Homeless Services Consortium Board of Directors Meeting

January 8, 2025   Zoom.us – Meeting ID: 815 8892 5909
1:00-3:00 PM   Passcode: 709774
                                             1-877-853-5257

The HSC Board strives to prevent and end homelessness, by advancing Housing as a Human Right. We provide leadership, advocacy, planning, and management of program funding in order to promote accessible and equitable housing and homeless services.

MINUTES

- Call to Order and Welcome at 1:05 PM.
- Introductions
    - Board Members in Attendance: Chara Taylor, Patrick Duffie, Beverly Priefer, Shanita Lawrence, Aurelius Leslie, Claire Bergman, Erin Kautz, Rachel Kaiser, Taylor Rozman, Skyler Van De Weerd, Jasmyne Bass, Kayla Every, Andrea Gaines, Michelle Hemp
    - Absent Board Members: TaMaya Travis
    - Staff: Torrie Kopp Mueller
    - Guests: Sarah Lim, Angela Jones, Melissa Mennig, Jeremy Schmidt, Becky Templeton
- Updates
    - **City**: The City of Madison Homeless Services and Housing Resources will do a Request for Proposal process this year. Expect to release in April/May and you will receive more updates as we get closer.
    - **County**: The County RFP for shelters will go out later this year. Hotels to Housing has officially ended. Report will be available at the end of March. EDDP funded with ARP is funded through 9/30/25. Fair Chance Housing, Expo was selected as the provider. Doubled-up Pilot as of January 5th 58 families housed, average number of children per household is 3, average rent assistance is $9,800, Most of County ARP funds have been spent down. Catalyst for Change County-funded outreach services have ended, but they still have some City funds to do outreach in County. Doubled-up funding goes through September. ESS will administer some funds for family overflow hoteling.

January 2025

- HAA Contract Updates
    - Doubled Up Pilot
    - American Rescue Plan (ARP) Timeline
- 1915i Plan
- County Contacts/Questions?

HAA Updates

- Hotels to Housing - Final report will be available by end of March 2025.
- EDDP - Extension approved (funding ends 09/30/25).
- Fair Chance Housing – Provider selected (EXPO) and approved.
- CDBG and HOME funding – RFPs approved.
- Farmer Workers Housing – Still in process of research (no updates)
- AHDF- For a list of all housing developments visit: https://dcdhs.com/haa/hd.

Doubled Up Pilot

As of January 5, 2025:

58 families housed (57 assisted)

- Avg. # of children in household: 3
- 23 under 30% AMI
  - 6 zero income
- 26 = 30%-50% AMI
- 9 = 51%-80% AMI
- Avg. rent assistance = $9,805
- 31 received funds to clear rental arrears due to housing barrier (avg = $1,961)
- 16 received funds to clear utility arrears due to housing barrier (avg = $287)

American Rescue Plan (ARP) funded programs wind down timeline

- **Outreach Services through Catalyst for Change** – Funding/contract ends 12/31/24
- **Doubled-Up Housing Pilot** – Funding through 09/30/25 (per federal regulations)
- **Eviction Defense and Diversion Program (EDDP)** – Funding currently through 12/31/24; Legislation routing to extend contract through 09/30/25.

- *Isolation and Quarantine Center Hotel– Program ended 04/30/23*
- *Dane CORE– Portal for new applications closed 05/31/23*
- *Emergency Rental Assistance– Security deposit program ended 12/31/23*
- *Hotels to Housing– Program ended 10/31/24*

