

**The Continuum of Care for the City and County of Racine, U.A.**

General Body Meeting Minutes

United Way of Racine County, 2000 Domanik Drive, Racine, WI

February 21, 2014

**Present:** Ilana Avital (LAW), Mark Boatwright (RVM), Delaney Booker (HALO), Cristen Chaffee (TLC), Kevin Cookman (HALO), Brian Dean (RKCAA), Jehan Ghuari (Bethany), Cherie Griffin (WRC), Pam Handrow (SAFE Haven), Sherry Hartog (WRC), AJ Jelks (HALO), Zeke Leo (RKCAA), Irma Love-Allen (HALO), Frannie Murillo (LAW), Kris Redmar (HOPES), Martice Scales (HOPES), Adam Smith (ICA), Ron Thomas (UWRC), Jennifer Toth (WRC), Barb Tylenda (HCN), Iraidia Vasquez (LAW), Demetri Vincze (LAW/HOPES), Carol Wester (HOPES), Yolanda Windham (HALO), Cathy Wood (HALO), Jerold Wright (CVI), Noemi Zawada (HALO)

**Call to Order:** Gai called the meeting to order at 9:03am.

**Presentation:** Adam Smith, Using Data to Improve Performance

HMIS Background: ServicePoint software (Bowman Systems.) Milwaukee CoC has an HMIS grant, which was merged from Hope House to HMIS Lead (DOA/DOH.)

HMIS Lead Transition: Institute for Community Alliances (ICA) will be HMIS Lead as of March 1.

ICA runs statewide HMIS in Iowa, Nebraska, South Dakota.

ICA interviewed incumbents at DOA, and hired Adam and his staff, and added a research analyst. [wisp@icalliances.org](mailto:wisp@icalliances.org) will be the new help desk.

There will also be a website at which all help materials will be available; training webinars will be recorded and posted online (but will still have required, live trainings.) If anyone needs to access training now, email help desk for direct links.

Adam will provide CoC with slides, so that data can be reviewed later. Key points:

Emergency shelter usage in WI from 2001-2013 increased from just over 15,000 to close to 20,000.

Racine: has not increased during that span overall, but 400 Racine County homeless were served in neighboring counties in 2013.

CoC will need to update client income in WISP more frequently

SOAR is the most successful program in CoC at assisting homeless at increasing income

PATH street outreach clients that have been served by CoC housing programs (TH and PSH) in the last two years: 16

Adam: This population is prime for Housing First, and there are scattered-site models to look at. The key element to success is bringing in other partners

Gai: we need to educate landlords, police department

2011: 42% of all persons using emergency shelter in Racine returned to emergency shelter  
20% higher than WI average for shelters

Total number of persons rapidly re-housed in Racine in 2013: 13

**Moving forward in 2014**

Partnering with DCF, which has a pilot grant with the Feds to reduce # of individuals that become homeless after leaving foster care system

Gai: agencies need to be asking foster care questions

Ending CH among veterans (220 in WI)

There are a number of chronic veterans in Racine (10-15)

Goal to house them all using SSVF or VASH by Veterans' Day, 2014

August: Heartland Alliance will come to BOS Meeting

Heartland Alliance: large provider of permanent housing in Chicago, moving into WI.

Specialize in serving high-barrier clients.

Could potentially develop a site in Racine for hard-to-serve clients, avoiding landlord issue

State CDBG funding has increased, Racine County can receive funding. Will pay for SOAR, but can also contribute to case management for RRH projects.

We need a lot of public comments to be submitted to support this plan.  
Gai: we need to get back into City CDBG as well  
May 21-22: BOS meeting, Concourse in Madison

**Further Discussion of Data:**

Cherie asked if this data can be discussed at next meeting.

Gai: this will fit in with the general shelter discussion planned for the March meeting. If anyone has particular data they would like to see, send request to Demetri

**Establishing an HMIS Committee:**

At least one designated person from each agency that uses WISP needs to serve on the committee. PATH and SOAR programs should also be represented (agencies can either send two people, or designate one person responsible for both things.)

Email Demetri with the name of your designee by the 2/28

Meetings will be on third Friday of every month, either before or after this meeting

**Sheltered PIT Update**

PIT folder in ART, 0630 report should be run for entire agency or by programs, can access client data. Important that if you have CH clients you have to answer CH question AND document disability information.

-Clean up data by next Friday

**Adjournment:** Gai adjourned the meeting at 11:09am.