

The Southeastern Oklahoma Continuum of Care

The Southeastern Oklahoma Continuum of Care is committed to prevent and end the tragedy of homelessness among individuals and families.

Serving Atoka, Bryan, Carter, Choctaw, Coal, Haskell, Hughes, Johnston, Latimer, LeFlore, Love, Marshall, McCurtain, McIntosh, Murray, Muskogee, Okfuskee, Okmulgee, Pittsburg, Pontotoc, and Pushmataha Counties.

Mid-year Meeting
Wednesday, August 13, 2014 10:00 a.m.
Kiamichi Technology Center
McAlester, OK

Meeting was called to order and introductions were made.

HMIS Update - Melissa Brumley

- CoC Report Cards: The overall score rose from 95.59% to 96.47%.
- September 30, 2014 is year end. All programs need to have all their Null values fixed so we may achieve 100%.
- The Homeless Alliance HMIS in Oklahoma City will be merging with Tulsa and Ponca City HMIS. The goal be merged and ready to start data entry no later than October 1, 2014.
- There was a Bowman price increase this year.
- The United Way board met and agreed to allow Melissa Brumley to work from home. She will continue be our HMIS Coordinator.

Emergency Solutions Grant Review and Input - Rebekah Zahn

- Oklahoma Department of Commerce must submit a plan to HUD, must provide a 1 year update regarding the changes and suggestions to make things more user friendly.
- September 25, 2014 there will be a state wide meeting in Oklahoma City regarding all HUD changes, mid-October a draft of the plan will be ready. There will be a public hearing before the plans will be released and you will have 30 days to make any last suggestions, requests or give feedback.
- Discussed the proposed changes to the 2015 ESG Program.
 1. A 60 day timeline may be enforced in regards to awarding funds.
 2. Agencies must track match funds.
 3. Proposed an 18 month time period to allow more time to fix administration issues.
 4. New ESG Grant may introduce more options for working with youth.
 5. Still working on the Performance Measures for the youth and how to track them.
 6. 60% rapid re-housing and 40% to prevention is still in effect. If you can justify the need for more prevention HUD won't question an expense with a good explanation.
 7. Will work on the reports to make them a little more unified and useable as one document.
 8. Under the new ESG transitional housing is not eligible. If there is a lease it becomes transitional housing, but if there is no lease it is considered long-term emergency shelter and that is still an eligible expense under ESG.
 9. Amending spending checkpoints, for example 50% by 9 months and 75% by 15 months. Anything not spent by the end of the program year will be returned and then it puts everyone out of compliance.

Discussion:

The 30% AMI is still a barrier.

Consolidated Application

- This application is submitted annually.
- The interim rule gave Continuums 2 years to comply. The two years ends August 30th, 2014.

PIT Count

- Discussed the numbers and final totals, there was reduction in beds from some shelters due to the same beds being counted in multiple categories.
- Veterans were still hard to find and count. With the addition of the SSVF program the numbers will hopefully be more accurate
- Housing Inventory Chart - explained the removal of the youth shelters.

ESG Grantees

- Grantees will work together to develop a risk assessment for use with clients once financial assistance stops to see what the follow-up schedule should be.

Hearth Act

- Must establish a stronger committee structure and formalize it. Gave overview of the committees and passed around a signup sheet.
- Coordinated assessment helps to make sure the client is directed to the right service and is not left to fall through the crack.
- Melissa Brumley presented an example of the Northeast and Central Oklahoma Continuums of Care Coordinated Assessment. The assessment should be used as a guide to what the client needs. This document is to be filled out by the worker and not the client.
- The assessment contains specific data elements that could be sent to the different agencies so that the information does not have to be collected again on a second form if the agency is already collecting the specified data.
- Coordinated Assessment would be used mainly with emergency services.
- The SPDAT helps prioritize the clients and their needs. Any client in a shelter for more than 5 days should have the SPDAT done. This may become a requirement for ESG grantees.
- The SPDAT qualifies as an evidence based tool and therefore meets the qualifications for different funding sources.

There was much discussion regarding the Coordinated Assessment and its intended and required use.

Michelle Bachelor motioned to provide the presented Coordinated Assessment form to the Continuum agencies as the Southeastern Oklahoma Continuum of Care officially adopted assessment, as well as the required data elements that can be incorporated into their own forms if they so choose. Agencies not using the CoC form must be able to provide Assessment data elements when requested. Jessica Eastwood seconded the motion. Motion carried. Big Five Community Services abstained.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:05.