

GNCOC Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, July 21st, 2021

- Wendy made a motion to approve the minutes and Mike A. seconded them. All were in favor

New England HMIS Presentation (by Adam Smith and Meghan Morrow):

- They want to propose to join HMIS for two states- NH and Vermont
- The advantages of a two state HMIS-
 - Both states and all five CoC's have the same HMIS Lead Agency (ICA)
 - Both states are switching from WellSky Service Point to Bitfocus Clarity.
 - Both states share a long contiguous border with service recipients often crossing over the border for housing and services.
 - Both states are already on the similar contract cycle.
- Service Provision benefits-
 - Agencies operating in both states will only need to purchase and use one system. This includes, but isn't limited to, UVH and Vets Inc.
 - Agencies operating on shared border can be set up to make referrals to CE System in neighboring continuum regions.
 - Program participants can be accepted in a neighboring housing program across borders more efficiently.
- System Administration benefits-
 - ICA can cut in half for system administration licenses (\$1500 per amin/year).
 - The cost of reporting system licenses (\$600 per user/ year)
 - Cost for the migration of data from legacy systems to new system will be half the price of two separate implementations.
 - They're charging \$60,000 for the switching over of HMIS but it would only be \$30,000 each if we split it between the two states.
- Other Items to consider-
 - System can be set up to share or not share across continuums. If a continuum chooses to share with continuum in a neighboring state, for example, they can choose to not share.
 - System configuration will be the same for both states in separate systems, so there is nothing different in operating as one system.
 - User license costs are the same for both state from vendor.
 - Any reports that are created for a community can be available to others without having to make copies and reformat for separate system.
 - Advance reporting on client movement and system usage.
 - With the new HMIS system BitFocus, ICA is only going back 5 years to 2016 for data collection within the new system for Youth Programs.

- **Question:** Does this have an impact on pulling reports? For example – we currently pull all veterans who enter the system on a weekly basis. We manually add all of the groups we want to pull (outreach, shelters, etc) each week. Will it pull Vermont data? No, it will just pull NH's data and they can choose not to share their data.
 - Erin Segaloff mentioned that her Veterans program through SSVF, uses TSA funds and had a question regarding double dipping from NH to Vermont without SSVF being aware of it.
 - We are creating 11 houses from NHHFA and would that be an issue with the new two state HMIS system? No, there won't be any issues.
 - **Question:** What is the timeline of trainings and where does the responsibility go for migration. The process takes about 6 months and NH will go live on December 1st. ICA will kick off the trainings after the migration, when it gets closer to the live site.
 - Question: What is Maine doing about their HMIS System? Are they switching over as well? Maine is not switching over to the new HMIS system. They are still using WellSky (old system).
- The motion is to approve the development of a two state HMIS (vote)- Wendy Leblanc motion to approve and seconded by Kevin Flynn and Erinn Segaloff and all were in favor.

Landlord Incentive Program and Housing Vouchers for Nashua (Carrie Schena):

- Barriers for when receiving housing vouchers- Can't find an apartment
 - They don't have a way of transportation.
 - They don't have phones to get information and get into contact with them.
 - NH families provide phones for their clients and maybe if agencies can look into that for assistance.
 - There is a fee for background checks and landlords may not want to rent to individuals with a criminal past.
 - While they're in their program they can build credit at the same time.
 - Providing agencies with funding to rent an apartment and then sublet it.
 - Pet barriers- It's very difficult to rent to an individual that has a pet, and they are willing to stay outside rather than giving up their pets. Perhaps to put up your pet to the humane society while an individual is staying in housing, but we will need funding for that.
 - Potentially purchasing a hotel for housing opportunities. Michael Apfelberg knows the new owner of Clarion and that could be a network/connection.
 - Kevin Flynn asked St. Joseph's about a building that could be used for people in need because it's vacant at the moment.
 - Increase capacity for transitional housing for accompanied and unaccompanied youth (ages 18 to 24).
 - What's happening with the Daniel Webster College and the SNHU on Amherst Street for the vacant buildings?
 - There is a glut for commercial real estate, and it may be a good idea to reach out to a commercial realtor due to the pandemic

- NeighborWorks is the only affordable housing agency within the GNCoC and we need more agencies and maybe bring that up to the City for assistance. Habitat is another agency that helps out with affordable housing development. Pam Wellman

Announcements

- The Rescue Mission purchased the building on 36 Tolles Street for a Women's shelter that's coming in 2022.
- Pam Wellman from SNH Family Promise- needs assistance with answering some questions for the Youth Grant that are CoC specific questions around youth (Questions: 2- 9).

Meeting Adjourned at 10:54am