

## May 2024 Quarterly Meeting: CoC Director Report

### CoC Competition

- Received debriefing documents from HUD on the FY23 CoC Competition; attended HUD webinar (2/28)
- Sent out the Scoring Tool for comment on February 22<sup>nd</sup> with a deadline of March 22<sup>nd</sup>. The deadline was extended to April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Board of Directors reviewed and approved final Scoring Tool during Board meeting on May 7<sup>th</sup>. Emailed to Board members, coalition leads, and CoC grantees on May 9<sup>th</sup>. Will be posted on the Balance of State CoC website for the FY24 CoC Competition soon.
- Trainings scheduled for the FY24 Competition: project scoring tool (6/6 1-3pm) and project application (6/25 10-noon)

### CoC Organizational Activities

- Participated in planning process for Balance of State Conference (2/8-9); working on plans for the 2025 conference. Looking at locations, a theme, and speakers.
  - 2024 conference planning meetings: 12/7, 12/19, 1/9, 1/23, 2/2; 2025 conference planning meetings: 4/17
- Attended Board of Director mtgs: 12/5 (in person), 4/2, 5/7 (in person); Exec mtgs: 12/21, 1/18, 2/15, 3/21, 4/18
- Staff – Supervision & meetings
  - Hired New Grant Specialist (starting 5/28) – Molly Betts, previously at MHS Health Wisconsin
  - Meredith McCoy (Monitoring & Compliance Manager): in person monitoring & TA; additional training planned for sub-grantees; supporting the case management tool kit (on website); facilitating a monthly PSH supervisor mtg, RRH staff mtg, and PSH staff mtg; attended Housing First Conference (Atlanta).
    - Supports Coulee, Jefferson, and Southwest coalitions
    - Supports Data Analysis Committee (combined Gaps & Needs with System Performance Network) and Discharge Planning committee
  - Ryan Graham (Homeless Systems Manager): working on Home ARP support for SSO & newly awarded supportive service projects; providing CE and CoC level systems training & TA; working on formal partnerships with other systems (e.g. 211, HMO, DOC); facilitated the RFP process for BEZOS grant and working with Erika to launch project; working on video platform transition to Vimeo; attends ICH Workgroup mtgs. Attended NHSDC (Kansas City). Will be State Captain for NAEH Capitol Hill Day for Wisconsin (July 2024).
    - Supports East Central, Northwest, North Central, Rural North & West Central coalitions
    - Supports Discharge Planning committee & Lived Experience Advisory Boards
  - Kate Markwardt (Grant Specialist): providing oversight and maintaining compliance with sub-contracts among all sub-recipients; source documentation for HAP & DV RRH; works with Hebron House on additional grant review & support; working with Meredith on case management tool kit; working with Holly to oversee HIC/PIT; starting a new invoice system for sub-recipients; and collaborating with End Domestic Abuse to provide training and support for DV RRH. Attended Housing First Conference (Atlanta)
    - Supports Brown, Fox Cities, Lakeshore, Northeast, & NWISH coalitions
    - Supports DEI and Public Awareness & Advocacy committees

- Holly Sieren (CE System Specialist): oversight of SSO staff; providing training & TA; conducting quarterly reviews & assisting with monitoring; oversees non-HMIS platform; supports all CE workgroups; collaborates with End Domestic Abuse for the bi-monthly trainings and support for DV in CE; working with Kate to oversee HIC/PIT. Attended NHDSC (Kansas City) and will be attending NAEH (DC) in July.
  - Supports Central, Ozaukee, Rock Walworth, & Washington coalitions
  - Supports Coordinated Entry & Veteran Advisory committees
- Erika Olson (Homeless Systems Specialist): providing oversight of System Navigators and supporting the YAB; point of contact for YHDP; working with Bezos project and supporting Family Promise of Waukesha establish a diversion project. Participated in January PIT in Waukesha. Attended Housing First Coalition (Atlanta). Will be presenting at Home for Everyone (Madison) and NAEH (DC) in July.
  - Supports Kenosha, Waukesha & Winnebago land coalitions
  - Supports Data Analysis Committee (combined Gaps & Needs with System Performance Network), Discharge Planning committee, and CoC-wide YAB
- Action Plan
  - All coalitions submitted a final report for Action Plan 2.0. Staff will score and send feedback.
  - Action Plan 24-25 form was sent out 5/15 to Board members and coalition leads. Deadline for selection 6/15; 6 month review 12/15; final report 6/1/25.
- Point-in-Time (PIT)
  - Sent out HIC for November 2023 – April 2024
  - Participated in the January 2024 PIT (Eau Claire)
  - Worked with Kate, Holly & ICA staff to complete 2024 HIC & PIT submission to HUD through HDX
  - Training for PIT leads scheduled for 6/18 from 9-11 am. HIC guide and past recordings available for review.
  - Preparing documents for the July PIT (July 24-25<sup>th</sup>) – non-HMIS, Deduplication & match.
  - Revising PIT methodology, goal to release for comment and feedback in September.
- Other/Misc.
  - Did an interview with PBS on homelessness (1/19)
  - Met with Senator Baldwin’s staff (12/6)
  - Listened to US Supreme Court oral arguments in Grants Pass v. Johnson (4/22) \*see below for more information
  - Met with ICA staff (4/16, 4/30, and 5/2)
  - Met with HUD Field Office Staff (12/10)
- BOS Committee Support
  - Attended Finance (12/4, 1/30)
  - Attended Nominating (3/12, 4/18)
- Local Coalitions/Agencies
  - Met with partners from Fox Cities coalition (12/6); Stevens Point-East Central partners (2/27); Rock Walworth coalition partners (3/14); and Washington coalition partners (5/1)
  - Met with ADVOCAP staff (4/5, 4/11)
  - Presented at Northwest coalition (2/26)

