**Santa Clara County Continuum of Care**

**Coordinated Entry Working Group Meeting Notes**

**November 10, 2022**

**Coordinated Entry System Data Update**

* Leila from OSH provided data on the Coordinated Entry System (CES) Assessment (VI-SPDAT) data from November 1, 2015 – October 31, 2022
  + 52,131 total VI-SPDATs (includes duplicates)
  + 32,667 unduplicated VI-SPDATs
    - 24,945 individual adults (76%)
    - 1,979 transition age youth (TAY 6%)
      * Note: TAY (18-24-year-olds) are also assessed with Single Adult or Family VI-SPDATs. Because of this, TAY actually make up about 12% of all assessments.
    - 5,658 families with children
    - 95 justice discharges
    - 1,176 VISPDATS are included from the Confidential Queue as of 10/31/2022

Intervention score range data from November 1, 2015 – October 31, 2022

* + 44.4% score within Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) range
    - 3,786 referrals to PSH to date
  + 43.3% score within Rapid Rehousing (RRH) range
    - 8,508 referrals to RRH to date
  + 12.3% score within Minimal intervention range
* Some of the most important highlights found is that the most recent proportion of assessments falling within PSH range is higher and the RRH numbers are lower.
* Clients assessed for the first time (homeless inflow) show lower levels of intervention compared to clients who are assessed multiple times.
* A higher percentage of households who identify as Black or African American, Multi-Racial, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander have taken the VI-SPDAT multiple times.
* OSH is trying to figure out how to demonstrate race and ethnicity data together and appreciate any feedback as to how it would be most helpful for the CEWG.
* CEWG member would like to add percentages to the race and ethnicity chart.
  + Leila said that she thought of adding the percentages, but Excel did not allow her to add them.
* 50% of folks experiencing homelessness that have passed away this year have been identified as Hispanic and Latinx.
* The 95 Justice discharge number is higher than the usual 63, when the data is pulled to reflect the most recent VI-SPDAT assessment.

**Implementation Committee Update**

* Nikole from Homebase went over the composition of the Implementation Committee and discussed the Implementation Committee’s first meeting that happened on November 1st. Nikole also mentioned the timeline and next steps.
* A CEWG member thinks the VI-SPDAT is a terrible idea and mentioned it would be nice to get rid of it.
  + Nikole from Homebase answered that the entire coordinated entry system is being redesigned. SCC is working on a process of phasing out the VI-SPDAT and creating a new tool—a process that will go well into 2023.

**CE Interim Changes Discussion**

* Nikole from Homebase explained the interim VI-SPDAT changes from the October 17, 2022 CoC meeting. Some questions were posed to the members to obtain feedback:
* Have you been incorporating external information into the assessment? Are you aware of these changes?
* At least 6 people answered yes in the chat.
* A CEWG member answered that she has no access to HMIS but does know about these changes.
* CEWG member shared that the interim changes have resulted in score changes that staff feel more accurately reflects the acuity of the person being assessed.
* Have you been using the assessor observation companion? Or assessor observation to determine mental health?
* CEWG member said that he has only done one VI-SPDAT as he is new in the position, but he is eager to learn more about the interim changes.
* Have you had any challenges in implementing any of the interim VI-SPDAT changes?
* CEWG member said that the problem for assessors when they speak with clients with mental health challenges is that it might be hard as they are not clinicians. He thinks that it takes a real professional to make a right assessment, otherwise they are just guessing. He believes it is better to have the right staff or trained group to assess them.
* CEWG member said that there seem to be a very low number of bilingual staff on the ground (outreach workers) and stated that there is a need of more outreach workers in all agencies.
  + Nikole answered that there might be some additional specialized assessors to assess bilingual or Black, Indigenous, and People of Color individuals to address some of these needs. Hong Cao also answered that Santa Clara CoC is working on this.
* CEWG member said that within 4 months, staff have seen a lot of needs for the Spanish community.
  + Hilary Barroga from OSH clarified that there is a language program available to people for any language and encouraged people to reach out to Hilary or OSH at hilary.armstrong@hhs.sccgov.org to learn how it works. Hilary said that all government agencies are required to have language access and in addition to that, the VI-SPDAT has been translated in different languages commonly spoken in Santa Clara County.
* A CEWG member asked if Santa Clara County has a schedule of CES assessors.
  + Hilary said that the County website has a list of HMIS agencies but in terms of a list of agencies that use the VI-SDAT, the County does not.
  + Angie from Bitfocus posted a list of HMIS participating agencies:
    - https://scc.bitfocus.com/hmis-participating-agencies
* A CEWG member asked if there is a program to incentivize recruitment for Spanish speakers or other bilingual individuals to be assessors or play other roles within the Coordinated Entry System.
  + Hong Cao said that currently SCC CoC does not have that resource.
* CEWG member said that it would be great to create a program for unhoused bilingual people; people who have been unhoused who would love to help other people; perhaps they can be trained.
* Nikole from Homebase said OSH and Homebase are trying to figure out the best way to gather feedback on the interim VI-SPDAT changes on an ongoing basis (through Google form or SurveyMonkey).
* Hong Cao from the CoC reminded the group that people can follow up and provide feedback by email to santaclaraCoC@homebaseccc.org. Hong also recommended that these meetings be recorded so that people who can’t attend are able to access the meetings at a later time.