- The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services approved the 1915(i) State Plan Amendment – also called the 2019 Wisconsin Act 76.
- This provides a set of supportive housing services to Medicaid members who are experiencing homelessness and have an identified health care need. To receive 1915(i) SPA services, the individual must:
  - Have a substance abuse issue OR mental health issue, AND
  - Be 18 years or older, AND
  - Be experiencing homelessness as defined by the U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) under 42 U.S.C 11302, AND
  - Require assistance with at least two instrumental activities of daily living as a result of homelessness or their health care need.
- Four services will be available as part of the 1915(i) Housing Support Services benefit:
  - Housing consultation, Transition supports, Sustaining supports, and Relocation supports
- *HAA staff do plan to move forward on meeting with agencies that currently have contracts with the County. The goal is to encourage them to become a Provider with Medicaid in order to start taking advantage of this opportunity to supplement funding for programs and start discussing how services may be able to be expanded.*
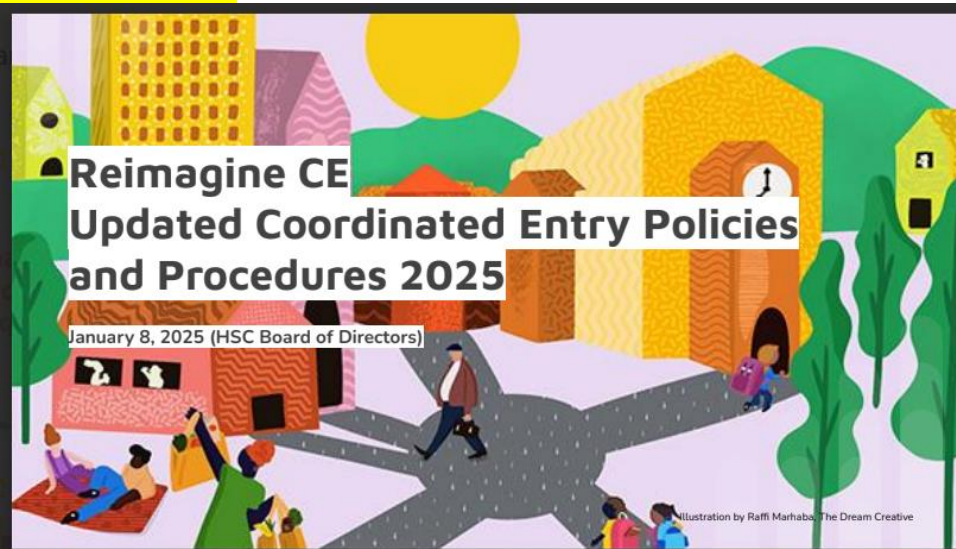
Housing Access & Affordability
Dane County Department of Human Services
DCDHS Vision: Empowered people thriving in safe, just, and caring communities.

- *Fair Chance Housing Fund, Farmer Worker Housing & Affordable Housing Development Fund (AHDF)*
  Ashley Ballweg, *Housing Program Specialist, (e)Ballweg.Ashley@danecounty.gov, (o) 608-338-4420*
- *Hotels to Housing, Housing Navigation, Rapid ReHousing, PSH - Rental Assistance & Supportive Services*
  Kristina Dux, *Housing Program Specialist, (e)Dux.Kristina@danecounty.gov, (o) 608.571.8966*
- *Outreach and Shelter Programs*
  Melissa Mennig, *Housing Program Specialist, (e)Mennig.Melissa@danecounty.gov, (o) 608.709.6040*
- *Doubled Up Homeless Research & Programs & Family Unification Program (FUP),*
  Johneisha Prescott, *Housing Program Specialist, (e)Prescott. Johneisha@danecounty.gov, (o) 608.320-8339*
- *Emergency Rental Assistance, Housing Counseling/EP Programs & Eviction Diversion and Defense Partnership*
  Jillian Stacey, *Housing Program Specialist, (e)Stacey.Jillian@danecounty.gov, (o) 608.354.2839*
- *Affordable Housing Development Fund (AHDF)*
  Jenna Wuthrich, *Lead Housing Program Specialist, (e) Wuthrich@danecounty.gov, (o) 608.242.6454*

- **United Way**: No updates
- **Lived Experience Council**: We did not meet in December.
- **Youth Action Board**: Getting organized for 2025. Entering 3rd year of YHDP programming. YAB's focus is on continuously improving the programs. Planning for fund raising to continue their work. There is funding through YHDP but will not cover all activities.

- **Vote to approve Minutes from December 4, 2024 -** Chara Taylor
  - Minutes approved by all voting members
- Treasurer's Report – Shanita Lawrence
  - Increase in donations and spending is directly related to November Homelessness Summit
  - Focus this year on finding ways to increase funding for the HSC, need to ensure people with lived experience are compensated for their time
  - C4CS is getting statements to us in a timely manner, great improvement in 2024
- *Discussion Topic*: Coordinated Entry Polices & Procedures – Sarah Lim
  - There is no vote for this item but is related to Written Standards Update.

