



Kentucky Housing Corporation
KY Balance of State Continuum of Care – Advisory Board Meeting
10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. EST, Wednesday, February 3, 2016
KHC – 127 Building – 1047 US Highway 127S, Frankfort, KY

The Kentucky BoS CoC Advisory Board met on February 3, 2016, at Kentucky Housing Corporation in Frankfort, Kentucky. A quorum was present with the following members:

KY BoS CoC Board Members Present and via Webinar

- Debbie Sivis, Shelter of Hope, Chairperson
- Paul Semisch, Gateway Homeless Coalition
- Jodie Brandenburg, Kentucky River Foothills Development Council, Inc.
- Adrienne Bush, Hazard-Perry County Community Ministries
- Michelle Yoebstl, Barren River Area Safe Space
- Linda Young, Welcome House
- Alisa Barton, Salvation Army of Hopkinsville
- Steve Clark, Heartland CARES
- Sharon Hendrickson, Kentucky River Community Care
- Cyndee Burton, Matthew 25 Aids Services, Inc.

KY BoS CoC Board Members Absent

- Marty Jones, CAC of Lexington
- Brad George, Housing and Homeless Coalition
- Marsha Croxton, Women's Crisis Center

Others Present and via Webinar

- Sharon Price, Cloudburst Group
- Caitlin Frumerie, Cloudburst Group
- Curtis Stauffer, Housing and Homeless Coalition
- Kenzie Strubank, Housing and Homeless Coalition of Kentucky
- Davey King, Kentucky Housing Corporation
- Rosemary Lockett, Kentucky Housing Corporation
- Shaye Rabold, Kentucky Housing Corporation
- Terry Helton, Kentucky Housing Corporation
- Heather Harvey, Kentucky Housing Corporation
- Jill House, Kentucky Housing Corporation
- Anne Colly Rose, Kentucky Housing Corporation
- Donna Sullivan, Kentucky Housing Corporation
- Dave Kreher, People's Self-Help Housing

Approval of Minutes

Chairperson Debbie Sivis presented the minutes of the December 9, 2015, meeting. A motion was made by Paul Semisch to approve the minutes with a second motion from Linda Young. A vote was taken and motion carried.

Public Comment

Dave Kreher, Executive Director at People's Self-Help Housing in Maysville, Ky expressed concerns regarding the coordinated assessment, in particular the VISPDAT. They serve Lewis County where he feels homelessness is different for them in that most people know everyone and may be related. He feels some questions are obtrusive, offensive, and abusive. He and his staff are uncomfortable doing the surveys. He stated the script could be reworded to be more sensitive. He said the survey is useless and does not meet their needs at all. He doesn't understand how HUD could approve such a document, especially if they are sensitive to many other questions. He understands that HUD requires a coordinated entry but HUD's middle initial stands for urban and these requirements are not a good fit for rural areas. He is shocked at being asked to ask these questions.

Jodi Brandenburg asked if the script had to be stated exactly/as-is.

Debbie Sivis asked for any comments.

Alisa Barton stated these are questions we have to ask and they just do it and get through them but she does not feel the clients are being honest when answering.

Shaye Rabold thanked Dave for expressing his comments and concerns and the coordinated entry subcommittee is the best place to address this particular topic. She explained that KHC gives basic direction and suggestions "such as the script" to help the process. While the script is difficult, it is designed to ensure everyone is asked the questions in the same manner. It is perfectly okay to reword the script but the VISPDAT questions themselves are not to be changed. Shaye re-iterated that the VISPDAT is a tool and not the only part of the decision.

Debbie Sivis said the VISPDAT is the tool the board has selected and decided to proceed with because we must have a common assessment tool but did not find another tool that fit our needs.

Shaye reminded everyone that the VISPDAT isn't required to use as eligibility, it is simply a tool used to prioritize. The SPDAT is another available tool but it isn't recommended because it is a much longer form.

Davey asked if this is the best tool available. Prioritization isn't needed by going through this process.

Debbie said using the score from the VISPDAT helps someone who is at a higher risk by prioritizing.

Sharon Hendrickson feels that families in need will score too low on the prioritization and never receive services and that by truly following only the score will sometimes eliminate services to everyone. Sometimes you need to decide to serve clients with a low score.

Linda Young also thanked Dave for voicing his concerns. Her concern is that they know most of the families and are pre-assuming who to give the VISPDAT too because she doesn't have faith in the scores due to feeling families won't be truthful answering questions. It also assumes the resources are available once people are prioritized. She feels we can learn from others who are already using it.

Paul Semisch asked if we could re-do the questions and/or the CoC Board re-word the content. He feels the survey is useful and that his staff is on board but uncomfortable with some of the questions.

Shaye said she needs to work with the committee to do more research. We are required to have a consistent coordinated tool. Board decided this is tool to use. We may have discretion to come up with whatever tool we want but not change questions on VISPDAT itself.

Linda stated they do not ask some questions, as a local decision, as a standard.

Jodi said the VISPDAT was the only tool presented to vote on.

Rosemary stated that different regulations can develop different policies around the coordinated assessment. HUD does expect that the tool be consistent.

Shaye said that the challenges are not unique to us and that while we want people to adjust to working with their own areas, there needs to be some consistencies. We need to have high level policies and low level policies to use at your own discretion.

Cyndee Burton reminded everyone that the VISPDAT is a tool and it is not to replace critical thinking skills. She wants to caution us about trying to be too sensitive to rural concerns. Scott County Indiana is rural and has a very urban concern with HIV/AIDS and Hep C. What if they are vulnerable in those ways and we aren't asking them then we are missing the opportunity to serve clients in need. We need to give clients an opportunity to use the tool because it could link them to housing and possibly long-term health care. She suggested we poll agencies who have using it and see what their issues are.

