

Texas Balance of State Continuum of Care

Data Committee Meeting

08/31/211, 1:00pm – 2:30 pm, Adobe Connect

NOTES

Topic	Discussion Summary	Action/Next Steps
Acceptance of Minutes	John Mier filed a motion to approve minutes and Nate Dears seconded.	Minutes were approved with no corrections.
Guest Speaker: Dani Shaw	<p>Concerns were brought up regarding PD criminal enforcement and accessibility restrictions. Ms. Shaw was asked the following: how long has the program been in effect and has it worked?</p> <p>Ms. Shaw stated that the HOT team purpose is not for criminal enforcement. She continued that relationship building is essential. In regards to accessibility, she stated that PD will have accessibility as any HMIS user and will be accountable for misuse as other HMIS users. The HOT program has been in effect for three years and they have seen the impact that it has had in the community that they will be hiring more individuals and implementing new ideas.</p>	Recordings of all guest speaker presentation will be uploaded into the data committee website for individuals who were not able to attend the meeting. In addition, a recommendation was made for members present to view the recordings if they still have some reservations.
Guest Speaker: Kyle Moore	Mr. Moore stated that he and Dani have been advocating for some police officers to have access to HMIS in an effort to help end homelessness. The intent is to be able to streamline the services and have police officers enter data as part of the coordinated entry. He stated that as a police officer, they are not there for criminal enforcement, but he states that as a police officer, he cannot assure that he will not react if he sees something illegal. It is not his focus. He continued by stating that the police officers will be trained in the system.	

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	<p>Questions were asked regarding whether he could outline how someone can abuse the system. Mr. Moore stated that having access to the HMIS can provide them with information that is detrimental. Example provided is an individual who may have a warrant and he needs a driver license; therefore, the police are able to advocate for options in lieu of incarceration. Secondly, a questioned was asked regarding the police dynamics addressing homeless individuals (attitudes) have changed. Mr. Moore stated that the program has allowed the police officers to contact the social workers and assist the homeless individual. The program has facilitated the process for the individuals to receive services more effectively.</p>	
<p>Guest Speaker: Linda White</p>	<p>Ms. White stated that she is not in agreement of having the police officers have access to HMIS. She continued by stating that not all police officers/departments are the same. She stated that she is an advocate for the individuals who have mental and behavioral issues. The HB 1925 homeless encampment is leaning more to criminalizing homelessness. She continued by stating that being homeless is unfortunate but not illegal. She spoke to the two police departments within her area and they stated that they don't have the financial, time or personnel to train in HMIS. Rural police officers are short-handed and would rather be in patrol protecting community that they serve. One police officer stated that they do not have the time to do the secretarial work for Homeless Network. Entering data is time consuming and cumbersome. She completed a small verbal survey with community members and asked whether they would be</p>	

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	<p>in agreement to have police officers enter information in HMIS, after explaining what HMIS was, and the vote was a unanimous ‘no’. Homeless have a right to privacy. She does not see the positive side and she does not want the exploitation and abuse of homeless individuals. Invasion of privacy and lack of trust of police officers.</p>	
<p>Revisiting Law Enforcement/Police Department Access to HMIS</p>	<p>Voting survey were conducted and it was unanimously voted to create a policy that allows police officers to access HMIS.</p>	<p>Limited only for HOT teams who complete HMIS training: Should be extra guardrails Other extra training course for LE/PD Access limited (VISPDATs, Case notes, etc.) Data entry for certain types of data (intake, services, etc.) Go through another round of public comment</p>
<p>Adjourn</p>		<p>Adjourn at 2:32pm</p>

Members in Attendance: Reni Bavikati, Nate Dears, Madeline Fink, Veronica G. Hernandez, Victoria Lopez, John Meier, Miguel A. Mireles, John Rodriguez, Tina Tetecatl, Kristina Zakoor.

Informational Reads and Resources

Next Board Meeting: October 26th, 2021