Reimagine CE Workgroup Recap

- The Reimagine Coordinated Entry (CE) workgroup was established in December 2022 in response to local and national criticism of VI-SPDAT.
- Its primary objective was to propose a new way to prioritize individuals and families for RRH and PSH opening in Dane CoC.
- Phase 1: Analyzed local qualitative and quantitative data and reviewed other community best practices
- Phase 2: Developed recommendations for policy and structural changes (Recommendations were reviewed and approved by the HSC Board of Directors in March 2024.)
- **Phase 3: Developed detailed procedures and implementation plan**

Phase 1 Analysis Key Takeaways

1. **Low Assessment Completion Rates:** Many potentially eligible households did not complete the VI-SPDAT and thus were not referred to Coordinated Entry (CE).
2. **Limited Impact of CE Housing Interventions:** CE housing interventions only resolved a small percentage of homelessness episodes. Within a one-year period, only 17% of families (41 out of 239) and 5% of singles (60 out of 1,172) referred to CE moved into housing through CE.
3. **Disparities in Housing Outcomes:** While significant disparities exist in homelessness rates among people of color, we did not find system-wide CE-specific disparities based on race and ethnicity. However, specific population groups experience worse housing outcomes at certain stages, warranting ongoing monitoring post-implementation of changes.
4. **Need for More Trauma-Informed Assessment:** Participants and providers felt that the VI-SPDAT was burdensome and not trauma-informed.

Phase 2 Objective for Change

Objective for Change:

Enhance the Coordinated Entry System in Dane County to better identify and prioritize households **who are most likely to experience significant harm from homelessness**.

Guiding Principles:

- **Equity-Centered**: We commit to an equity-centered approach that recognizes and addresses disparities, promoting equitable access to housing resources.
- **Trauma-Informed**: We embrace a trauma-informed approach to create a supportive and safe environment for those seeking housing resources.

Phase 2 Recommendations (Approved)

General Direction: Transition towards utilizing third-party data for assessments in the long-term, with an interim approach due to limited access to such data at this time.

1. **Implement a Two-Tiered Assessment.**
2. **Retain the VI-SPDAT Tool for Tier 2 Assessment for the time being.**
3. **Changes in PSH and RRH Prioritization**

#1. Implement a Two-Tiered Assessment

- **Tier 1 Assessment**: Automate an HMIS report-based assessment for all emergency shelter and street outreach program participants using shelter and outreach intake questions and HMIS utilization records.
- **Tier 2 Assessment**: Conduct a full assessment for a smaller group identified through the Tier 1 process.

Tier 1 Assessment

(LINK to Tier 1 Assessment Spreadsheet)

Existing info to be used:

- History of homelessness
- Income
- Age

Added to Shelter and Outreach Intake:

- Eviction
- Criminal legal system involvement
- Domestic violence shelter use
- Family size
- Behavioral health crisis program utilization
- Medical crisis

#2. Retain the VI-SPDAT Tool for Tier 2 Assessment for the time being.

- Continue using the VI-SPDAT tool for Tier 2 assessments initially.
- Begin the discussions on the subsequent phase, incorporating more third-party data in assessment and revising VI-SPDAT, six months after implementing the Tier 1 assessment.

#3. PSH and RRH Prioritization

PSH Prioritization

- Identify households with high Tier 1 PSH assessment scores and administer VI-SPDAT.
- Prioritize chronically homeless households with the highest VI-SPDAT score.

RRH Prioritization

- Identify households with high Tier 1 RRH assessment scores and administer VI-SPDAT.
- Prioritize households who are newly homeless but have not been able to self-resolve within 6 months, with additional consideration for current shelter use.

Positive Impact Envisioned

- Assessing all eligible households.
- Reducing time and emotional burden on CE staff and participants for completing VI-SPDAT.
- Potential for reallocating CE staff time for more housing and resource navigation.
- Addressing certain discrepancies in CE referrals by race and ethnicity.
- Facilitating more outflow to permanent housing from highly utilized emergency shelters.

Updated Procedures Highlighted

RRH Tier 2 Prioritization

- Tier 2 assessment (VI-SPDAT) score: Families up to 22 points and singles and youth up to 17 points
- New to Homelessness Points*: Up to 20 points
- Length of Shelter Stay/Number of Bed Nights: Up to 10 points (the number of shelter bed nights in the last 180 days divided by 18)

*New to Homeless Points *(RRH Only)* :

- Singles receive additional 20 points in month 7 of the current episode of homelessness on Tier 1, which will help them score higher on Tier 1, making them more likely to be invited to complete a Tier 2 assessment. On the Tier 2 list, individuals continue to receive the additional 20 points until the points expire at 10-month mark.
- Families receive additional points up to 20 points between month 2-8 on Tier 1. On Tier 2, they continue to receive the additional 20 points until the points expire at 10-month mark.

