Re-imagine CE, December 22, 2023

Attendees: Torrie Kopp Mueller, Sarah Lim, Patrick Duffie, Liz Duffie, Karen Andro, Brad Hinkfuss, Jessica Oswald, Chara Taylor, Melissa Mennig, Brenda Konkel. MacKenzie Byer, Zach Nicols

Reviewed timeline of topics for future meetings through March 2024.

Reviewed information that the group wanted to consider further.

Reviewed information from HUD training on Fair housing and CE.

Went over the prescreen data points that the group wanted to consider further. Sarah created a spreadsheet to guide the conversation that the group reviewed and discussed.

Who are we trying to capture with the prescreen? People struggle to self-resolve homelessness the most? Population currently overrepresented in the homeless population? What do we want the pool of eligible to look like? The questions we ask should directly relate to finding the target population.

Prescreen - Least like to self-resolve and then full screen is most likely to experience harm. Prescreen and full screen both look at most likely to experience harm.

Objective for Change: Enhance the Coordinated Entry System in Dane County to better identify and prioritize households who are most likely to experience significant harm from homelessness.

Prep group had a discussion about the prescreen not having automatic ineligible criteria, but include those questions with different weights in the prescreen (re: income and length of homelessness)

Chat: This all appears to hinge on our definition of "significant harm" and what we include/rank in that definition.

People with felonies have a challenging time finding housing. This can be a good example of harm and ability to self-resolve, but may not have increased risk of harm. The people that will only get housed through CE are in the pool, but prioritize them based on harm.

Prescreen will determine those who are unlikely to self-resolve.

We still have to find a landlord who is willing to work with the participant. It is going to be hard to find housing for people with significant barriers…..especially with RRH. RRH is a lot more about financial barriers, but can help in other ways.

The hope is that the prescreen is not a separate assessment, but questions everyone is asked during intake and entered into HMIS which then pulls those who qualify for a full assessment.

What are the characteristics of people who experience homelessness for long-term? Built for Zero did a project on this, but never share the results. Torrie will look to see what information they did provide to us because they did give some information, but not a final product. We can also consider what providers are seeing.

Chat: Similarly, does it make sense to look at the characteristics of those that are self-resolving?

Chat: For people in the top 25% of length of homelessness, how do their characteristics differ from the bottom 7% or bottom 25% who exited to housing?

This is potentially a very robust project to get at this information. Maybe we want to use what is in HMIS for our purposes right now. This isn't something ICA can undertake in our current status.

Do other communities have information on what characteristics are associated with long-term homelessness?

Chat: Seems like some of this data must already exist elsewhere through other studies. Or do we think that our local homeless folks somehow present with different attributes than the homeless somewhere else?

We are not able to serve many people through CE so may not make sense to go through a large research project. May make sense to look at other communities to see if we are missing something.

Chat: Reading this longitudinal study: longer lengths of homeless top characteristics were older age group and arrest history were biggest predictors....
Study said that younger adults were the most likely to self-resolve

HUD example looked at how long people had been in the shelter

What are the data points that will point us to those who may become longer term homeless?
- Age – older adults
- Bigger size family
- People of color – In Stella, white people have a longer LOT homeless, than Black people. Most of the disparities are related to entering the system. Took a look at disparities identified in previous presentations. It might feel wrong to not include this, but the data doesn't necessarily show that it needs to be. We could come to a different conclusion when we talk about harm. Black families referred to RRH had a harder time finding housing. Decided not to include at this time.

We will need to evaluate our prescreen as we go and make adjustments as necessary. May need to add a question if we create racial inequities. Should not include a question if the data doesn't show we need it. Possibly consider question related to involvement in criminal justice system.
- Legal Issues – info in Clarity is not enough to address this, we may need to figure out a question to ask about this and long-term will use third party data for this. How it is captured now is where you were night prior or current living situation (outreach).

     High percentage of people who are homeless due to child support payment issues – can't afford rent due to child support payments. Is this more related to income? If the person is able to keep their income? Is it a legal problem or money problem? Definitely go together, but could be in income. Need to ask about take home income.
- System utilization – should include as these questions can get at harm, but coming in and out of institutions could result in longer length of homelessness, will highlight for now – may just use for PSH
- Disability – ask a question related to experience, maybe not appropriate for RRH

- Veteran – may be more likely to resolve outside of CE, may need to consider eligibility for Veteran services

Next meeting – Prep team will think about disability and utilization of services that might be related,