



COVID-19 Response Discussion Minutes

June 11, 2020

Location: Meeting conducted via Skype

Meeting Time: 3:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m.

CoC Leadership Council Members:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Affiliation/Organization</u>
Fiory, Myra	Central Florida Behavioral Health Network
Johnson, Chris	Suncoast Partnership to End Homelessness
Minor, Erin	Harvest House Transitional Centers
Showers, Julia	The Salvation Army, Manatee
Stiff, Kevin	The City of Sarasota
Thaxton, Jon	Gulf Coast Community Foundation
Whiten, Major Charles	The Salvation Army, Sarasota

Public Attendees: Gloria Romero, Catholic Charities; Cindy Emshoff, Office of Housing and Community Development; Lue Richardson, Veterans Affairs

Suncoast Partnership Staff: Amiee Barth, Brandon Bellows, Lauren Davis, Taylor Neighbors

Kevin Stiff called the special meeting to order and identified the focused topics of the meeting. This meeting is to discuss the potential questions to add to the Community Services Information System (CSIS) to identify clients who are at risk or have become homeless due to COVID-19. The Continuum of Care (CoC) needs to begin capturing these clients so once the new funding comes available, the CoC can easily identify these clients.

Kevin had asked Chris Johnson to do some research on other CoCs and how they are collecting this information and what questions are being asked to identify whether their homelessness was caused by COVID-19. Chris stated most CoCs across the nation are keeping this data collection simple by limiting the number of questions. For instance, one assessment asked, "Are you at risk or currently experiencing homeless because of the COVID-19 pandemic," with Yes or No as a response, and "If yes, what is the reason." This question offered a dropdown of reasons that as to how the pandemic affected the client's living situation: eviction, loss of income, loss of employment, sickness of individual, sickness of family member in the household. Chris indicated if there were other scenarios we could identify that could be a reason, Suncoast Partnership could add those reasons as well.

Kevin inquired whether the existing data collection regarding client's history of homelessness would remain in CSIS; Chris stated the approximate date homelessness started, total length of stay, total number of months and times homeless would remain required fields.

Kevin asked whether these questions would be added to every CSIS assessment or just certain projects; Chris stated these questions will need to be added to entry assessments and directed the question to

Brandon Bellows to provide additional information. Brandon Bellows stated we could add these questions to every assessment, or look at only certain types of projects. Brandon stated emergency shelters, street outreach, access points, and resource projects should have these questions added to their assessments.

Kevin asked Major Whitten his thoughts regarding staff capacity to begin entering responses to these questions for clients who enter the shelter; Major Whitten indicated that this shouldn't be a problem and would be helpful to the conversation with clients.

Kevin asked for additional input from anyone on the call who would be doing intakes into CSIS and required to record this data. Chris also asked if there were additional scenarios to be added to the dropdown or any questions that participants on the call thought would be good to ask. There was no input from the attendees on the call.

Chris asked attendees if the proposed questions and tasks were doable for intake workers across the CoC; there was no additional questions or concerns regarding tacking from attendees on the call.

Kevin asked if Cindy Emshoff was on the call to inquire about funding in the community for services. Cindy was on the call but did not have a mic and was unable to add to the call. Kevin asked Cindy to send Chris any information about new funding coming in and whether these questions will be sufficient to identify the right populations for this funding. Chris stated, as per the federal government, any funding for ESG-CV funding Homeless Prevention (HP) or Rapid Rehousing (RRH) must be recorded in CSIS. Chris stated the collection of this data can assist in identifying the need of the community.

Chris stated Suncoast Partnership submitted funding to the State Office on Homelessness for ESG-CV dollars, and we are awaiting the outcome of that application.

Kevin asked when the questions will be added to the CSIS assessments and if any additional training was going to be required or necessary for staff. Brandon stated many agencies have adopted the COVID-19 assessment survey, so this would be additional questions added to either a separate assessment or include it in the entry. Training would be based on knowledge of completing the survey.

Kevin asked if the CoC could move forward with these questions or if we should wait for feedback. Chris stated the opportunity for feedback had been provided during this call and no one in the call had any additional feedback. Chris stated the sooner we can roll these questions out on the assessments, the sooner we can begin collecting the data and reporting on it.

Kevin asked if anyone has identified if any of these clients have been coming newly into the system or if the system itself has been able to identify these clients. Brandon stated that it has been difficult with the software vendor adding the COVID-19 questions, but he is working on this.

Kevin asked if 2-1-1 was collecting any COVID-19 data; Chris stated they were not and 2-1-1 was simply information and referral.

Kevin stated to the group we will add these additional questions, he asked Cindy Emshoff to identify the collection of this data is helpful to the funding coming to the community, and asked if there was any recommendations from anyone on the line.



Erin Minor asked how long the CoC will collect this information; Kevin stated it would be at least until the National Emergency and State of Emergency has been lifted. Kevin recommended after everything begins opens at full capacity and at least a month after. Chris added the CoC must be mindful of the funding coming into the community, these clients will need to be identified in the community. We need to tie the clients needs to the COVID-19 pandemic, and these questions are the easiest way to do that. So as long as the funding is treating homelessness due to COVID-19, we will collect this data.

Kevin asked if the funding that's available will be used to those identified as most at-risk or vulnerable; Chris stated we can use those funds to assist those identified most at risk for contracting COVID-19. Chris stated he is meeting with staff internally to discuss COVID-19 funding's impact on the Community By-Name List and the prioritization of clients within it. Kevin states it will take diligence to ensure the already developed referral system doesn't get affected by new funding coming into the CoC specifically for COVID-19 resources.

Kevin asked Julia Showers if The Salvation Army Manatee is able to begin tracking COVID-19 data; Julia Showers indicated her staff is ready to begin doing this.

Kevin asked if this meeting needs to continue or if we should circle back in a month. Kevin also asked how the data would be presented; Brandon Bellows he can put it in a quarterly dashboard or another Tableau report he could create. Brandon indicated once the data is in there, he can report it on anyway.

Amiee Barth indicated she added 5 new United Way projects to CSIS for Homeless Prevention. Amiee stated these projects can follow in the same manner of ESG-CV projects. Amiee added there is specific direction from HUD regarding ESG-CV money; for instance, reporting on this will be reported on quarterly.

Kevin asked if 2-1-1 is able to identify from the phone calls or is it up to the service provider to add the information. Chris stated the service provider must keep their information up to date. Kevin stated he would recommend this at the CoC General Membership meeting.

Kevin thanked everyone for being on the call. The meeting adjourned at 4:09 p.m.