

Reimagine CE Workgroup

March 22, 2024

Attendees: Torrie Kopp Mueller, Sarah Lim, Allie Grant, Brad Hinkfuss, Zach Stephen, Kayla Every, Jen Ripp, Jessica Oswald, Angela Jones, Patrick Duffie, Takisha Jordan, Kristina Dux, Melissa Mennig, Marueen Quinlan, Chara Taylor, Liz Duffie, Brenda Konkel, Alicia Spry

RRH Length of Homelessness

Last meeting decided on the following: Continue to use length of homelessness at this stage (Tier 2), using the history of homelessness data from the pre-assessment.

Questions to be answered:

1. Data points for length of homelessness in PSH & RRH
 - a. For PSH, it was decided to use the Tier 1 assessment total score
 - b. Need to decide for RRH
2. Weight Allocation for Length of Homelessness Data: The decision above means assigning a weight greater than 1 point, beyond a tie-breaker.
 - a. Proposal: Allocate up to 3 points, subject to testing and adjustment.
3. Providing “additional consideration: for current shelter use in RRH prioritization.

Case Example: Joe experienced homelessness in the past 9 months (Jan-Sep). Joe stayed at the shelter on and off Jan-Jun on and off (60 days total in that 6 months period) and again in Sep (20 days total). When he’s not staying at the shelter, Joe stayed outdoors and connected with street outreach program in April and has been enrolled in the program for 6 months.

Options & What data we consider for Joe:

- A. Length of overnight shelter stay (# of bed nights) in the last 12 months**
(80 days for Joe)*
- B. Length of overnight shelter and outreach enrollment in the last 12 months**
(13 months: 7 months for shelter and 6 months for outreach enrollment for Joe)
- C. Tier 1 History of Homelessness 4 questions for the last 12 months score**
(10 points for Joe)

*Additional consideration for current shelter use will not be needed.

Chat: Is this going to be different for singles and families due to waitlists?

No, intention was to create flow in the shelter. Someone must be enrolled in street outreach or shelter to be considered for CE. If someone is on a shelter waitlist, they are not enrolled in shelter.

Option C – seems to capture people with the most vulnerability.

Chat: I think that if we decide there is a compelling reason for this to differ for families and singles that would be fine from a reporting side.

Will DAIS shelter nights count? – We gather information on program entry regarding DV shelter use. It would not be considered in Option A for number of nights in HMIS. Need to figure out the exact process of DV shelter use, during the implementation will need to work on the details of this.

Weight Allocation:

Can we use the person's last physical address? Their last lease-up? Can look at this when we look at third party data in the future. What about if someone is staying with someone that is steady, but they don't have a lease? What if they are just staying there because they can be there or on the streets due to survival mode?

Why did we limit to 3 years in the past and why are we sticking with it now? Should we limit it to 2 if we are trying to get people out of shelter? In the past, there wasn't a limit and people were saying many years, but no verification. Then, we decided to limit to 3 years because that seemed reasonable and matched up with episodic portion of chronic definition. Proposing the 3 years to limit the variables as we are already making a significant change. We are actually talking about 3 points, not 3 years. This is about how many points we give to someone based on their homelessness.

Additional Consideration for Shelter Use

Idea for Consideration: Assign extra point(s) after adding up VI-SPDAT score and Length of Homeless points.

Discussion of options:

What do we want to eliminate? Some vote to eliminate A, some to eliminate B.

B – prioritizes people who are enrolled in both shelter and outreach

-some people access shelter during the winter months and then sleep outside in the summer months, want to connect them to housing before they become ingrained in sleeping outside, some people do end up getting into a cycle

-if we just do A, then we miss out on folks who I think are likely to become chronically homeless

-we are making tough decisions about who gets services, tier 1 is already favoring people who sleep outside some of the time. B and C favor people who are sleeping outside. If the goal is to get people out of shelter, I am not sure how we are going to do that.

-if the goal is to move people through shelter faster, there may be less crowding in the shelter and maybe they will stay in the shelter

-What if Joe has a job and doesn't get done until 10PM and can't check into shelter? Shelter makes exceptions for work schedules so they could come in.