- Visited Brown County – met with 7 agencies, attended local YAB mtg, and presented at Brown coalition mtg (4/8-4/10); met with Blueprint coordinator (5/1)
- Attend Dairyland coalition mtg (12/20, 2/21, 3/20, 4/17)
  - Dairyland leaders meeting (2/22, 3/18)

**CoC Grants – (as of March’s request)**

| Grant Name         | Status      | Notes  |
|--------------------|-------------|--|
| SSO CE 23-24       | On track    | Started 7/1. 33% of funds remaining (3 months left)    |
| SSO CE DV 23-24    | On track    | Started 9/1. 44% of funds remaining (5 months left)    |
| HAP 23-24**        | On track    | Started 10/1. 79% of funds remaining (9 months left)   |
| DV RRH 23-24       | Under Spent | Started 10/1. 72.5% of funds remaining (6 months left) |
| YHDP SSO CE 23-24* | Under Spent | Started 10/1. 65% of funds remaining (6 months left)   |
| YHDP SSO 23-24*    | Under Spent | Started 10/1. 78% of funds remaining (6 months left)   |
| CoC Planning CY24  | On track    | Started 1/1.   |

\*these are 1 year numbers, but the grant is 2 years for initial contract with HUD

\*\*extension to 12/31/23 & added an additional \$125,000

- We closed out the APR for the CoC Planning grant and the YHDP Planning grant before the 3/28/24 deadline.
- HAP was extended to 12/31/24.

**Additional Grants**

**Bezoz Day One Fund** – The CoC received 5 applications for the BEZOS funding. Family Promise of Waukesha was selected for funding. The initial contract is for \$200,000 for one year.

**NLIHC Advocacy Funds** – signed grant agreement (3/12) for \$80,000 to support specific advocacy work around anti-criminalization at state level. The grant period is 3/1/24-2/28/25.

**Objective #1: Foster and strengthen relationship with WI Assembly and Senate members**

- Meetings with elected officials in home districts and at the Capitol
- Work with local homeless coalition partners to share stories and conduct tours
- Facilitate virtual and in-person advocacy training
- Participate in an Advocacy Day with other 3 CoC leaders at the Capitol
- Compensation for people with lived experience of homelessness for time spent meeting with elected officials and sharing their stories
- Working with CoC staff to launch a campaign to promote their stories and experiences

**Objective #2: Increase commitment to alternative solutions rooted in best practices and need for investments to end homelessness**

- Written and visual materials that include statistics and infographics
- Social Media Campaign – sharing information through Instagram, X, LinkedIn, and Facebook

The Balance of State CoC membership (before these types of policies were approved by the Board only) approved an Anti-Criminalization policy in Nov. 2018. This policy states that each local coalition must develop a regional plan to address the criminalization of homelessness in their communities. This must include strategies to educate and engage local policymakers, law enforcement, local businesses, and other community leaders. In addition, the policy states that agencies and staff acting on behalf of an agency shall not support the criminalization of homelessness. Violations of the policy may result in monitoring findings, the loss of “good standing” status with the BOS – which may impact ongoing and future funding opportunities.

Both because we have a CoC policy and also reinforced by the advocacy funds recently received, we will be looking at communities with criminalizing policies or practices and work with the coalition partners to support speaking up and out against these actions.

**HOME ARP Funds** – signed contract for funds from DEHCR, approximately \$140,000. This is the 1<sup>st</sup> year of grants designed to support CoC staff and SSOs in communities that are funded for HOME APR supportive services and housing.

**Youth Homelessness System Improvement Grant (YHSI)** – worked on & submitted application for funds (2/14), met with WAHRS (1/19), attended webinar (12/11). The total request was \$1,700,600. The grant is for 30 months. Should hear any day now which applications were selected for award.

