

Re-imagine CE Workgroup Meeting Notes

November 10, 2023

Attendees: Liz Duffie, Torrie Kopp Mueller, Sarah Lim, Alicia Spry, Allie Grant, Angela Jones, Brad Hinkfuss, Brenda Konkel, Jen Ripp, Jessica Oswald, Karen Andro, Kristina Dux, Liz Duffie, MacKenzie Byer, Maureen Quinlan, Melissa Mennig, Nicole Christen, Rachel Litchman, Sydney James, Taylor Newell-Smith, Chara Taylor

May need to extend our deadline. Still think we should present at the December HSC Board meeting. Deadlines are self-imposed.

Sarah gave a recap of the last meeting

Third party data availability

Dane County does not currently have a data warehouse. There is some data available, but not in real time. Familiar Faces project is working on a project that will have six months of data. Will take time to access the third party data.

If this group moves towards using third party data, it will give a strong advocacy point for the County and find some resources to make this happen. Will need to publicly say which direction we want to go.

Discussion Questions

#1 - 3rd party data or self-reporting

-support using 3rd party data given the large number of men who are in shelter and not getting a VI-SPDAT done, contributes to racial disparities given that Black men are accessing more shelter rather than being unsheltered, frustrating that this will take a long time

-biased because I am working on this project, but I think it is worth the cost, time and effort. I don't think a self-report assessment is a good use of resources. Can take a long time to build trust to do a questionnaire.

-I agree that we should use third party data. In the meantime, what do we do with the VI-SPDAT and tweak it in the meantime to try to reduce disparities.

-follow-up on shelter conversation, temporary shelter set-up to serve 150 a night, but they are serving about 300, it is a matter of resource and were we decide to put it, there is one CE staff at the shelter and is not able to connect with all of the people, we would need more staff for CE to do these assessments, but is that a good use of resources or would it be better to invest in case managers

-Chat: and, is that how we want to be allocating the time of a staff member?

-Chat: I wish they could be doing the PSH paperwork instead!

-Tellurian staff looking into provide support at men's shelter to help with VI-SPDATs. Instead of going to the Beacon, going to Porchlight.....still having discussions

-Is there anyone who thinks the assessment is the best approach and if so, can you talk through it?

Chat: I think using a combo of both

-I think the 7 days is hard for young people as they don't always stay in shelter.

Chat: Also, I have a client who is a shelter assistant at Porchlight DIS-- maybe having him help with talking to the men to get the VI-SPDAT's completed with the help of Nick and I?

Motion- This body recommends that the long-term strategy is to move towards using third party data.

Like it or Live with it: All members voted to "like it or live with it" except one who must have stepped away from their desk as they didn't respond to questions.

#2 – Interim Approach

Should we opt for an interim solution that primarily relies on self-report questionnaire? Or we don't spend any time on an interim approach....keep current system until we find long-term solution?

Did we ever come up with something for an interim? No. We would use time to figure out that interim thing before coming back to third party process.

If we develop a new questionnaire, we should think about the 3rd party data we want to use and figure out how to incorporate. Some we can get self-report now and then eventually use 3rd party data. Making a whole new assessment is a lot of time and resources and how do we know it will be better.

Why don't we have an electronic version for someone to complete it on their own? People may have a hard time understanding what the question is getting at it. Accessibility could be an issue.

There would need to be a follow-up to help people understand, but maybe that is a lot of work that case managers may not have time for.

Maybe we implement pre-screen to better target our efforts. Which could be an interim step. There are differences in how people will respond in-person vs. on-line survey.

Method of administration of questionnaire or pre-screen should be a future agenda item

Chat: What implementation of chat bots to support going thru the questions, With only pre screening

Motion: Go forward with short-term interim solution. Do we want to do something now that will get us through until the long-term solution....something different from what we are doing now.

Like it or can live with it: Everyone voted for this!

Chat: Remember: this vote is non-binding if we decide on an interim solution and then don't come up with one we like we can decide not to implement an interim solution

#3 Pre-Screen

Should we implement a pre-screen to reduce the number of individuals assessed for CE?

Chat: It can weave out chronic vs might be easily to get housing, etc. Then we would need a plan to figure out who/what agency will do the follow up for each identifier

Chat: So the person who completes the pre screen would be the one to complete the VISPIDAT and then complete updates if eligible right? But then if the person isn't going to get housing from the VISPIDAT, where do we go from there? Housing navigation in an ideal world? I'm thinking out loud :)

Should think about self-report questions we want for the long-term and what 3rd party data will we consider and how can that be considered in the prescreen

We need to be sure to have dedicated people who follow-up. Agency needs someone who follows-up on prescreen and gets the VI-SPDAT done.

Can work on pre-screen and third party data at the same time. I would favor using a pre-screen that relies on third party data in HMIS. Do some data analysis in HMIS to see what data points correspond with high VI-SPDAT score. Do not want to have two sets of questionnaires that people need to complete

Using a prescreen frees up time of CE staff to do additional housing work with people

There may be enough differences between families and singles that it could look a bit different. Singles use HMIS and maybe families something else. I do support the prescreen.

How would it work to use HMIS data? We could ask another question or two when people enroll in shelter or street outreach, then people will be flagged who should have the full assessment

Motion: Implement a pre-screen

Like it or can live with it: All can like it or live with it

Maybe need to consider income limits in the prescreen

Summary of Voting: Move to long-term solution of third party data, develop short-term solution that involves a pre-screen.

Chat: I think Interim and when using data we can create a new vispdatt

As we work on long-term solution, data may come in at intervals so data may replace it as we go

Chat: so maybe the question is - do we want to start on a replacement for a VI-SPDAT right now? or just start on a prescreen right now, and think about the long-term solution

I'm okay with keeping VI-SPDAT and focusing efforts on other things: do we keep 7 day requirement, do we use technology, do we require CH paperwork to be completed

Chat: If the long-term solution will take 5 years or more, I would want to also work on a replacement for the VISPIDAT. Because then we would have time to track the success and see if the results differ significantly from our current assessment

Seems that we need to know more about the prescreen before voting on what to do with the VI-SPDAT. Can discuss further at next meeting.

Next meeting is December 8, 2023.