
TUCSON PIMA COLLABORATION TO END HOMELESSNESS

Continuum of Services Committee

May 25, 2011 Minutes

Co-chair/convener: Mary Pat Sullivan

Next Meeting: Weds., June 22, 2011, 8:30–10:00 a.m., Pantano Rm., Sentinel Bldg., 320 N. Commerce Park Loop (Later moved to June 29 th , same time, location)
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Report to TPCCH General Meeting June 9th
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| ■ Unmet need determined May 31 st ; HDX entries completed |
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TOPICS DISCUSSED

1. **Minutes.** Linda Kot moved and Steve Nelson seconded that the minutes of the previous meeting be approved as presented. **Motion passed.**
2. **Election of 2011-2012 chair and co-chair.** Susanna Rodriguez moved that Jennifer Andersen serve as chair and Mary Pat Sullivan as vice chair of the committee for 2011-2012. Linda Kot seconded. **Motion passed unanimously.**
3. **Unmet need calculation for HUD Data Exchange (HDX).** Steven Wind distributed and participants reviewed the following HDX data to inform the process of determining how to calculate the continuum of care's unmet need for housing homeless people: the 2010 Unmet Need for AZ-501 Tucson/Pima County; the 2011 PIT counts data, the 2011 turned away and wait-listed data; and a print out of the 2011 unmet need data screen. He also distributed copies of the Maricopa Association of Government's (MAG) 2011 HDX unmet need data. He noted that MAG used only HUD-provided formulas to determine that need, and has received criticism the resulting numbers under-reported the needs of homeless people in their area. He added that using the HUD formulas is only one acceptable way to arrive at a continuum of care's unmet need.

Participants discussed the appropriate meaning of "unmet need", and reached consensus that it means what is needed by the area's homeless persons to end their homelessness. Participants discussed by whom and how the data will be used, including in future evaluations of community performance in ending homelessness. Discussion about unmet need included the following.

- The expressed needs of homeless persons who have not accepted services because the services offered do not meet their needs must be included.
- The fact that the 2011 Homeless Street Count appears to have undercounted homeless numbers, due to the HUD-required interviews and a change in methodology needs to be accounted for in determining the unmet needs numbers to report. Both the Street Count interviews and those for the 51homes Campaign revealed that a number of persons (who probably would have been included as homeless in previous observation-only Street Counts) were not actually homeless by the current HUD definition. These percentages might be applied to previous, observation-only counts to inform the estimate of persons actually homeless in our area. Steven Wind said that a modest percentage increase in the unmet need over what PIT data indicate can be justifiably reported to HUD in HDX notes based on the lack of time to and difficulty in fully implementing HUD's new PIT count requirements.
- The 2011 Street Count covered only about half of the previous square mileage covered. This, too, should be accounted for in determining unmet need numbers.
- The big difference between this and previous years is that unmet need is "front loaded" by being input to HDX before being included in Exhibit 1 of the HUD application.
- The final unmet need numbers will be used in the TPCCH Strategic Planning process.

Unmet need calculation for HUD Data Exchange (HDX) cont'd.

- A new challenge is that the unmet need could change dramatically when the HEARTH Act is implemented and the definition of homelessness changes.
- The numbers of persons who were turned away or placed on a wait list may be the most solid evidence of unmet need available, but may also include some duplication.
- Andy Hall of the Arizona Department of Economic Security has noted that the number of persons listed in the family households section of TPCH's "turned away" and "wait list" data submitted for the PIT Count seems low. In general, Andy wrote, the number of persons in families should be 3.2 times the number of families, which increased the reported numbers. **Consensus was to accept and use the 3.2-persons-per-family-household**
- The "turned away" and "wait list" numbers might contain duplicates and/or under-report the actual number of persons/families in need. It was suggested that "turn aways" and "wait lists" should be tracked in HMIS in order to determine whether there is duplication in these lists, since each HMIS entry has a unique identifier
- Domestic violence (DV) shelter users are not tracked in HMIS and their future needs for transitional housing (TH) and for permanent supported housing (PSH) are therefore not included in any of the existing HDX data. Stephanie Noriega of Emerge spoke about the numbers of people who return to their homes, and estimated that perhaps 20% of all DV clients may qualify as disabled and eligible for PSH. These numbers could be counted in unmet need.
- Charles Learned estimated that of the 150 veterans enumerated in the 2011 Street Count at least 35 will probably need PSH.
- It could be assumed that all persons deemed chronically homeless (CH) in the PIT counts need PSH. Leslie Carlson noted that this year's Street Count CH numbers were estimated by applying the percentage of persons reported as chronically homeless in HMIS to the 2011 Street Count results. That number was supplied by HMIS administrator Don Logue in an email. She added that the method for determining if a person is CH in the street count needs to be improved again.
- The percentage of emergency shelter (ES) and TH users who are also CH needs to be included in the need for PSH.
- Because HUD expects the numbers in the HDX, HMIS and the 2011 Exhibit 1 to agree, there must be very strong evidence for a need for additional PSH.
- The number of persons reported in HMIS as using ES and having a disability of long duration can be part of the evidence for additional PSH need.
- HDX input must be completed by May 31st.

Steven Wind noted that the committee needs to further consider the concept of how these numbers will be treated, especially how to treat the 2011 Street Count numbers. Mary Pat noted that Jennifer has already agreed to a meeting on the morning of Friday, May 27th to review calculations and numbers to be entered into the unmet need section of the HDX.

Steve Nelson noted that HUD released the grant inventory worksheets two days ago. These need to be reviewed and data entry completed by June 30th.

- **Next steps. a.)** Leslie will supply the HMIS percentage of chronically homeless from Don Logue's email to Steven Wind.
 - b.)** Leslie will research the number of persons with long-standing disabilities in HMIS, and request a report on that number if it is not available in the published data.
 - c.)** Steven Wind will request additional HMIS data if needed.
 - d.)** Jennifer Andersen, Mary Pat Sullivan, Leslie Carlson, Steven Wind and any other willing volunteers will meet Friday, May 27th, 8:30 a.m., at Sullivan Jackson Employment Center to finalize unmet need calculations and numbers.
 - e.)** Steve Nelson will distribute the grant inventory worksheets.

4. **Next Meeting.** Wednesday June 22, 2011, 8:30 a.m. – 10:00 p.m., Pantano Room, City Sentinel Building, 320 N. Commerce Park Loop. (The meeting was later moved to June 29th to avoid a conflict.)

Attendance

Name		Organization	Email
Danielle	Bentley	La Frontera	dbentley@lafrontera.org
Lori	Block	ICH	lori.block@ichtucson.org
Leslie	Carlson	PTEH Coordinator	lacarlson@cox.net
Linda	Kot	Primavera Foundation	lkot@primavera.org
Charles	Learned	SAVAHCS	charles.learned@va.gov
Pam	Moseley	Pima County CDNC	pmoseley@pima.gov
Steven	Nelson	Sullivan Jackson Employment Center	steve.nelson@pima.gov
Stephanie	Noriega	Emerge! Center Against Domestic Abuse	stephanien@emergecenter.org
Susanna	Rodriguez	City of Tucson	susanna.rodriguez@tucsonaz.gov
Mary Pat	Sullivan	Community advocate	mpsullivan110@yahoo.com
Steven	Wind	LeCroy & Milligan Associates	steven@lecroymilligan.com