Debbie stated the tool has been helpful in her area, especially in eliminating the waiting list. However this is the type of feedback we need.

Adrienne Bush said the board discussed doing a poll but waiting until after the KCount.

Michelle Yoebstl said their clients are very forthcoming. For the VSP's they destroy the results and if we "think" the client isn't vulnerable and not do the VISPDAT, what if we are wrong? We shouldn't assume we know.

Shaye stated the tool is supposed to help assess people as to their needs, be it housing, case management, etc., purpose is to get away from doing a first-come first-served.

Jodi said that as we move to a housing first model, many of the questions will become more valuable.

Debbie said she appreciates everyone's concerns and the committee has now been given an assignment and to move forward quickly. Do a survey on what people feel and what can we do to improve.

Jodi asked if we can look at other assessments to which Rosemary said yes.

Davey King wants to encourage this committee to look at the work region 6 has done and learn from their example and adjust. Don't lose site of the accomplishments and progress made.

Ending Veteran Homelessness

Terry Helton introduced Sharon Price and Caitlin Frumerie from the Cloudburst Group and turned the meeting over to them for discussion of ending veteran homelessness.

Sharon is based in Washington D.C. and has been working with Kentucky for a long time on various assignments. HUD has assigned them to work with us to end veteran homelessness. They have created a short survey to send to the board and partners across the state and said we need to create a working group that will bring various VA related partners to the table. SSVF needs to be at the table.

Shaye said that all CoC's are responsible for moving forward and in the application it asks what are we doing to end veteran homelessness and what are our expectations. We will be held accountable for that charge given. She doesn't feel a working group is necessary and that people on this group can take the assignment. Other people from veterans affairs need to help us be held accountable for grasping where veterans are, what resources are available. Purpose is to help us as a CoC move forward.

Debbie suggested we get in touch with Volunteers of America, Mid-States, Veterans Affairs and Chris Taylor at HUD in Louisville.

Linda suggested that each regions needs to be represented. HUD Louisville had focus groups and we need to use those results/findings.

Shaye will draft a survey and will share for input/feedback.

Paul inquired as to where we are on the vet vouchers.

Davey pulled information and said we have 100 vet vouchers of which 42 are assigned and 58 are still available.

K-Count/HIC Update

Shaye thanked everyone for their help and support in this year's K-Count. We learned a lot and will start planning earlier next year. Would like to see a K-Count subcommittee with representatives from each region. February 5th is the deadline for surveys to be entered into survey monkey.

Addressing Request for Letters of Support

Debbie shared that we have another requests for letters of support. Need to revisit proposed process/forms. How could we ensure consistency?

Jodi expressed that it is great agencies are sending these because it demonstrates interest and engagement.

Debbie stated last March the board proposed members to a review committee: HHCK, KHC, Louisville, Lexington and member of board (Adrienne).

Jodi made a motion for KHC review the letters in the interim and then the board can later establish the working group. Adrienne seconded.

Adrienne made a motion for Debbie Sivilis to sign-off on letters to which Jodi seconded the motion.

Coordinated Entry Committee Report

Adrienne gave a recap of the January 13th conference call coordinated entry committee and stated they need staff support. Terry will be able to assist with this in future. She said some people are unable to see version 2 of the VISPDAT. Anyone needing help needs to contact Lena Columbia at KHC. This information is also on KHC's help desk as well as instructions. She also stated they need input from region 3 pilot on the VISPDAT.

Linda is coordinating with Cincinnati in doing the survey on street/shelters only.

Adrienne stated the VISPDAT has been helpful. She noticed with her agency it helps them organize work and get people moving through the systems better. Case managers report that there has not been any backlash about the intrusive nature of the survey. It has actually helped address how many housing needs they have and helped get actual numbers regarding need.

Sharon reiterated that for service organizations the VISPDAT is definitely a tool for getting them connected to services.

Kenzie said the VISPDAT has been helpful for their housing needs. They tell clients when completing the survey that they are not asking these questions out of judgment but asking to better help them access services.

Debbie said we definitely need to send a survey out regarding the VISPDAT on what works and what doesn't.

Shaye said there will be training for the VISPDAT on or around March 9th for Lexington and maybe we could piggyback onto that training.

Davey said the survey is a good idea to have feedback before that training.

Rosemary discussed the powerpoint handout and reviewed slides/highlights regarding the coordinated entry and where others stand in the process.

HMIS Advisory Board

Shaye discussed the HMIS advisory board spoke briefly at last meeting. Sandy from ICA stated we need to develop an advisory board instead of KHC making decisions on a state level the board should do that instead. The idea is to allow individual CoC's to raise concerns/issues and discuss.

Other Business

Adrienne expressed concern regarding a recent compliance monitoring that was closed with a finding in her HOME multi-family program. What is KHC's role in making sure people are housed? There needs to be coordination in monitoring across programs better.

Davey explained HCA's departmental role in the process and discussed better internal communication.

Adrienne said this funding is her core funding and isn't just supplemental.

Jill House shared her recent experience at the LGBTQ training in Louisville. She said it was a wonderful training and would like to encourage anyone who has an opportunity to attend.

Curtis Stauffer encouraged everyone to advocate for Medicaid and to continue services for supportive housing.

Michelle expressed concern in engaging agencies in coordinated entry meetings. It was difficult getting anyone interested in the discussion during the latest gathering of everyone at the K-Count training in her region.

Next meeting – Scheduled for Wednesday, March 16, 2016 10:00a.m.

Adjournment – Chairperson Debbie Sivis announced motion to end meeting and Cyndee Burton adjourned.