**WI BOSCOC Veterans Committee Meeting Minutes**

**June 20, 2018 1 p.m.**

**Attendees: (9)** Don Roach, Mary Schmocker, Faye Vega, Dawn Ollendick, Melissa Taggart, Cindy Kuzdas, Sharen Pease, Dave Hunt, Brian Erickson.

There was a motion by Sharen, second by Cindy to approve the minutes of the last meeting. Motion carried.

Old Business:

Don discussed the numbers of veterans experiencing homelessness reported in HMIS. He is concerned that the low numbers reported in HMIS will result in decreased funding for our veteran programs. He noted that the low numbers especially in the rural areas may be the result of the difficulty of locating the veterans. Sharen noted that the PIT counts in January showed very low numbers of veterans statewide. The PIT report is available on the BOS website.

New Business:

Don brought up the topic of trainings for our committee members and others. He would like to see trainings on how to outreach, locate and engage veterans in rural and other areas, and to outreach to shelters regarding services to veterans. Sharen thought another possible topic of interest would be how to provide financial counseling/literacy training to clients. A third topic might be rental literacy – how to be a good renter, the legalities, and using the Rent Smart program with clients. Don may suggest some of those topics to the BOS for the training portion of the quarterly meetings. Online trainings might be another option.

There was a discussion of outreach activities. Sharen noted that there was a landlord forum in Kenosha that brought in property owners to hear about the various housing programs, that she thought was good. Don noted that in rural areas the best way to find people out in the countryside is to physically go out and look. Outreach workers should contact people including farmers who might be housing someone in an outbuilding. Faye noted that in LaCrosse County, the police department has a staff member who attends CoC homeless coalition meetings. Officers on patrol make contact with persons who they find homeless and pass along a list with contact information to the CoC. This might work in other areas.

The VORP program is staffing up to resume operations in all 72 counties by the end of this summer. They are hiring eight staff statewide and one social services director for the northern WI area.

Mary asked for feedback on the WI BOS Veterans Community Plan. Sharen noted the overall lack of engagement from the VA. In the Racine CoC they have a VA staff member who will be engaging with that CoC soon. Dave noted that in the Dane CoC there has been good collaboration with the Madison VA, however the staff member involved will be moving to another position. As far as HMIS use, Dave noted that the Madison VA there did use HMIS for a time, but stopped for reasons unknown, possibly cost. Mary speculated that another factor might be multiple data-entry systems being too time-consuming for staff. In the WI BOS, the Tomah HUD-VASH has visible entries in HMIS and the Minneapolis HUD-VASH case managers can at least look into WISP, we think.

Regional updates:

North: Brian reported a VORP staff will be housed in his office soon. He has made a couple of referrals to SSVF within the past couple of weeks.

South: Sharen had nothing new to report. Dave reported he housed a few veterans in Jefferson county recently. There is still a constant stream of clients, he said. He has decided to reduce his target number of clients for the new SSVF grant.

East: Cindy has been working on the CARF accreditation. Now that process has slowed down, she will be contacting some of the CVSOs regarding this committee.

West: No report.

Motion by Sharen, second by Brian to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

The next teleconference meeting will be July 25 at 1 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Schmocker

Secretary