

Strategic Planning Committee Meeting Minutes

10/8/19

- I. Introductions - name, community, why you work in homelessness
- II. Group Activity - leadership quotes, circle the one that resonates the most with you
 - A. Mary - quote about team work
 - B. Sophia - quote about trust
 - C. Todd - quote about helping everyone succeed
 - D. Marsha - quote about team work, wants to create a more positive space
 - E. Shane - quote about helping other people succeed
 - F. Melanie - quote about who gets credit
 - G. Juan - quote about common people achieving uncommon results, can accomplish a lot when people work together for a common vision
 - H. Michelle - quote about everyone being sure that they are making an impact, which gives them confidence to succeed
 - I. Dani - quote about industry wide cooperation, consensus
 - J. Katherine - quote about team work
 - K. Chad - quote about getting credit, we should be encouraging in our communities, teams more
 - L. Kyle - quote about who gets credit, talked about difficulty of getting community leaders to work with him unless it is election time, how can we get them to work with us when they won't get credit?
 - M. Daisy - quote about encouraging people, we should push people to talk about things that are uncomfortable
 - N. Jim - quote about who gets credit,
 - O. Kristin - quote about teams working together (Babe Ruth), has been in spaces where that doesn't happen
- III. Break
- IV. Orientation
 - A. Sophia asked the group to think about why we are doing this work. She is a "hard-core built for zero believer". We have to come at this from the perspective that we can end homelessness.
 - B. Mary explained what it means for homelessness to be functionally zero (rare, brief, non-recurring). Definition comes from "Home, Together: The Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness."
 - C. THN's Role -- Incorporated in 1991 to help TICH, funding from TDHCA, HHSC, and HUD CoC Program, mission is to make homelessness rare, brief and non-recurring
 - D. What is the CoC?
 1. THN is the lead agency for the CoC, and the HMIS lead agency. THN is not not the leader of the CoC

2. Shane had a question about HMIS and who qualifies as homeless, does the system record people who do not qualify as homeless? Kristin said that PIT data does not go into HMIS. Shane is concerned that the PIT count in his community is not recording all homeless people in his community. Dani says PIT is just a snapshot in time, HMIS is a separate system. The school systems also contribute information. Sophia says she can talk to Shane about it later.
3. Mary showed map of CoCs in Texas, including the BoS CoC.
4. What is a CoC? A network, a geographic area, and ... When we talk about the CoC, we can mean several things.
5. Sophia says THN is going to be better about clarifying difference between CoC and lead agency in the future.
6. The purpose of a CoC is not just to end homelessness, but get people other services like healthcare and jobs.
7. Mary went over CoC Responsibilities as defined by HUD. Projects in the TX BoS CoC applied for 11 million dollars in the FY 2019 competition.

E. Texas Balance of State CoC Presentation

1. Governance Structure Diagram
2. CoC Board is the primary decision making body of the CoC, Mary showed slide of board seat designations, and new board members.
3. Mary explained role of local homeless coalitions (LHCs), Because of size of CoC, they are responsible for services in their communities. Mary showed map of LHCs.
4. LHC Requirements - meetings, planning, data/performance, PIT/HIC, and CE
5. Kristin explained HIC (Housing Inventory Count).
6. LHC Engagement - LHCs have a broad range of people who serve in different areas in the community.
7. Todd asked what determines who is a part of an LHC. Sophia says the community often comes together around a news story about homelessness in a community. Mary says sometimes they start by coming to us for help to form the LHC, Sometimes they are already a group. Daisy talked about how her LHC formed through the city. Todd asked about how the LHCs are funded. Chad said his LHC was formed by the city, but then was taken over by a non-profit. Kyle is on the board of an LHC in his community, would like there to be designated person to perform the role he is filling here at this meeting. Dani talked about how they were able to pay for staff to support planning through United Way, Her role is to get volunteers to work together. Stuff falls through the cracks if it's all volunteer run. Having a staff member on hand to "wrangle cats" has helped them maintain involvement.

