

**Ending Veteran Homelessness Ad Hoc Committee**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Monday, January 27, 2020, 10-noon**

**St Louis County Government Services Center – Miler Creek Room (2nd floor)**

**320 East 2nd Street**

**Duluth, MN 55812**

(For those unable to attend in person, Webex was made an option)

* *Attendees*: Jonelle Glubke, Bridgette Gil, Nathaniel Saltz, Brad Gustason, Laura Birnbaum, Jensina Rosen, Paul Pedersen, Dan Couture, Kate Bradley, Sloane Kessler, Paul Williams, Pat Leary, Will Wilson, Heather Lindula (phone).
* *Update from bi-weekly case review meetings*
  + Numbers between HMIS and the Registry are closer. 14 on the Registry in SLC. Good progress in updating HMIS, connections between agencies.
  + Discussion about vouchers. New VASH Vouchers just getting started. “Success rate” for Section 8 vouchers is only 40% in SLC. Need landlords. Discussion about success of current efforts to recruit landlords. More needed.
* *Review of USICS Criteria and Benchmarks for Ending Veteran Homelessness –* Brief overview.
* *Discussion of:*
  + *Transitional Housing –* TH model has been successful in SLC – MAC-V has 13 TH beds in SLC. The intent is not to eliminate beds in order to fit the criteria of ending veteran homelessness. The TH criteria was described as the “most gray” are within the criteria, with flexibility in interpretation. Moving from TH to PSH depends on SPDAT score. Need to look at data – MAC-V can do that. Paul Williams offered to invite USICH to the next meeting to discuss TH and other topics around the criteria – agreed to.
  + *Doubled-up households –* Current tracking numbers include HUD Homeless and doubled-up households. Could do “functional zero” first, then add doubled up later. Should be careful of perverse incentives, such as making people homeless to create eligibility – programs want to help people no matter their homeless status.
  + *Veterans Preference –* Recent discussion in SLC CoC around preferences has been broader than just veterans (people in shelter, LTH in Board and Lodges, others) and has not come to a conclusion. Numbers of veterans are small, other CoCs have used preferences, some have made preferences time-limited, could be the last stop to get to zero. Question of whether an end could be accomplished without a preference. Discussion about whether a preference is the right thing to do – to treat subgroups differently because of something they did or didn’t do (“prioritize humanity”). Approval of any preference would have to be vetted through the Housing Response Committee before moving to the Heading Home Governance Board. Other options include Housing Supports, updating SPDAT scores for individuals known to have life changes.
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