- Planning and partnerships \$700,600
  - Hire 2 FTE staff
  - Increase YAB (local and CoC) compensation to \$20/hour
  - 3, 2-day youth specific statewide conferences in partnership with WAHRS
  - 2, 1-day technical/program specific trainings in partnership with WAHRS
- Data \$600,000
  - Formalize partnership with Institute for Research on Poverty (IRP)
- CES \$200,000
  - Hire a consultant to create a youth-centered mobile app
- Racial & Gender Equity \$200,000
  - Hire consulting company to conduct DEI specific youth landscape assessment, quantitative and qualitative data analysis, ID of gaps and needs, understanding disparities in access and outcomes, establish metrics and improvement plans, and create a CQI to track progress

#### **National Conferences/Trainings/Webinars**

- Participate in Rural & BOS Community of Practice national mtg (12/12, 1/9, 3/12)
- Participate in ADVOCACY group monthly meetings sponsored by NLIHC, NAEH, and NHL: 1/23, 2/28, 3/28
- Attended NAEH Conference in San Francisco (3/4–6)
- NAEH: Effective Street Outreach: From Unsheltered to Housed (1/18)
- Presented with Jolie (WAHRS) & Jen Best (TA) at RHY Conference in Seattle (11/30)
- Met with Balance of State staff from Ohio (2/27) and Alaska (4/3)

#### **Policy Development**

- Proposed changes to CoC RRH standards, approved by Board (5/7)

### **State Collaboration & Advocacy efforts**

- Attended EFSP Set Aside Board meeting (1/25)
- Attended Children Come 1<sup>st</sup> Advisory Committee introduction (2/16) and meeting (4/23)
  - I was recommended to join. This committee was created by WI statute to support the development of a comprehensive service system of coordinated care for children who are involved in 2 or more systems of care. It advises DHS on the implementation of WI's children's system of care – services that help kids facing behavioral health challenge do better at home, in school, in the community, and throughout life.
- Collaboration conference calls with Dane, Milwaukee & Racine CoC leads – these calls include DEHCR, HUD & Mike Basford (12/14, 2/15, 4/11, 5/9); just 4 CoC leaders and Mike (5/9)
- Attend WI IAC quarterly meeting virtually (12/13)
- Presented w/3 other CoC leaders to DHS “Homeless Services Provision and Coordination” call with Public Health staff across the State (5/1, 5/8)
- Met with DEHCR staff regarding HOME ARP (12/8, 2/16)
- Met with 3 CoC leaders, Milwaukee lobbyist, and Housing First Coalition on advocacy (12/11)
- Attended DEHCR - EHH stakeholders meeting (3/27)
- Participate in the planning for A Home for Everyone (AHFE) conference: 2/22, 4/4, 5/2; homeless track (2/23, 3/15, 4/19) <https://ahomeforeveryone.events/>
- Met with partners from Dane County and City of Madison (4/29)
- Coordinated discussions with other 3 CoC leaders & state agency staff on collaboration efforts, addressing issues & concerns =
  - DHS - Ending Homelessness Partnership meeting (12/13, 1/10, 1/24, 2/7, 2/21, 3/20, 4/3, 4/17)
  - DHS Medicaid update (12/6, 1/22, 2/28, 3/14, 4/4)

**Out of the Office:** I was out 11/21-24, 11/28-12/1, 12/25-1/1, 1/11-1/17, 2/29-3/1 & 3/7, 5/10

Upcoming days off: 5/24, 7/3-5, 8/1-9

### **Upcoming:**

- Attend - A Home For Everyone (AHFE) in Madison, 7/17-18
- Present at – Inform Conference in Green Lake, 11/6-7

### Grants Pass vs. Johnson

- Johnson v. Grant Pass was a court case originally filed in 2018 that determined it is cruel and unusual punishment to arrest or ticket people sleeping outside when they have no other safe place to go. The case began in Grants Pass, Oregon – when the city began issuing tickets to people sleeping in public, even where there was not enough safe, accessible shelter beds.
- If the court hears the case and upholds the current decision, jurisdictions across the country will NO LONGER be able to criminalize people for existing when they have nowhere else to go.
- Links:

<https://johnsonvgrantspass.com/>

<https://endhomelessness.org/blog/supreme-court-and-homelessness-what-the-grants-pass-v-johnson-case-could-do/>

<https://www.scotusblog.com/case-files/cases/city-of-grants-pass-oregon-v-johnson/>

<https://homelesslaw.org/statement-johnsonvgrantspass/>

<https://www.supremecourt.gov/search.aspx?filename=/docket/docketfiles/html/public/23-175.html>