-concerned about people who are suspended from shelter

-we have a donut where some folks are not going to be offered a RRH spot, it doesn't mean we don't want to help them, but we don't have resources for everyone, if we think prioritizing folks in the shelter helps the system, but using low points so it isn't the consideration

-there is a hesitancy to exclude people who do not use shelter

Chat: If a parent works overnights, they won't be able to access family shelter because there won't be anyone to watch their children overnight in shelter. But maybe that was only in reference to singles

Does seem that we could eliminate Option C.

I think we should prioritize shelter, but that is really do to capacity issues. We need to be aware of language access for shelter guests.

Chat: A will also put shelter numbers up due to the community messaging is that you have to be in shelter in order to get into RRH

-Several folks seem to think this is already the messaging

Urban Triage and Catalyst for Change does outreach for households with children

Looking at A and B. A measures nights and B enters enrollments. Should be a combination of bed nights in shelter and CLS in outreach?

CLS is only when staff meet with the person, there isn't anything equivalent for bed nights when it comes to street outreach. Street outreach isn't included in SPMs or LSA because of this.

I'm okay with that because RRH takes some motivation to find housing. If they are regularly seeing outreach then maybe they are following through and able to make it to housing appointments.

Chat: supportive of success in RRH

Chat: would there be harm in including contacts with outreach, along with bednights in shelter? My guess is it would be a drop in the bucket for folks, but would there be a harm?

Using Current Living Situation puts a lot of pressure on staff to enter that each time they enter someone, some programs have more staff so may be able to see clients more often. People may not get points because outreach doesn't see me very often. Similarly, someone may not get points due to suspension from shelter.

Let's see where we are with a vote:

Option A - 11

Option B - 3

Option C - 1

Okay, with eliminating Option C. Someone mentioned being good with majority votes.

Motion: Option A with a maximum of 2 points.

Likes: 12

Live with it: 2

Uncertain: 1 (Brenda)

Uncomfortable: 0

Chat: Can we change the title from "length of homelessness" to something else (shelter stays?)

Can we do something where people check-in that they still have a need even if they are not staying in shelter? In the Tier 1 process, we are looking at Outreach use and pretty heavily using it. In Tier 1, if someone is only using shelter, they will get 0 points on # of enrollments. If they are using shelter and enrolled in two outreach programs, they will get 3 points. So, it seems okay to look at shelter stay at this time. The message of outreach is to encourage people to use shelter. There will be some people who won't go, but we want people to access shelter.

Uncertain: There aren't many outreach people here. I worry that I am missing nuances that they could help with. I will be okay with moving forward with this.

Even though I don't do street outreach, I am thinking about people who are unsheltered. I am concerned that we are prioritizing people who are unsheltered with this whole system. In my mind, we need to monitor this to see if we are unfairly prioritizing people who are unsheltered.

Chat: Remind me again how we will pull in DV shelter stays? Patrick

That is to be determined.

Chat: So does that mean people living in their car should not be prioritized before those in shelter?

Chat: I second that concern. Tier 1 heavily favors outreach. We will also need to closely monitor data quality for both ES and SO.

Chat: ^^^^^ that might be the bigger issue

I really feel B needs to be eliminated due to combination of outreach and shelter use.

I am uncertain because I don't do the outreach, I wonder about families, I get blamed for things, I worry that I am representing a whole group. I don't think we should be stopped from moving forward. I think we need to continue to monitor it. I don't want to hold this up. There are people who can't access shelter.

Chat: I would agree it can feel uncomfortable but I don't also think we'll knock it out of the park on the first try. I think it makes sense to implement something, see how it goes, and tweak it as needed.

Chat: And VISPDAT is the vast majority of points

Chat: Eliminate option B as it includes data beyond the specified 12-month timeframe, introducing unnecessary complexity. Stick with option A for a clearer focus on Joe's overnight shelter stays within the past year.

Phase III Implementation Planning

Need to start data collection, develop policy and procedures

Membership: All phase 2 members are encouraged to continue your participation, will extend invite to street outreach, shelter and dv providers.

Not sure how long this work will take. We have a lengthy list of questions to address. Not sure how often we will meet, but work on a proposal and will send info out.

Chronic Homeless Documentation – will be addressed in phase 3