PSH Tier 2 Prioritization

The prioritization score for PSH is calculated by summing the following components:

- VI-SPDAT Score: Based on the individual's assessment (Families up to 22 points and singles and youth up to 17 points)
- Adjusted Tier 1 Assessment Score: Up to 6 points

Tier 1 and Tier 2 Process

- Tier 1 report generation method was established. On the first Monday of each month, the CE Manager runs the Tier 1 RRH and PSH reports.
- Tier 2 Assessment (VI-SPDAT) invitation instructions were added. The CE Manager identifies individuals to invite to complete the Tier 2 assessment that month. The number is calculated as three times the expected annual openings for each project type, divided by 12 months.
- Due diligence requirement for completing Tier 2 assessment was added. Staff must document in HMIS at least three attempts (at least one attempt each of the first three weeks) to connect with the client
- Accommodation for individuals who only access DV shelters was specified. DV shelter staff will discuss CE with shelter guests to determine whether participants are interested in CE and will complete paper enrollment form and CE ROI and send them to ICA CE staff. ICA CE staff enters the info in HMIS under the Coordinated Entry project so they are included in the Tier 1 process.
- CE ROI requirements were clarified. A signed ROI is not required for the Tier 1 process except for the DV shelter guests. A CE ROI must be completed for Tier 2 process.
- Chronic homeless documentation for PSH will be required only for those completing Tier 2 assessment and the documentation requirements were simplified.
- Requesting referrals from CE was detailed and referral timing guideline and due diligence requirements were added.
- Process for exiting people from the Tier 2 list and returning participants to the Tier 2 list were added.

- o No Discussion
- *Action Item*: Written Standards – Coordinated Entry Sections – Torrie Kopp Mueller
  - o **Proposal**: Approve the Coordinated Entry updates to the Written Standards as presented.
  - o [Presentation](#)
  - o No discussion
  - o **All voting members like the proposal**.
- *Action Item*: Community Action Coalition Requesting Letter of Support for Supportive Services for Veterans and their Families (SSVF) Renewal funding application – CAC staff
  - o **Proposal**: Provide a letter of support for Community Action Coalition Requesting Letter of Support for Supportive Services for Veterans and their Families (SSVF) Renewal funding application
  - o Jeremey Schmidt, SSVF Program Manager with CAC
  - o Started managing program in 2013
  - o In the last fiscal year $282,807 in financial assistance
  - o 48 households with resources/referrals
  - o To be eligible, there must be a Veteran in the household, household make-up doesn't matter
  - o Supportive Services offered:
    - ▪ Rapid Rehousing – helps Veterans who are homeless, provide housing navigation, case management, move in costs, work with other Veteran programs in the community to connect with other subsidy programs, provide bed set, household items, car repairs, medical appointments, health care navigation, help get connected to service-related disability
  - o Requesting a letter of support for the renewal application for the next fiscal year
- *Action Item*: Community Action Coalition Requesting Letter of Support for Supportive Services for Veterans and their Families (SSVF) Renewal funding application – CAC staff
  - o **Abstained due to conflict of interest**: Chara Taylor, Erin Kautz
  - o All voting members like the proposal except for those that abstained.

- *Discussion Topic*: HSC Board – Officer Positions – President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer – Torrie Kopp Mueller
  - o Provided opportunity for Board members to ask questions about these roles.
  - o One current officer mentioned that it wasn't as much of a time commitment as they thought.
  - o Much of the work happening outside of meetings happened via email.

- Officers have an additional monthly meeting to set agendas and meet with City staff on a quarterly basis.
- Chara willing to provide transition support if there is a new President.

Meeting Adjourned at 2:28 PM.

Future Board Meetings, All meetings are 1-3PM

February 5th	August 6th
March 5th	September 3rd
April 2nd	October 1st
May 7th	November 5th
June 4th	December 3rd
July 2nd	

If you have topics you think the HSC Board should discuss, please email them to hsc@cityofmadison.com.