

**Continuum of Care for the City and County of Racine
Systems Performance Committee
HOPES Center Conference Room
January 5, 2024**

Present: Gai Lorenzen (HALO), Iraida Vazquez (ICA – Co-Chair), Melissa Taggart (HALO), Scott Metzel (HOPES / Co-Chair)

Apologies: Holly Anderle (HALO), Teresa Reinders (COC Director)

Minutes of Meeting

1. Welcome

- 1.1. **Opening:** The meeting started at 11:06 a.m. Scott welcomed everyone and briefly described the Performance Analysis Process for the next few months, starting from looking at broad, system level indicators and then diving deeper into areas of interest and concern. Scott noted that the committee would not be examining System Performance Measure (SPM) 4 (Increased Income) due to it being limited to only a few projects in the HUD/COC program.
- 1.2. **Apologies:** Gai gave apologies on behalf of Teresa Reinders, noting that she was out of the office and Scott said that Holly Anderle was not able to attend.

2. Approval of Minutes from December 1 2023

- 2.1. The minutes of meeting from 12.1.2023 were sent out prior to the meeting and no corrections were offered.
- 2.2. Melissa moved that the minutes be approved. Iraida seconded the motion and the minutes were adopted.

3. Review of System Level SPM Trends – 2015-2023

3.1. Pre-Meeting Materials

- 3.1.1. The committee reviewed a set of charts prepared for the meeting that included trends from 2015 – 2023 and comparisons to the other COCs in Wisconsin, as well as largely sub-urban COCs, which is how Racine is categorized.
- 3.1.2. Iraida corrected the SPM numbers for measure 1 on the chart appearing on page 3 of the document to read as follows:
 - 1.1.a. Average Length of Time Homeless (Shelter)
 - 1.2.a. Average Length of Time Homeless (Shelter and Transitional Housing)
 - 1.1.a. Median Length of Time Homeless (Shelter)
 - 1.2.a. Median Length of Time Homeless (Shelter and Transitional Housing)

3.2. Measure 1: Length of Time Homeless

- 3.2.1. **Best Performance:** Racine's best performance was in 2016 at 46 days average length of time homeless and 18 days median length of time homeless in shelter and 69 days average and 23 days median for shelter and transitional housing combined.
- 3.2.2. **Worst Performance:** Racine worst performance was in 2020 for the median length of time homeless, with 155 days for shelter and 93 days for Shelter and Transition. The worst performance on average length of time homeless was 169 days in shelter and 178 days in

shelter / transitional housing in 2021. It was noted as unusual that the median and average peaked at their highest levels on different years.

- 3.2.3. Comparison to other Wisconsin COCs:** Racine's performance relative to other COCs in the state declined over most of the period reviewed.
- 3.2.4. Comparison to other Largely Suburban COCs:** Racine has been below average compared to similar COCs across the country, except during the pandemic (2020/2021), when it performed better than average in comparison.
- 3.2.5. Trend Line:** With the exception of the effect of a spike during the pandemic period, there has been a gradual increase in the length of time homeless, showing a gradual decreased in performance in the measure.

3.3. Measure 2: Returns to Homelessness

- 3.3.1. Best Performance:** Racine's best performance in this measure was 13% in 2022.
- 3.3.2. Worst Performance:** Racine's worst performance in this measure was 20% in 2018.
- 3.3.3. Comparison to other Wisconsin COCs:** Racine has had the worst performance in this measure in Wisconsin, always having the highest or 2nd highest returns to homelessness.
- 3.3.4. Comparison to other Largely Suburban COCs:** Racine has poor performance (above average returns to homelessness) when compared to similar COCs across the country.
- 3.3.5. Trend Line:** With some mild fluctuation, the trend line is basically stable, meaning there has not been much change one way or the other and not clear direction.

3.4. Measure 3: Number of People Homeless

- 3.4.1.** There was a sharp decline in the number of people homeless during the pandemic period.
- 3.4.2.** The point-in-time count rose to levels higher than the pre-pandemic period in 2023.
- 3.4.3.** The annual HMIS count has risen post-pandemic, but has not year reached pre-pandemic levels.

3.5. Measure 5: First Time Homelessness

- 3.5.1.** With the exception of a minor increase 2018 and a significant decrease during the pandemic, there has been a steady decrease in first time homelessness in Racine.
- 3.5.2.** No comparative data was provided.

3.6. Measure 7: Exits to Positive Destinations / Permanent Housing

- 3.6.1. Positive Exits from Street Outreach:** Street outreach had wild fluctuations in 2015 – 2016, which were related to a combination of how the PATH street outreach provider was set up and changes taking place in the program. From 2018, there has been a gradual increase in positive exits. Racine's positive exits have consistently been in 2nd place in Wisconsin, and above average since 2020. Its status relative to other similar COCs has fluctuated significantly above, at, and below average.
- 3.6.2. Exits to Permanent Housing from Shelter, Transitional Housing and Rapid Rehousing:** Exits to permanent housing have been improving over time since 2015. Racine's performance in comparison other Wisconsin COC's has been better than average since 2018 and has continued to improve comparatively. Compared to other Suburban COCs, Racine declined from 2018-2020, but has since performed better than average. Performance has been steady.
- 3.6.3. Retention of / Exit to Permanent Housing from Permanent Supportive Housing:** With only minor fluctuations, performance has been steady in the is indicator at an overall simple average of 97% and typically performance well above average nationally.

4. Initial Prioritization

- 4.1. After reviewing the system level data and trends, the committee held a vote to identify three indicators to be explored more in-depth. There was a unanimous decision to explore SPM 1 (length of time homeless) and SPM 2 (returns to homelessness).
- 4.2. After discussion and a suggestion by Iraida, the committee determined to include SPM 3 (Number of people homeless) as a useful reference.

5. Questions for Exploration

- 5.1. The committee started to identify questions for further exploration related to disparity between various groups.
- 5.2. The committee then decided that it would be just as easy to thoroughly go through Stella P for each of the selected indicators.
- 5.3. The committee debated what periods to use for review and how they could be presented. The committee decided to review data that brackets the pandemic period, being 2018, 2019, 2022 and 2023. This data will give the best picture of the COC in its current form while eliminating many of the anomalies directly associated with the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 and 2021.
- 5.4. Scott and Iraida will be meeting before the next meeting in order to prepare some pre-meeting materials.

6. Any Other Business: There was no other business introduced.

7. Next Meeting: February 2nd, 2024: The committee will meet to explore the selected indicators in Stella P and identify further questions for exploration as we work toward prioritizing specific areas needing improvement.

8. Adjournment: With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:55 p.m.