

# **GNCOC Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday, April 21, 2021**

Meeting called to order at 10:00am

Last month's meeting minutes reviewed- Approved by Wendy Leblanc and seconded by Bob Mack. There were a few edits that needed to be made and minutes were approved by all with corrections.

## **HMIS Switch:**

- The HMIS Advisory Committee- Participated in reviewing all the videos for the user experience and reporting for all 10 vendors. Then each vendor was graded to come up with the final discussion. Out of all 10 HMIS vendors Bitfocus was the best. Bitfocus scored a 73 and Wellsky scored a 52 (the lowest), which is what we use now.
- ICA is going to see if they can negotiate the cost of the licenses.
- There is an advanced CE list – Where agencies can look into the database themselves instead of waiting for the list to be pulled.
- Users can create their own reports with trainings.
- Bitfocus provides Geo mapping for street outreach.

The cost for Bitfocus-

- \$300 per year per user (higher than Wellsky).
- \$10,000 total increase per year.
- NH was paying more for Wellsky than other states (old HMIS system).
- The cost of licenses subsidized to about \$200 per user.
- With current HMIS system (Wellsky) the cost of HMIS licenses would have increased from \$100 to \$200 per user.
- The GNCOC total cost from the HMIS grant is \$12,000 each year.
- The MCoC and BoSCoC has approved to switch over from Wellsky to Bitfoucs as the new HMIS system.
- There was a motion to approve the switch for the GNCOC to Bitfocus. Wendy Leblanc approved and seconded by Erin Segaloff. All were in favor.

## **Landlord Incentives for Section 8:**

- They are doing this at Crossroads in the seacoast area (Martha Stone).
- Incentive programs for landlords will push away from section 8 clients.
- Give some reassurance like a security deposit. Maybe invite Martha Stone to do a presentation for how to do it. There could be some federal funds for this topic.

- ESG can provide incentives-
- Maybe have an attorney present as long as money comes from a 3<sup>rd</sup> party instead of a client you can do that.
- \$1.5 million home funds that could pay for this program.
- Have Martha Stone on the agenda for our next Executive Meeting (May 19<sup>th</sup>)- Action Item.
- Mandy Reagan mentioned a landlord incentive program in Rhode Island.

#### **After Hours:**

- Faith- based organizations and Churches are trying to figure out what to do for individuals experiencing homelessness afterhours (after 5pm).
- Bob Mack suggested to continue to do the CAR process and NSKS has a night shift, but they cannot answer phones but if you come in person, you can be housed for the night.
- Tell churches to send individuals to NSKS and a callback to church if there are not any openings (maybe?).
- If it is one night Spring street (NSKS) can hold them but if it's a family after hours (at church) they can house them in a motel for the night.

#### **Stepping Stone/Encampment Sites:**

- Broad street parkway has been an encampment site. Found a few people there and they need to clean up on April 28<sup>th</sup>, so connect with homeless information to notify them.
- Jessica Loreto has been having an outreach meeting to connect with other agencies and to discuss the workflow of process.

#### **CE workflow (Jill O'Neill):**

- Access point- NSKS, Stepping Stones (youth), and Rescue Mission
- NSKS has funds for entering people into HMIS.
- More localized trainings for individuals answering the phones or diversion.
- People entering, people extracting data, and pulling the data.
- We need to get a housing navigator for the GNCoC. Maybe compare both Mandy and Jill's CE workflow process.

#### **Action Items for next GNCoC General and Executive Committee Meeting:**

- Next Executive Meeting- CE workflow, Part 2. Maybe some funds from the state and information from other agencies.
- Landlord Incentives (Executive)
- CE Workflow Plan (Executive)
- Subcommittee Updates (General)
- CoC Action Committee Meeting- Have Kristi Schott present.
- Heather will send out for feedback for next month.

**Meeting Adjourned at 11:30am**