

# CORE Committee Minutes

Thursday, January 5, 2023 1:00 pm- 3:00 pm

Jen Ripp, Patrick Duffie, Meshan Adams, Jael Currie, Takisha Jordan, Aurey Leslie, Casey Yanta, Alicia Spry, Sarah Lim, Torrie Kopp Mueller, Maureen Quinlan, Dominique Christian, Johneisha Prescott, Brenda Konkel, Courtney Spears, Melissa Mennig, Kristina Cux, Andrea Sanders, Karen Adnrol, Zach Stephen, Jael Currie, Steve Starkey, Willie Watkins, Casey Yanta

1. Assign Notetaker – Sarah Lim

2. Introductions (make sure attendance is taken)

3. Announcements/Walk on Items

- ICA reminder for security training
- PIT on 1/25/23. CoC, EHH or City funded agencies will be required to participate in the unsheltered count. More information will be coming soon via email.
- There seems to be more applicants for job opening – 80 applicants for a Madison Street Medicine job opening
- TSA hired a waitlist case manager for family shelter –for families who are on the waitlist

4. HMIS Data Collection

a. Why collecting data is important (Torrie)

- ▶ Funder requirement
- ▶ Learn if/how outcomes differ based on demographics
- ▶ Learn how different groups experience the homeless services system
- ▶ Referral to services
- ▶ Information on identity can provide some insight into how one experience's services
- ▶ Allows us to know who accesses the system and who doesn't

b. What data is currently collected & proposed changes from HUD (Patrick)

## HMIS Data Collection in the Madison / Dane CoC

- **Most fields are required by HUD**
  - HUD has proposed updates for 2024 (see slide 5)
- **Dane has four custom questions that are shared with the rest of WI**
- **Specific project types may have unique required questions (ie. RHY, PSH, CE, etc)**
- **We can add more fields but... should consider the balance of**
  - client privacy
  - administrative burden
  - data and policy goals
- **Additional HMIS specific considerations:**
  - We could limit which project type to add a new field to (ie only CE, or only SO and ES, etc)
  - Fields may be added to the profile, enrollment, status update, other assessments, and exit screens
  - If/when/how should fields be updated over time?

(Patrick from ICA reviewed the current data collection with screenshots of HMIS.)

**HUD's  
proposed 2024  
HMIS data  
standards  
changes**

- **More options for Gender**
- **New field for capturing hx of Transgender Experience**
- **Race and Ethnicity are combined into a single multi-select question**
- **New field for Preferred Language**

c. Sexual orientation & homelessness: information & addition of question (Steve)

Steve from Outreach advocated for adding a sexual orientation question in HMIS:

- Lack of data on sexual orientation and gender identify -> not able to do evidence based programming planning/grant application
- When study was done, 10 years ago, Milwaukee did a study on sexual orientation and found that up to 25% of youth experiencing homelessness was LGBTQ youth. It was a good local statistics to use.
- Resistance to asking personal question – we learned that people actually want to be asked.
- Several years ago, a question was asked at PIT. 10% of the people who responded was LGBTQ.
- UCLA study found that LGBTQ not transgender were 3 times more likely to experience homelessness than non LGBTQ population, transgender 8 times more likely.
- Wilma's Funds client info

Willma's Fund Client Info:

- Total amount given out in 2022: \$47,587.71
- Total number of clients: 110
- Monthly median: 9.5
- Monthly minimum: 3
- Monthly maximum: 17

Client Demographics (all demographics are self-reported)

- Race:
  - Black: 44%
  - White: 39%
  - Hispanic: 12%
  - Other/Multiracial: 3%
  - Native/Indigenous: 2%
- Gender:
  - Cisgender: 69%
  - Transgender: 31%
- Sexual Orientation:
  - Bisexual: 31%
  - Gay: 27%
  - Queer: 23%
  - Lesbian: 16%
  - Asexual/Aromantic: 2%
  - Straight: 1%

- Having this information will also help us to understand intersectionality of multiple identities of minorities and underserved population.
- We shouldn't force disclosing information, but when people want to disclose, it really helps us to have that data.

## Discussion

- Briarpatch does ask about gender identity and sexual orientation on our intake form. Based on what I have seen over the past year LGBTQ youth are more likely to utilize our shelter and counseling services. It's just a part of questions, youth don't push back on why we are asking the question.
- Madison Street Medicine (MSM) Community Health Needs Assessment has the following data: 24 survey respondents (12%) identified as members of the LGBTQ+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning, plus) community (n = 193). Approximately 17% of LGBTQ+ identifying individuals surveyed in the US reported experiencing homelessness at some point in their lives. 11 According to the same study, this number is higher than the general population at 6%.
- It's important to share that they don't have to answer any questions that they don't feel comfortable and how the information will be shared (for MSM survey, it was anonymous).
- Balance of State CoC added this question for YHDP projects, but no other CoCs have added the questions.
- Youth seems to be more accepting of these questions. How would older adults respond? Any significant resistance/concerns? Three people answered from their experience that it won't be considered too personal question.