F. CoC's Role

1. Mary showed slide of funding that we applied for this year.
2. Mary showed slide of types of data THN collects.
3. 2019 PIT Count data infographic: 4570 surveys collected this year, 1400 people homeless for the first time, so could be doing more to help people;
4. Housing Inventory: 7000 beds available, but they are not evenly distributed across communities. 60% of beds are emergency shelter, not permanent supportive housing, and many of those are specifically for victims of domestic violence
5. Mary talked about System Performance Measures showed the change from last year. Kristin said that we do not have benchmarks (there is a plan for the board to create benchmarks).
6. Kristin talked about Longitudinal Systems Analysis (LSA). Dani brought up that PIT Count conflicts with some of the data in the LSA. Sophia said that PIT is just one point in time, and LSA is long-term.
7. Mary talked about Coordinated Entry, showed CE coverage area. There isn't one system for the entire BoS CoC; CE is broken up by communities. Sophia brought up that we are rethinking CE.
8. Mary talked about Consolidated Plan Jurisdictions (CPJs) - not competitive grants like CoC Program fund, Given to recipients (states, counties, and cities), who then award the funds to subrecipients. CDG, HOME, HOPWA, and ESG are CPJ programs.
9. Mary showed a slide that introduced the THN staff.
10. Opportunities to get involved in the CoC and contact info

G. Strategic Planning Committee Role

1. Mary - strategic plan will set up role of CoC over next 5 years, align the CoC with federal strategic plan
2. Mary elaborated on the roles of SPC, general members of CoC, CoC Board, and THN staff

V. Exercises

- A. Corey introduced exercises, and the committee broke into groups of 4. The exercises helped the groups think about how to solve problems when group members have diverse experiences and approaches. There are often multiple ways to solve a problem, and teamwork can help us figure out the best solution.
- B. Corey says it's important to work backwards and ask why. If it can't be unpacked, it's not meaningful.

VI. Philosophy/Identity Development

- A. Corey talked about Theory of Change vs. Theory of Action

1. Theory of Change - how and why will change happen, “action items”, actionable items that will be brought to stakeholders, these are the challenge statements, and we are working on them right now
 2. Theory of Action - Process progression: 1) theme objective, 2) short/long term goals, progress measures/action steps
- B. Corey asked group if they have questions about their role going forward. Chad asked if Corey could give a specific example of a challenge statement, Corey presented examples of ones from morning meeting.
1. Dani says challenge statements seems more like objectives. Corey says that is correct.
 2. Sophia says we can pay to have SPC come to Austin, we don't have to do it by webinar.
 3. Jim asks are we putting statements into buckets at next meeting? Corey says yes.
 4. Kyle talks about taking the strategic planning to his community.
 5. Corey shows NXTBoard platform, says next step is the survey to the general membership.
 6. Sophia says we are not presenting examples of strategic plans from other communities because we didn't want it to be biased. We wanted feedback from our CoC members.
 7. Kyle asked if there will be a forum to talk about the things discusses at morning meeting.
 8. Mary says she wants to have members' notes, and encouraged committee members to bring the challenge statement process to their own communities.
 9. Corey talks about his own experiences on a board, he became jaded because of poor on-boarding. He didn't feel that he was representing the community, felt like he didn't really understand the processes he was a part of. NXT Board system is meant to be evidence of the strategic planning process, will allow us to have benchmarks for progress, see how we have progressed.
 10. Sophia says we are working on being more data driven. She hopes that this process will help THN be more efficient. We are doing a lot, but we need to be more targeted with what we are doing,
 11. Chad asks how we will make sure we are accurately understanding challenges, and not just going off of anecdotal information from stakeholders. Corey says the goal is to combine humanistic information with data. Part of the process will be sorting that information and finding what is relevant.
 12. Shane says will need to work on prioritizing.
 13. Sophia says we are being informed by experiences of CoC. We want to align our plan with *Home, Together*, but make sure we are also addressing concerns of our specific community.
 14. Marsha says timeline seems short based on her experiences with previous strategic planning process.

15. Kyle asks who we will be presenting this to. Sophia says we will present it for public comment, general meeting, then to the board for approval.
16. Kyle is concerned about challenges dealing with outside forces like governor, local governments. How can we convince them?
17. Melanie says we need to remember the ultimate goal of ending homelessness, we need to make sure we are being collaborative in our efforts.
18. Chad gives example of needs assessment done in Lubbock, Stakeholders believed they needed more mental health services, but data said different. How do we make sure we are being informed by data?

VII. Reflections (on this meeting) -- Corey asked what members will say about this meeting to others when they leave:

- A. Sophia - relationship building
- B. Dani - team building
- C. Kyle - will take this process back to his community
- D. Juan - we will get some diverse feedback, excited to see what happens
- E. Marsha - it's a tall order, but we can do it
- F. Melanie - looking forward to the outcome, likes the going backward to go forward, "good scary"

VIII. Next Steps

- A. Challenge Statement Survey
- B. Email about joining NXT Board
- C. Webinar
- D. Challenge Statement Development

IX. Adjourn