



North Carolina Balance of State Continuum of Care

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Veterans Subcommittee Meeting

12.7.17 Minutes

Veterans Subcommittee Members present: Jeff Doyle, John Mills, Reginald Roy, Kristie Reisig (for John Rakes), Whitney Lott, Michelle Blanding, Robin Henry, Charlotte Stewart, Alex Averell (for Ellecia Thompson), Leo Ficht (for Mary Fisher Murray), Michael Bergondo (for Jennifer Herb)

NCCEH Staff present: Ehren Dohler, Terry Allebaugh, Nicole Purdy

Other interested parties present: Ashley Langmeade, Jessica Maples

Minutes:

Ehren presented accomplishments in 2017 toward ending Veteran homelessness:

- Written Plans to End Veteran Homelessness in every Regional Committee
 - Regular SSVF participation in every Regional Committee.
 - Veteran referrals integrated into Coordinated Assessment in most Regional Committees.
 - Increased outreach and coverage in outlying counties.
 - Others?
- Charlotte Stewart described the work of NC Veterans Resource Center which provides pro-bono legal help to Veterans. She also said that HFA, DHHS, and the Fair Housing Project will be publishing a handbook for reasonable accommodations for tenants w/ disabilities.
 - Ehren also presented items that are still in progress:
 - Establish regular Veteran case conferencing in every Regional Committee.
 - Establish comprehensive by-name list and dashboard for each Regional Committee in HMIS.
 - Regularly evaluate CoC progress toward USICH goals.
 - Submit USICH benchmark criteria.

The Subcommittee looked at some aggregate data from HMIS on Veterans:

- Ehren noted that the number of homeless Vets in HMIS is much larger than the number identified during the 2017 PIT count, which probably reflects progress of better coverage across the CoC.
- He also noted that the number of Veterans who were housed in the last 90 days is quite small – only 33.

- Terry asked about what might be happening in Region 5 – their numbers of Veterans in HMIS is much larger than the numbers counted during PIT.
 - Ehren mentioned SSVF the PIT count seemed small, compared to their overall homeless numbers, so the HMIS data is probably much closer
- Jeff noted that the number of people housed is definitely smaller than reality because it's missing HUD-VASH. Kristie also mentioned that they are housing more people than are counted in this report.
- Jeff suggested a workgroup to try to capture the HUD-VASH numbers. Ehren mentioned that we will be rolling out a process to capture anyone who is homeless not in HMIS with a paper "outreach form" so that may capture these numbers.

Ehren presented the USICH Criteria and Benchmarks and the Subcommittee discussed the CoC's progress toward those benchmarks:

USICH Criteria:

- Criterion 1: The community has identified all Veterans experiencing homelessness.
 - Alex reported that in his area the outlying counties like Carteret, Craven have good coverage from Family Endeavors
 - Leo Ficht agreed there's promising progress in covering the more rural areas in his area.
 - Nicole asked whether any communities are making outreach maps.
 - Community Link has a color-coded map
 - Family Endeavors has a google map
- Criterion 2: The community provides shelter immediately to any Veteran experiencing unsheltered homelessness who wants it.
 - Alex said in his area there's a gap of shelter for female Veterans who aren't fleeing DV.
 - Kristie: ABCCM has seen an increase in big families – 5 or 8 people. Have used emergency assistance but it's still hard to find places for them. They've also had families with children with special needs who can't enter shelter environments.
 - So far everyone is finding shelter for these people, but it's much harder, and flexible funding would be helpful.
- Criterion 3: The community provides service-intensive transitional housing only in limited instances.
 - Ehren pointed out that although there aren't a lot of TH beds in the BoS CoC, the by-name list data indicates regions 3, 4, and 5 have some. We need to make sure we're reaching out to those organizations and the Vets they serve.
- Criterion 4: The community has capacity to assist Veterans to swiftly move into permanent housing.
 - Ehren mentioned that we need to probably increase our rate of housing, but the work we've done throughout the year to set up referral systems and coordinated assessment means we've laid the groundwork for this criterion.
- Criterion 5: The community has resources, plans, partnerships, and system capacity in place should any Veteran become homeless or be at risk of homelessness in the future.
 - All the work this subcommittee has done and all the work providers in the regions have done means the CoC has set up the right systems to meet this criterion.