## d. Doubled-up homelessness: information & addition of question (Johneisha)

# Doubled Up Homelessness

## ▶ HUD

- ▶ Children or youth under 25 years of age, and their families who are unstably housed in a non-permanent arrangement at a residence that is not owned or leased by a member of their household

## ▶ McKinney-Vento Act

- ▶ Children and youth who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.
  - ▶ Shelters, street homelessness, and sharing the housing of another person due to loss of housing, economic hardship or other similar situations

## Current Data

	ACS	DPI	HMIS (entry)	HMIS (exit)
Male	3,752		361	115
Female	1,875		163	92
Children (0-18)	548			
Children (3-24)		1,306		
Youth (0-17)			21	85
Youth (18-24)			72	24
Youth (19-24)	4,175			

(ACS – census data; DPI- school data)

## Data Limitations

- ▶ ACS
  - ▶ BIPOC populations are underrepresented
  - ▶ No tracking of particular special populations
- ▶ DPI
  - ▶ Does not track race and ethnicity
  - ▶ Limited to school age children
  - ▶ No tracking of particular special populations
- ▶ HMIS
  - ▶ Exclusively an enrollment question; no further updating or historical tracking
  - ▶ Low completion rates for exits

## Data Assumptions

- ▶ Majority of the households experiencing the McKinney –Vento definition of homelessness will also meet the HUD definition
- ▶ Majority of the households experiencing doubled up homelessness:
  - ▶ has guardianship or is the caretaker of a child 17 years of age or younger
  - ▶ are at or below the AMI and qualify for public benefits
  - ▶ are at risk of adverse health and safety outcomes
  - ▶ are at-risk of entering Category 1/literal homelessness

## Shelter Is Not Always an Option...

- ▶ Capacity
- ▶ Safety concerns
- ▶ Past experiences
- ▶ Barriers (employment, distance, child care)
- ▶ Family separation
- ▶ No desire to have children at shelter

## Defining Doubled Up in the CoC

Ability to put parameters around a definition to maximize the results of data collection efforts

## Proposal

- ▶ Programmatic definition to capture Doubled Up households in HMIS
  - ▶ Experienced at least one past or current episode of literal homelessness
  - ▶ Within the last 12 months of program entry
  - ▶ Loss of housing, economic hardship, or safety concerns
- ▶ Continual tracking
  - ▶ At program exit
  - ▶ Updated like all other HMIS metrics for additional occurrences

We don't want to count all households experiencing doubled up homelessness in HMIS. So the proposal is to count only households who have experienced literal homelessness in the past.

## Benefits of Data Collection

- ▶ Local data control
- ▶ Improved Estimates of resource need
- ▶ Targeted distribution of resources
- ▶ Increased data availability
- ▶ Goal and funding alignment
- ▶ Informing a collective and shared stance and vision on the issue

## Discussion

- For people who are spending a night outside, night at shelter, night at doubled up situation, night at self paying hotel, how can we answer?  
We don't want to take away unsheltered homeless episode or anything that takes away their eligibility. CoC can determine what "doubled up homeless" is defined as. Past doubled up experience assessment. Doubled up workgroup is working vulnerability assessment. Still working on how to capturing the doubled up episode.
- We don't want to count all households experiencing doubled up homelessness in HMIS. So the proposal is to count only households who have experienced literal homelessness in the past.
- Many people doubled up never come to homeless services, so HMIS is not going to be able to capture all doubled up data.
- What questions and when it gets asked need to be figured out.
- When people are receiving homeless services, they are literally 1 homeless.
- How does it affect the chronic homeless documentation? Break in 7 day will be separate episodes. How would this play out? What would be the impact? → we may want to ask general question "in the past year, have you stayed in a doubled up situation?" instead of drilling down the number of days, etc.
- We don't have any idea about doubled up homeless status for singles. For families with school age children, we at least have school data for doubled up population. Can we start with families? There were differing opinions. Johneisha's proposal is to do it for both families and singles.
- When would the questions be asked? At intake and exit for street outreach and shelter programs.
- How would this data be used?
- What have other communities done to implement programs that serve doubled up programs? Johneisha mentioned that Chicago did find a way to fund programs but did not use HUD funding.

e. Discussion on pros and cons of adding additional questions to HMIS intake

f. Create proposal for HSC Board to consider

g. Proposal to add a question at HMIS program entry about sexual orientation – there was an objection and discussion will be tabled until next meeting.

5. Next Meeting: Thursday, February 2, 2023 1:00 pm- 3:00 pm