

HMIS Committee Meeting

October 3, 2007

Attendees: Frank Barger, Dave Brubaker, Mike Chapman, Lynn Cowart, Judy Detrick, Pam Ortiz, Suzanne Randolph, Rosa Reich, Carrie Thomas, Melissa Womeldorf

Agencies Represented: 2-1-1 Brevard, Inc., BCCHT, City of Titusville, CBSC, Coalition of Hungry & Homeless, Crosswinds Youth Services, NBSC, SBSC, Women's Center, United Way of Brevard

Purpose: Review HMIS Software Evaluations and Vote for Software Choice

Dave Brubaker called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

Minutes of last meeting, , 2007, overlooked. Will review at next meeting.

Dave recognized Mike for discussion.

Mike started discussion on survey; explained the surveys were provided to those members that had attended all three HMIS software demonstrations.

Frank said that looking at the surveys; Bell Data seems to be the leader. Mike noted that comments and contracts from all three vendors are included in the meeting package and the committee should review each.

Domus: There are sections of software that we require that Domus cannot provide at the moment. The concern is that if we are the only client asking for some of these things, Domus may take longer to provide these sections than we need. Mike explained that Domus had been bought out by Interthinx who is a country wide computer software company working with a lot of clients in the financial world. During a meeting with two of Interthinx executives, they said they would make us a number one priority.

Rosa pointed out that she personally felt good that Interthinx has a lot of background in computer knowledge, but that sometimes the difference between the business world software and the human services software is hard to integrate.

Mike said they were very uniformed of our needs and he is concerned that our community cannot wait for them to finish the software. Frank says he didn't think our community should be a guinea pig, we should probably go with a vendor that has the things we need.

Judy says she had been working with Domus very closely, and all she got was promises. She ended up doing her reports on excel because the Domus software just never lived up to the promise.

General consensus is that Domus just is not the software we need to use at this time.

Discussion on Pathways: Client Services package. Committee looked at agreement and discussed pros & cons. They are a non-profit organization. They ask only \$10,000 (where the others are a lot more). They are very thorough and have a lot of the modules that Brevard needs. Pathways is limiting us to 20 agency licenses and only 30 users can be logged in at any one time. Pathways cannot import data from government site. Frank asked if after six months we jump to 30 users, we can't do anything about that until the end of the year contract? Mike confirmed, yes. They have also created a smaller package where agencies with little funds could get the package which covers basically only the HUD requirements. No complaints from the communities that are using Pathways. After the initial training and implementation, they charge \$125.00/hr for support.

Discussion on BellData: BellData has a module where you can import data from the Government database into ours. Plus they have experience and knowledge in the human services arena and a lot of the modules that Brevard needs. They allow more users/licenses than Pathways. \$20,000 for first year then drops to \$12,000, and we can add users at any time. There are no complaints from the communities that are using BellData. BellData has built in unlimited support. Able to customize per agency/user needs. Also able to import household info for each household member rather than fill in every space/page for every single house member. BellData also tested importing our Metsys history data and turning it into usable data. They accomplished that in four hours.

Frank : Motion to recommend BellData, as a whole, to the CoCC members at the next meeting.
Pam: I second that motion.

Vote taken. Motion carried unanimously.

Carrie suggested a timeline and recommends that we start the training as soon as possible. It is sometimes pretty hard to attend training "next week". We would like a couple of weeks heads up. General consensus is agencies need about two weeks notice to schedule training. Mike agreed.

Mike will get the info to the chosen vendor after the CoCC meeting and will provide everyone with a timeline before he leaves for vacation on Thurs. afternoon. He will train morning, noon and evening if necessary.

Frank was concerned that people who do not use the software, his agency being one of them, should not vote on who the software vendor will be. Rosa thinks that some of these people may become HMIS users in the future and they should have a say in what software to use, but maybe we can recap all the time and work that has gone into evaluating these software packages and ask that they go with the committee's recommendation.

Rosa suggests that the next HMIS Committee Meeting focus on how information is input, the quality of information, how to ensure all the possible fields are filled in. This will give us more accurate reports and usable data.

Next meeting to be held at the 2-1-1 offices on Wednesday, February 2, 2008 at 1:00 pm.

Frank made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Rosa seconded. The ayes carried. Meeting adjourned at 2:15 pm.