USICH Benchmarks

- Benchmark A: Chronic and long-term homelessness among Veterans has been ended
 - The CoC does not currently have good data on this.
- Benchmark B. Veterans have quick access to permanent housing
 - Average time to connect Vets to permanent housing is 90 days or less.
 - The CoC does not currently have good data on this.
- Benchmark C. The community has sufficient permanent housing capacity.
 - Number of Vets exiting homelessness is greater than or equal to number entering homelessness.
 - The CoC does not currently have good data on this.
- Benchmark D. The community is committed to Housing First and provides service-intensive transitional housing to Veterans experiencing homelessness only in limited instances.
 - The number of Veterans experiencing homelessness who enter service-intensive transitional housing is significantly less than the number of Veterans entering homelessness
 - The CoC does not currently have good data on this

Setting goals for 2018:

Ehren presented more detail about progress on building by-name lists:

- One of the goals we set for 2017 but have not met is to have by-name list reports and dashboard reports in HMIS.
- Regions 2, 7, 8, and 13 have the HMIS sharing agreements in place to be able to establish by-name lists. The rest of the regions are close but haven't signed their agreements yet.
 - Ehren asked if the subcommittee could agree to a goal to having all sharing agreements in place and signed by the end of the year. They all agreed.
- Ehren presented the by-name list report that the NCCEH data center has built. Most of the data is blank because sharing agreements are not yet finished.
 - Ehren asked if the subcommittee could agree to a goal of having all data for by-name lists complete by February. They all agreed.

The Subcommittee discussed what goals they want to set for 2018.

- Ehren asked whether we should continue to pursue the USICH Criteria and Benchmarks?
 - Jeff and Terry said we should – it's a good framework to guide our work, whether or not we're able to meet them in the short term.
- Terry suggested a goal of ending chronic and long-term Veteran homelessness in 2018.
 - Jeff agreed that would be a good goal and would build on the progress of this year.
 - Ehren also agreed and pointed out that this focus would help us focus on the connection with VAMCs and HUD-VASH and make sure we're accurately collecting the data for these populations.
 - A motion was made to set a goal to end chronic and long-term Veteran homelessness by the end of 2018 in the NC BoS CoC [Doyle, Mills]. All in favor, none opposed.
- Ehren suggested some other, smaller goals for 2018:

- Revive the effort to increase Vets preferences in HUD multifamily housing
- Set up a strong system in Region 11
- Increase coordination with VSOs and NC Serves.
- Terry outlined the Operation Home Task Force's goals for 2018:
 - Continue the Operation Home Task Force
 - End Veteran Homelessness in the NC BoS CoC
 - Achieve USICH standard
 - Improve Outreach and Engagement
 - Support NC Serves expansion
 - Implement Landlord Incentive Pilot
 - Support Veteran Preference at PHAs
 - Terry thought maybe we should add other preferences (like HUD multifamily) as well.
 - Strengthen connection and input from communities
 - Gather and compile local data
 - Write and publish a Veterans homelessness status report
 - Establish linkage between re-entry and homelessness
 - Rose mentioned they get people exiting jail/prison with sex offenses, who are hard to house
 - Jessica said they also come across people who might need re-entry help.
 - Charlotte mentioned there's some work being done around expungement that could help this population.
 - Alex told the group that the state expungement laws have been updated.
 - Conduct Grant Per Diem Summit
 - Encourage LME/MCO engagement with Veterans
 - Initiate Micro Housing for Vets
 - Increase Mayor engagement

The Subcommittee reviewed the proposed standards for outreach, shelter, and by name lists in the CoC. The Subcommittee has reviewed these standards at past meetings. No member had additional changes. A motion was made to approve these standards as written and add them to the NC BoS CoC Plan to End Veteran Homelessness [Reisig, Fisher]. All in favor, none opposed.