that some of the shelters have units not usable due to bedbugs.
4. Next meeting **HHS**: September 27, 2017 at 9am at the Salvation Army

**COC Meeting**: Tuesday, October 10, 2017, 9am at Pearson Cancer Center

1. Announcements:
   1. Denise reported that the next Poverty to Progress meeting would be October 5th with the location to be announced.
   2. Melissa reported that there were new housing counseling brochures and classes were available for interested homeowners.
   3. Faye shared that employment services were available at LynCAG each Friday
   4. Jamie shared that Angel Tree applications would be available soon. An ID and DHS Action Letter would be accepted as proof of income. Children below 13 will be served and possibly all children if TRBC agrees to support teenagers.
   5. Linda reported that there is a new partnership between the YWCA and the Lynchburg Police Department to provide a screening to all potential victims of domestic violence to ensure they have increased access to services and assistance.
   6. Sarah reported that Kristen Nolen is serving as the CoC Lead/Homeless System Coordinator so will no longer be providing case management to MH clients but will work on system level to complete the Collaborative Applicant responsibilities outlined in the CoC Policies and Procedures. Lara Jesser-Abell and Rayanne Boley are new Housing Coordinators at MH to provide housing stabilization case management to both supportive housing clients and rapid re-housing clients.

Submitted by: Sarah Quarantotto, Chair HHS Committee