



Reimagine CE Workgroup Phase II #6

December 8, 2023



Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Reimagine CE Workgroup Goal
3. Review of Objective for Change Statement
4. Prescreen Development



Reimagine CE Workgroup Goal

The Reimagine CE Workgroup is a workgroup of the HSC's Core Committee.

It has been charged with formulating recommendations for a revised approach to prioritize individuals and families for RRH and PSH openings. These recommendations are slated for presentation to the HSC Board of Directors by **December 2023**.

Reimagine CE Workgroup Timeline-Proposed

Date	Topic
September 8, 2023	Decision-making process; Approach to develop a new assessment
October 13, 2023	Objectives for change statement; Indicators of success
October 27, 2023	Indicators of success; Primary data source
November 10, 2023	3rd party-data or self-reporting; Interim approach; Prescreen
November 24, 2023	No meeting- Thanksgiving
December 8, 2023	Prescreen Development (I)
December 22, 2023	Prescreen Development (II)
January 12, 2024	Length of homelessness; Timing of the full assessment (VI-SPDAT)
January 26, 2024	Prioritization for households who received the full assessment
February 9, 2024	PSH chronic documentation requirement
February 23, 2024	Implementation Plan



Review: Objective for Change Statement

Objective for the Changes:

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

Guiding Principles:

- **Equity-Centered:** We commit to an equity-centered approach that recognizes and addresses disparities, promoting equitable access to housing resources.
- **Trauma-Informed:** We embrace a trauma-informed approach to create a supportive and safe environment for those seeking housing resources.



Proposed approach to create a prescreen

1. **Define target ratio** that we want to achieve in terms of the number of people screened in for a full assessment compared to available housing program openings. For example, we aim to do full assessment for no more than three times the number of households that we have openings for.
2. **Develop a RRH prescreen first**, and then review and adjust for PSH.
 - a. **Review existing HMIS data** that is already collected in HMIS during shelter and outreach intake*. Identify key data points that can effectively prescreen for housing assistance.
 - i. Any data point that will automatically make someone eligible or not eligible? (e.g. current income over 30% CMI will automatically not eligible.)
 - ii. Other data points that should be considered for vulnerability threshold?
 - b. **Determine if there are gaps in the information** currently collected in HMIS that are essential for prescreening and identify new self-report questions to address the gap.
 - c. **Determine ways to use the prescreen data**
3. **Test the draft prescreen** with a sample group to assess its effectiveness and make adjustment as needed



* Using Existing HMIS Data & Fair Housing

“Except in cases where it has been expressly authorized by a program statute (e.g., in statutorily authorized housing programs for persons with disabilities or youth), a participant’s legally protected characteristic(s) should never be used as a basis for determining their housing needs or as a factor to determine qualification for housing.”

“Is it okay to collect required data for HMIS, even if it includes information about a household’s protected characteristics?”

Yes. Often, intake and assessment are the same process. This means that a CE staff person collects certain Universal Data Elements for intake such as race, ethnicity, and gender to include in HMIS, while at the same time assessing the participant’s vulnerabilities, needs, and barriers. Some of the data that a CE staff person collects for HMIS is protected characteristic information. Remember that while it is okay to have the information, staff must be cautious not to use that information to prioritize certain participants above others. This would be a violation of fair housing and civil rights laws.”



Data Already Collected in HMIS during Shelter and Outreach Intake

Demographics

- Name
- SSN
- Date of birth (Age)
- Gender
- Race and ethnicity
- Sexual orientation
- Veteran status
- Household size
- Translation assistance needed
- Date of engagement

Prior homeless services system utilization in Wisconsin

- Prior shelter usage
- Prior outreach program enrollment
- Prior housing programs

Prior living situation

- Type of residence
- Length of stay in prior living situation
- Date this episode of homelessness started
- Number of times on the streets, in ES, or Safe Haven in the past 3 years
- Total number of months homeless on the streets, in ES, or Safe Haven in the past 3 years
- In the last 12 months, have you had to temporarily live with someone else for any number of days to avoid spending a night on the street, in a car, or at a shelter?
- In the last 12 months, have you had to self-pay at a hotel/motel for any number of days to avoid spending a night on the street, in a car, or at a shelter?

Disability and vulnerabilities

- Disabling conditions (Y/N)
 - Physical disability
 - Developmental disability
 - Chronic health condition
 - HIV/AIDS
 - Mental health disorder
 - Substance use disorder
- Survivor of domestic violence
- Formerly a ward of child welfare or foster care agency
- Previously in kinship care or out of home care

Income and benefits

- Income from any source (Y/N)
- List of income (e.g. earned income, SSI, childsupport, etc.)
- Total monthly income for individual
- Non-cash benefits (Y/N)
- Covered by health insurance
- List of insurance type (e.g. Medicaid, Medicare, VHA, etc.)



Additional Question Examples

- Have you had a consistent income in the last 6 months? What has been your average monthly income?
- Have you ever experienced homelessness in the past or is this your first time experiencing homelessness? (HMIS information regarding homeless services program enrollment history could be used instead.)
- Have you been involved in any legal issues that may affect your housing situation?
- Are there any children under age four in your household?
- Have you or anyone in your household been impacted by or discriminated against due to racial or ethnic bias?
- Have you or anyone in your household been impacted by or discriminated against due to gender identity or sexual orientation?
- How many times have you or anyone in your household been arrested, cited, or been in jail/prison/juvenile detention?
- Others?



Ways to Use the Prescreen Data

A. Determine who will more likely to be able to self-resolve and refer to other resources.

Example

- If veteran and connected to veteran specific resources, not prioritized for CE. Refer to VA.
- If household had consistent income in the last 6 months over 30% CMI, not prioritize for CE. Refer to shelter or outreach case manager and/or housing navigation.
- If first time homeless, not prioritize for CE. Refer to shelter or outreach case manager and/or housing navigation.

B. Identify a set of factors of those who are most likely to experience significant harm from homelessness and create a point system and threshold.

Example

1 pts each for the following or assign points

- Not a first time homeless
- Fleeing from DV
- Senior (55+) or youth (18-24)
- Families with 5+ members
- Families with children under 4 years old
- Mental health disorder
- Substance use disorder
- Physical disability
- Chronic health condition
- HIV/AIDS