

Strategic System Improvement Plan Detroit CoC Project Team

Meeting Date: June 28

Attendees: BPA team, HRD team, ReGina Hentz, Abigail Crippes, Eleanor Bradford, Elise Grongstad, Ronnika Harris, Scott Jackson

Intro:

The team went one by one and said one thing they would like to change in the system. Responses included giving clients better access to mental health care, staff getting handle with care training, and having more affordable housing options for clients.

Project Updates:

- Communications
 - Draft of stakeholder communications has been created and City is finalizing content and will work with team to distribute communications. First version will include overview of plan, spotlight on focus groups for PWLEH, next steps, and formation of SPOC. HRD Project Manager Safiya Merchant to send heads up email to alert homelessness response system stakeholders about upcoming communications. BPA team will send stakeholder communications itself.
- Strategic Plan Oversight Commission
 - Commission has chosen champions and is close to agreeing on the SPOC charter.
- Review of homelessness system prior related work and initiatives:
 - Matthew Doherty is reviewing several strategic initiatives the homelessness system is either actively engaged in or has been involved in during recent years
 - Interviews are being performed with key contacts
 - The review is not an assessment of programs; it's about how the Detroit community identifies efforts to be prioritized, what helps support their design and implementation, and what prevents them from having the greatest impact in the community
 - A draft report is being prepared
 - Findings are helping inform the planning for the BPA team's on-site visit to Detroit and the initial identification of potential priorities
- Review of governance, funding, and system performance
 - Document review completed in May
 - Talked to 15 stakeholders
 - Developed funding tracking tool with HRD/HAND assistance
 - HDX analysis underway
 - Observations and initial recommendations will be in draft report
 - The team is targeting to bring all draft documents to the July 12 SPOC meeting. Project Team member Eleanor Bradford asked how the CoC Board will be informed. The reports will be posted to the HRD webpage, as well as discussed during upcoming CoC board and system workgroup meetings.

- Community Engagement
 - The team has been working on interviewing residents who are currently homeless or who have been homeless
 - Focus groups are being conducted at Cass and the Ruth Ellis drop-in center
 - Additional focus groups with clients will take place during the on-site visit
 - Some key themes heard during interviews:
 - Funding is not hitting the people
 - Resources for navigating the housing search can be minimal
 - Poor treatment from staff in the homelessness response system
 - There are resources to do good work but the execution is not happening

Next Steps:

An in-person meet and greet between the Project Team, Strategic Plan Oversight Commission, and the BPA team will take place the last week of July. The next virtual meeting will be August 23. The Project Team discussed how to engage providers to attend the listening sessions during the on-site visit.