

NC BoS CoC Lived Expertise Advisory Council (LEAC) Meeting Minutes

October 13, 2023

Attendance: Alyce Knaflich, Rachelle Dugan, Laurel Benfield (staff), Elliot Rhodes (staff)

Client Bill of Rights trainings at Regional Committee meetings

The group discussed the recent presentation of the Client Bill of Rights at the Region 02 committee meeting. Alyce noted that the attendance was low and Rachelle noted that the agencies that don't implement Housing First policies were also not in attendance, which may explain why there was not much discussion and few questions about the policy.

Planning for future presentation: Laurel asked how to generate more conversation? Can we get a sense of who is in the meetings, ask Joel about who is attending, plan/discuss conversation-starters, including: "Why don't people reach out to services? Why aren't they successful?" "what are some of the stereotypes that exist about people experiencing homelessness"

Laurel will contact Joel about requesting agenda time on the region 09 committee meeting for November, and will email the regional lead to request agenda time at the Region 12 committee meeting for November.

Recruitment/ Position Description:

Laurel presented a draft recruitment document in the form of a "position description" for feedback by the LEAC and use in recruiting new members. Feedback included:

Suggest expanding phrasing of "homeless" into more inclusive description - "if you've slept in your car or stayed with friends because you couldn't afford housing". Not trying to restrict to HUD definitions. Seeking people who may not define themselves as homeless.

LEAC Participation

Elliot lead a discussion of what might need to change in the LEAC structure to increase membership and participation.

Elliot posed the questions: What kinds of recruitment efforts have we had? Does a regular virtual meeting structure work?

Rachelle: we need changes in both. Our message isn't getting out there. Assumption that regional/CoC leaders aren't relaying the messages to their providers. Not having 1:1 contact may be largely the issue. We need to talk to people and present familiar faces. Structure of the meetings work for working professionals. Don't work for people that have other jobs or commitments that conflict with this one. I don't know how we would get the work done without this structure. Participation here isn't conducive to anyone not already working in the system.

Alyce: maybe we should put a question in the new VI-SPDAT. I agree that our messages aren't getting down to the people we want to recruit.

Elliot: recruitment that is through providers also may create a bias for participation from people that have a good relationship with the agency.

Laurel: past strategies included working with coordinated entry leads, last year reached out to PSH, current strategy is provider based, attending regional committee meetings.

Are there other LEAC groups around the country? Laurel noted there are not others that we know of in rural/broad geographic context. Many examples in urban communities rely on In-person participation

Technology

Laurel discussed plans to assist the NCCEH development director in writing language to gain private funding to support technology access for LEAC members. Laurel will draft some language and send to the LEAC for feedback.