Workforce & Economic Opportunity Workgroup Minutes

DATE: October 6, 2017

TIME: 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM

LOCATION: Lincoln Building
Oak Conference Room
421 SW Oak Street
Portland, OR 97204

ATTENDEES: Caitlin Campbell, Rhea Graves, Nancy Jason, Brandi Jordan, Vivian Lackey, Ricardo Lopez, Patricia McLean, Rachel Post, Walter Robinson II, Blair Shaeffer-Bisht, Charles Smith, Liesl Wehmueller.

MEETING DISCUSSION

- Welcome and Introductions
  - Rachel Post led the group through introductions.
- Subcommittee Updates
  - How should the number of people that "need employment services" be captured, in order to help assess unmet need?
  - Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) Summit referenced that 2,800 PSH units are required to meet the needs of our community.
  - **Rachel Post**: Does anyone know what this would cost?
    - **Rhea Graves**: 2,800 PSH units would cost about $413 million. This was determined by the A Home for Everyone (AHFE) PSH Workgroup, a subgroup/task force of the AHFE Health Workgroup.
- Workgroup Discussion
  - **Goal**: Assess the unmet need in employment services and establish cost
  - What is the definition of "at-risk of homelessness?"
    - Does JOHS have a definition?
      - **Ryan Deibert**: This can be determined by each workgroup and is relative to their unique scope of work.
      - **Group**: There is value in aligning our definition with partners and other workgroups within AHFE. The AHFE Housing Workgroup is using HUD's definition of homelessness in their analysis of housing gaps.
      - What does this mean in the context of the Workforce and Economic Opportunity workgroup?
      - Should this be captured in the program inventory and if so, how?
      - What population are we trying to capture in the "at risk definition?"
        - Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Self-Sufficiency Program funds housing and is not sufficient to pay for their housing. Would this be considered "at risk of homelessness?" - They have housing, but it is unstable.
    - **Discussion**: AHFE Economic Opportunity Program (EOP) Regional Program Standards and homeless definition
      - "Homeless Status": The program serves households who are homeless or imminently at risk of becoming homeless (see "homeless" definition below).

- **Homeless Definition**: An individual or family who lacks a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence, including any of the following situations:
  - Living in a place not meant for human habitation (e.g a car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, airport or camping ground).
  - Living in a shelter, transitional housing or hotel or motel paid for with a voucher.
  - Exiting an institution (like hospital or jail) where he/she resided for less than 90 days and resided in a place not meant for human habitation or an emergency shelter before entering the institution.
  - Losing their primary nighttime residence within 14 days with no subsequent residence identified and lacking the resources and support networks needed to obtain other permanent housing.
  - Some youth or families who meet other federal definitions of homelessness.
  - Fleeing domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking or other dangerous conditions and has no other residence or resources or support networks to obtain other permanent housing.
  - Imminently at risk of losing access to, or is unsafely sharing, the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; including, but not limited to person's presence is in violation of a lease/rental agreement, housing has been deemed uninhabitable by a government or social service agency, there exists an imminent threat of violence and/or illegal activity, the individual's or family's presence violates maximum housing occupancy limits.
    - **Group**: We should look at HUD's homeless definition and the community's need and decide what "at risk of homelessness" means in the context of our work.
      - It is important to hold our system accountable for getting the data (racial demographic breakouts, etc.) needed to address disparities.
      - Portland Housing Bureau (PHB) owns the Homeless Information Management System (HMIS) data and the Joint Office of Homeless Services (JOHS) is working to get joint ownership.
      - Group plans to discuss variables in employment status categories within Service Point.
        - We will review this at the next meeting and provide recommendations for improvement.
        - "Let's be mindful about creating categories that force people to be helpless to get services."
    - **Group**: Ryan Deibert reviewed a HMIS data report showing the total number of people served through our community's homeless systems (includes those that are homeless and those at-risk of homelessness). It provides information on people with "earned income, other income and no income."
      - For a general estimate, we could determine based on this data that out of the 20,000 served, approximately 85% of people entering homelessness programs do not have earned or other income (other income includes SSI, SSDI, etc.).
        - This is an example of how we can use the current data
        - It is a rough estimate, as it does not pull out the pool of people who are disabled and not yet receiving SSI, etc.
        - The County/JOHS is currently examining the funding made through JOHS to analyze the investments made over time in specific service categories, and how they have changed. This can help answer the question raised about the percent of funds dedicated to employment.
        - Currently there is limited capacity to run and analyze these large data sets so if agencies have capacity to provide assistance here, please do so.
- The AHFE Equity Lens Task Force is launching their work with SPARC (Supporting Partnerships for Anti-Racist Communities) and through this work, we are hoping to identify the community data needed to determine how many homeless people require employment services.

ACTION ITEMS

ITEM	ASSIGNED
1. Bring minutes from this meeting to the next workgroup meeting.	Rhea Graves
2. Share HMIS intake questions and income breakout categories with the group.	Ryan Deibert, Caitlin Campbell
3. Invite DV (domestic violence) system representative to attend next meeting and share about economic empowerment programs.	Workgroup Leads
4. Prepare handout with AHFE EOP Regional Program Standards homelessness definition.	Rhea Graves
5. Add "Discussion about the HMIS Employment Categories" to the November meeting agenda.	Rhea Graves

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, November 3, 2017
10:00 AM – 11:30 AM
Lincoln Building
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421 SW Oak Street
Portland, OR 97204