

Data and Metrics Meeting

Buggy Building- Chatham Street Conference Room

Monday, July 24th, 2017

11:30 AM

Members Present: Emily Schwartz, Johnnye Waller, Wayne Chew, Charles Taylor, Teresa Kelly, Rachel Picard

I. Meeting Called to Order & Introductions

a. Elect a Subcommittee Chair/Lead (who will lead future meetings)?

- **Emily Schwartz agreed to be liaison**
- **Emily Schwartz agreed to chair committee**
- **Teresa Kelly agreed to take notes in Rachel's absence**

b. Role of Liaison/Board Member (report to full Task Force)

II. New Business

a. Discussion of Data and Metrics Committee (as defined by Consultant)

i. Additions/changes to definition?

- **Missing validation piece- a lot of numbers out there, but we need to help clean things up- Things can get skewed if you don't have any validation- "Need validation of existing numbers"**
 - **Old numbers are not the best numbers to work with- If you're going to work with numbers you have to figure out when the numbers are from**
 - **Validating these numbers could drive funding**
 - **Once number are validated put a sheet out to Task Force with all numbers so everyone is on the same page**
- **Use same guidelines as PIT guidelines for this sheet**

b. Do we agree on what is THE definition of homelessness?

- **Yes definitely HUD's definition. Make sure everyone on Task Force is using this definition.**

c. Discussion of Model of Success

i. What can this look like? How can we measure impact?

- **Need numbers to start with (validation) before we can give updates as to how the project is doing**
- **Need to set our own expectations as a committee and Task Force about how big of an impact we're trying to make- Our model of success will come from there**
- **Model of success needs to talk about stories**
 - **Success stories would be more positive than failure stories. Numbers that are reported could be people that have been helped.**
 - **This is important for funding- More likely to get more money if you've been able to positively reach a lot of people**
 - **When homeless people are in and out of the system it is important to track successes- How many people are officially no longer homeless? Hard to track the people who keep going back and forth.**
 - **Unsuccessful stories are still important stories though because they tell you why we weren't able to help some people, what we could do better, or why some people don't want to be helped.**
 - **Positive and negative stories combined will send complete message**
- **Try to measure how long people have been homeless**
- **Should be looking more at qualitative (stories) than quantitative (numbers)- But on the other hand, grants and funding will want to see more quantitative than qualitative**
 - **"Don't get caught on numbers, get caught on results"**
 - **How can we make qualitative data quantitative?**
- **Data HAS to be relational- When you stop treating the homeless like a number and start treating them like people is when you make an impact**
 - **One of the biggest gauges is how relational will we be with homeless?**
- **Before we can have a model of success we have to validate all current numbers so we can see where we are starting**
- **School System Discussion**
 - **303 homeless children identified last year in Lee County Schools**
 - **But it is very important to note that schools don't use HUD definition**
 - **Define "Doubled Up" to Task Force so everyone understands**
 - **The number went up from around 286 the year before**
 - **In the school system children are identified as homeless by a form/questionnaire that you give to all students OR by referrals OR by phone calls.**
 - **Social workers follow up with all children that are identified to be homeless**
 - **Could we start by using 303 as our number to validate? It is the most recent homeless count we have, and we could use trend data and validate from there**
 - **We could potentially get count of homeless families by looking at amount of homeless children in school system**
 - **Could potentially use homeless student information to get indication of where families are staying for future Point In Time analyses**

- Extract the number of students that are doubling up to get a more accurate, HUD number of homeless students

d. How to Find Local Data?

- Lee County Schools has local data on students
- If you're homeless you don't have to agree to give your information- For statistics how do you get this information?
 - If you develop a relationship with them maybe you could get them ID'ed
 - Do a giant feeding event for the homeless to create relationships and get numbers of people that come
- Police/HAVEN PIT- Potentially missed pockets of homeless or could have double counted if people were moving around
 - Find out where data was collected for last PIT
 - Need to do PIT tests more frequently to help validate the numbers- If you do it more often you will start to see the same faces and know where these people like to go
 - Potentially do a PIT six times a year?
 - Who would do the informal PITs? We could talk to Sherry Shudra at HAVEN and see how her PIT went, what that person would need to make it successful
 - Police could help?
 - Ask what data from her PIT looked like
 - Homeless areas need to be identified to get a good PIT- We need to be going to the same areas every time
 - Work with district maps to locate places
 - Could PITs be done at the Bread of Life or Bread Basket? They have the same people coming every day and new people coming in. These agencies could have a survey form, and people would be likely to fill it out since these agencies have already built trust
 - Have a few basic questions or use Lee County Schools questionnaire
 - Do it on a random day
 - Now is the perfect time to do this since Bread of Life is hosting Bread Basket- When Bread Basket returns to its location then you can do questionnaire at both places
 - Get form to start this immediately
 - These facilities could be zoned so we could have a place to hand out questionnaires in each zone
- Current Shelters- Ask for numbers: How many people they're turning away, how many people on the waiting list, how many have been asked to leave
- Word of Mouth Data- Get info from people talking and then pursue it
 - Also get info from where school buses are picking up children, where social workers are going for their visits
- Once you've found the data how do you keep up with it?

e. Other Thoughts

- **These people need to know how to budget and work with money- Some people want to stay in awful areas because it's easier than having to figure out how to work with money**
- **Numbers of homeless will fluctuate depending on when "ugly" properties are torn down- Numbers of local homeless need to be captured before and after**
- **How do we measure up to other local areas percentage wise? For example, how many homeless does Wake County have per hundred thousand people compared to us**
 - **Johnnye Waller can get district numbers**
 - **For a small county we have a lot of people**
- **Have a police office at all further Data meetings- they know local area and could help split up zones**
- **Does Johnston-Lee have current local numbers of homeless population? Ask Jefferey Rawlings and Sherry Shudra if they can share their current local numbers**
 - **Would Sanford Housing Authority have numbers?**
- **Don Kovasckitz will make a map of where homeless students are located so we can start to figure out where the homeless are staying- He came into the meeting to discuss this**
 - **Locate zone the homeless are in instead of trying to pinpoint where exactly the homeless are at**
 - **Cannot use exact address of homeless students because of school privacy**
 - **Could there be a list of addresses with no names?**
 - **Could use street names instead of exact addresses**
 - **Could use council wards instead of exact addresses**
 - **If we can get vague locations they could be put on a map, and you can zone from there**
 - **Did Lee County Health Assessment already do something like this but with poverty?**
 - **Could do map by census block. For example, "in this block there are five homeless people"**
 - **No name associated, plot addresses. Get the number of people in each block and then take out dots for confidentiality**

f. Action Items

- **Johnnye Waller will bring Lee County Schools application/questionnaire sheet**
 - **At next meeting we will figure out where to give this form to**
 - **After giving out form we can map everything, and then validate numbers**
- **Johnnye Waller will email Sherry Shudra and ask for PIT historical data**
- **In the future, Johnnye Waller will find district numbers to see how our homeless levels compare to other places**
- **Charles Taylor will invite police to future meetings and call Andy to ask about zoning**
- **Rachel Picard will send out Buggy Factory contact sheet so everyone will have access to zoning employees**

III. Old Business

IV. Adjournment – Next meeting (time and place?)

- **Next meeting will be held on Monday, July 31st at 11:30 AM in the Buggy Building Chatham Street Conference Room**
- **Want to meet once a week so we can start getting numbers, because a lot of data can be found soon with school starting back and Bread Basket being held in Bread of Life**