



Racine CoC/Alliance Committee & Workgroup Reports

July 21, 2023

All committees and workgroups can always use members' participation. Please let Teresa or the Chairperson of the group know if you are interested in joining.

Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion (DEI) Workgroup: Chair – Nicole Hunt (R/K CAA)

- Nicole Hunt, R/K CAA, has stepped up to chair the workgroup.
- Presented a draft DEI statement to the CoC/Alliance Members' meeting on May 19th with a request for members to review and comment via a google form.
- The workgroup has met three times:
 - Monday, June 12th to discuss how we can include, as part of the Rating & Ranking process, an objective measure of grant recipients' active commitment to DEI. Continued discussion on evaluating available resources around the nation.
 - Monday, July 10th. We did not receive any feedback on our DEI statement as presented to the Membership during the May 19th meeting. We view silence as approval. We will proceed with a motion to the Members on July 21st meeting to accept the DEI statement as presented. We are working to develop surveys for agency directors and agency staff on DEI policies and procedures usage and seeking ideas on areas of training suggestions for group participation.

Here is the statement we crafted based on others:

Racine CoC/Alliance Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Statement

Draft May 08, 2023

The Continuum of Care for the City & County of Racine, WI-502 (Racine CoC/Alliance) is organized to address homelessness and housing concerns throughout our county. We are committed to sharing our values of diversity, equity, and inclusion as part of our growing initiatives towards ending homelessness throughout Racine County. Racine CoC/Alliance is dedicated to the integration of diverse, equitable, and inclusive topics within its policies, plans, and procedures while aligning with the mission.

The Racine CoC/Alliance believes in generating greater awareness of diversity, equity, and inclusion in its everyday operations to address biases that exist within our marginalized populations. This includes race, ethnicity, national origin, sex assigned at birth, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, religion, ability/disability, veteran/non-veteran status, socio-economic status, and age.

To that end we strive to educate and support homelessness/housing service providers in order to best serve our diverse community's needs to access housing which is safe for human habitation and affordable.

- **Coordinated Entry Workgroup:** Chair – Iraida Vazquez (Institute for Community Alliances (ICA))
Case Managers, our Housing Navigator, and Iraida meet every other week to discuss placement options and availability. Due to the need to maintain client confidentiality this workgroup is only open to Case managers and the housing navigator. Participants must have permission cleared by Iraida Vazquez to attend. This restriction includes listening privileges on phone-in and/or virtual attendance.
- **Health Services and Homelessness Workgroup:** Interim Chair – Teresa Reinders (CoC).
No workgroup meeting.
- **HMIS¹ Committee –** Co-Chairs: Benjamin Cornell (SAFE Haven) & Jori Chambers (Women's Resource Center)
Meets every other month on the third Thursday. The last meeting was May 15th. July was cancelled due to the Home for Everyone conference.
- **Housing Workgroup:** Chair – Kathy Snyder, Racine Revitalization Partnership.
No meeting scheduled yet.
- **Leadership Council:** President – Kaylee Cutler, Racine Unified.
Next meeting is scheduled for August.
- **Landlord Workgroup:** Chair – Rebecca Pritzel, CoC Housing Navigator.
We are still in the process of creating a presentation for meeting with the Landlord Association.
- **Point-in-Time Workgroup:** Chair – Scott Metzel, HOPES Center.
After discussing the various options, it was decided that there will not be a special summer PIT unless it is mandated. The street outreach team will conduct a PIT count on the night of the count and the following 7 days and record it in the PIT provider. No special preparation is needed by the COC.
- **Rating & Selection Workgroup (AKA: Rating & Ranking Workgroup):** Chair – Position open.
The workgroup has met twice:
 - Thursday, May 25th the workgroup met to review the process of how renewal projects are rated. Iraida provided a breakdown of the point system. The workgroup reviewed areas of assessment and will meet again to discuss whether other categories of assessment would provide a better understanding of what we believe best represents how the Racine CoC/Alliance funded projects are working to reflect our CoC/Alliance values and mission.
 - Thursday, June 15th we continued review of rating of renewal projects and discussion of scoring.
 - June Reviewed applications for HAP grant; recommendation that both applicants be forwarded to DEHCR for funding. Met to review ranking of projects to prepare for the FY2023 NOFO competition.
- **Shelter workgroup:** Interim Chair – Gai Lorenzen (HALO).
The group met in May to discuss and review housing projects and the need within the community. Discussion also examined the Wisconsin EHH² grant to be released in May. (As of

this writing it has been released and the group will be scheduling another meeting to discuss the distribution of funds and writing for the grant.

- **System Performance committee:** Co-Chairs – Scott Metzel (HOPES Center) & Iraida Vazquez (Institute for Community Alliances (ICA))
Met Friday, May 15 and Friday, July 07 to review system performance measures.

~END~

Abbreviations:

DEHCR – Division of Energy, Housing and Community Relations (under WI Department of Administration)
<https://doa.wi.gov/Pages/AboutDOA/DEHCRMainPage.aspx>

DEI – Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

DV – Domestic Violence

EHH – The Emergency Solutions Grant (**ESG**), Housing Assistance Program (**HAP**), and Homeless Prevention Program (**HPP**) are collectively referred to as the EHH Program.

HMIS – Homeless Management Information Systems

HUD – Housing and Urban Development

LSA – Longitudinal Systems Analysis <https://homelessdata.com/knowledge-base/what-project-types-are-included-in-the-lsa/>

NOFO – Notice of Funding Opportunity

PIT – Point-in-Time

PSH – Permanent Supportive Housing

SPM – System Performance Measures <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/coc/system-performance-measures/#guidance> or <https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/system-performance-measures-in-context.pdf>

YHDP – Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project

¹ HMIS – Homeless Management Information System <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/hmis/>

² EHH – [Emergency Solutions, Housing Assistance, and Homeless Prevention Programs](#) - Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG), Housing Assistance Program (HAP), and Homeless Prevention Program (HPP) are collectively referred to as the EHH Program. These funds provide emergency shelter, homelessness prevention, and housing assistance for homeless individuals and families. These funds are released, distributed, and monitored through Wisconsin of Administration (DOA) Division of Energy, Housing and Community Resources (DEHCR).