**Data Evaluation Committee 7/10/20**

* Call for interest in co-chairing- If you are interested in acting as a co-chair of the Data Evaluation Committee please reach out to Michele. We would love to have another person help determine our agenda, run meetings, etc so it’s not just CoC staff
* Anyone else we should invite? Another goal of the CoC and the committee is to expand this committee’s membership- if you know anyone who may have interest or can think of any partners we should make a point to invite please let Michele know and we can reach out. On the other side, if you have been getting a lot of Data Evaluation Committee emails but don’t have time to participate and would like to stop receiving them please let Michele know- you are absolutely welcome to stay on the committee and receive emails and not attend the meetings but we wanted to offer for anyone who does not want to get them any longer.
* Release of Information – The only change since last meeting has been the addition of ‘(optional)’ next to the witness signature.
  + The Coordinated Entry partners feel like this document is overwhelming, what can we do to help them? There is a concern about the need to scan and upload the release for every participant and how much time this extra step takes for an already swamped staff.
  + Guidance for projects on how to enter into HMIS? The committee feels that there is guidance on how to code anonymously within the release. It comes down to training maybe instead of a guidance spreadsheet.
  + Kathy- Lousion House is starting to try out the new releases, it is longer and a bit cumbersome than the previous one but we knew it might be, part of the tradeoff
  + Can we add some checkboxes about disclosures to the assessment to track release information in ETO?
  + Michele will check in with Springfield on how they handle this since parts of the release needed to track are pulled from the Hampden ROI.
  + When the Coordinated Entry workgroup talks about overhauling the assessment tool, we can ask would it be worth having a checkbox for all of these options on the release?
  + The plan is to introduce this new release in case conferencing meetings then in larger trainings in the fall.
  + Because we want to make sure we are capturing the group’s view as a larger whole, Michele will send out the release of information to the data eval committee and ask to approve or not.
  + If questions about the release, who should someone contact? Any questions staff have can be addressed to Michele, we can include this during training.
  + Owen feels comfortable providing guidance and training to Dial/Self staff
* Final Housing Inventory and Point in Time Numbers – The PIT and HIC were submitted on June 30th and Michele is now working to break down by county
  + Unsheltered homelessness appears to be increasing but it is difficult to determine by how much because there were outside factors which caused our numbers to increase as well.
  + There was also a suggestion to look at racial disparities by race, using an extrapolation tool, for the PIT count which Michele will prioritize after breaking down by county.
* We received an update from Kelly from DHCD on APR errors in the ETO ASIST system. We are using APRs to score and rank projects for the upcoming funding application process so Michele will be going through to try and determine if this affects the measures we are evaluating before continuing with the scoring process.
* Monday the 13th, there is a discussion with other MAHMIS HMIS Leads/CoCs on potential collaboration
  + Will be really getting the new hmis working group together after this meeting hopefully sheds light on whether or not another state implementation will be feasible
* The CoC is going to be holding trainings for new projects on privacy and security (September 24th) as well as an end user training (October 22nd) and a site administrator training (October 15th) all from 1-2:30, tentatively, anyone is welcome to join
* Uses for HMIS funds? We have more than usual this year because we are not paying for a data system, but will need to be next year

Owen- Hardware such as computers? Good way to spend a lot of money that could be beneficial. New computers for agencies to support data collection.

Could equipment non-funded projects, like coordinated entry projects, be purchased (Eliot CHS)? Michele will check with Keleigh

Michele is hoping to find a consultant to work on a Data quality project to help some of the projects without dedicated HMIS staff.

* We looked at data dashboards again briefly- the community snapshot did not update but we did confirm that the data being shared on victims of domestic violence are people who have ever experienced DV, not those who are currently fleeing. Michele is still working on finding someone to ensure this is safe.