

# Data Collection Committee Minutes

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## Date and Time

Thursday, December 11th, 2013 1:30AM-2:30PM

## Location

FIT's Family Willows, 161 South Beech St.

## Attendees

Kyle Beaulieu	Greg Schneider	Ed Orłowski	Mark Stokes	Mary Sliney
Rich Doyle	Susan Howland	Cathy Kuhn	Vanessa Talasazan	Alyssa Gagne

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**This is a special Data Collection meeting specifically to address the NOFA**

**Everyone is strongly encouraged to read the CoC Program Competition in its entirety in addition to summaries**

## NOFA Schedule

- Renewal Project E2s are due January 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Peer Review Committee will meet to evaluate projects the week of January 6<sup>th</sup>
- The deadline for final submission of the NOFA is February 3<sup>rd</sup>

## Project Tiering

- We need to place \$64,168 (5%) from the CoC budget into Tier 2
- Using HUD's policy priorities we will evaluate and rank each project in order to strategically decide how to place this \$64,168 in Tier 2
  - Funds placed in Tier 2 are more susceptible to being cut if HUD does not have sufficient funding for all projects.

## HUD Program and Policy Priorities

- FY2013-FY2014 NOFA emphasizes ending Chronic Homelessness by 2015
  - CoC projects can lose points in NOFA if they are not increasing the number of beds designated and/or prioritized for CH
  - Maximum points for
    - CoCs that increase the total number of PSH beds dedicated to CH persons since the 2012 CoC Application - 3 Points
    - Prioritizing for CH in at least 85% of PSH units not designated for CH when these units are made available through turnover – 2 points
- Being doubled up does not count as a period of homelessness to qualify a household as CH
  - This prevents many homeless families from meeting HUD's definition of CH and, therefore, makes PSH for families ineligible to meet HUD's policy priorities
- We have a few new projects for CH, including Somerville St. and TWH PSH projects

Should we have agencies begin prioritizing for CH now?

- How would this prioritizing policy affect agencies?
- Many of FIT's PSH units are for families.
  - If FIT began prioritizing for CH in these units, they would still have to continue serving families and would prioritize CH families for these units
  - The last PIT count reported 84 CH individuals and 1 CH family
- Following this meeting, everyone will go back to their respective agencies and determine how many units can reasonably be designate and/or prioritize for CH
  - These units still must meet existing program criteria, e.g. families, veterans, etc.

### **Housing First**

- Housing First is another policy HUD is emphasizing, particularly for CH persons as well.
- Rich reported that Helping Hands' Safe Haven has a rate of 75% for participants maintaining sobriety and housing
  - This is about 25% above the national average.
  - Adopting a Housing First policy would likely jeopardize the success of their sober residents
- Harbor Homes' Somerville St. has several Housing First units
- There is a distinction, Mary said, between Housing First and still having rules for tenancy
  - Having Housing First would hurt our program measures because there would likely be high turnover

### **Moving Forward with Ranking and Tiering**

- SNHS' SSO project will not reapply for HUD funds this year as the NOFA priorities indicate that HUD does not want to fund SSO projects going forward
- Even if we place their (approx.) \$34,000 in Tier 2, we still must account for another (approx.) \$28,000
- Peer Review Committee will meet soon, likely during the first week of January
- Leadership will make Tiering decisions before Peer Review meets

### **HMIS**

- What is our current capacity for tracking lengths of recidivism and returns to homelessness
  - This is difficult without an open HMIS system
  - Our Coordinated Assessment system will help us do this too
- Many emergency shelters in NH have an open system
- MEH and New Horizons are not part of this system
  - Cathy said that MEH could likely move to an open system

**Minutes prepared Erik Wirkkala AmeriCorps VISTA - MCoC Coordinator**