HMIS Governing Board Charter and Bylaws Continued work 2021 Annual Meeting Update

QUESTIONS WE WANTED TO ANSWER ABOUT OUR BYLAWS

The HMIS Bylaws Workgroup identified the questions below as part of an ongoing and intentional review of our bylaws. We presented these questions to attendees at our 2020 Annual Meeting. Starting in Spring 2021, the Bylaws Workgroup led focused discussions at HMIS Board meetings to help us find the answers and to identify if these answers would lead to bylaws changes.

<u>Board Membership</u>
  ➢ Is nine the right number of members to have on the board?
  ➢ Can the board carry out all expectations with the current board and committee structure?
  ➢ Are we incorporating our values of diversity, equity and inclusion within the board and committee structure?
  ➢ Do we represent the populations we serve?
  ➢ Are end users' interests adequately reflected within the board and committee structure?

<u>Annual Meeting</u>
  ➢ Should decision making should occur at the Annual Meeting? If so, what types of decisions should be made and by who?

WHAT WE'VE FOUND (SO FAR)

Information that we gathered from Board members and other meeting attendees has helped us answer the questions listed above and will help inform things like improved board engagement and capacity in the future. In a nutshell, we have learned the following in response to our questions:

- **Nine is the "right number" of board members (*at least for now*).** Most Board members shared that they didn't feel that adding more Board members would improve capacity. There is still more work to be done to figure out if adding board members would support more diverse representation.
- **Committees need more members to support their work.** Board members reported that committee meetings and extra committee work takes up the majority of their time dedicated to the HMIS Board.
- **More intentional recruitment of committee members and non-board member attendees is needed.** Committees carry out much of the work of the Board to improve HMIS. More intentional recruitment will hopefully lead to expanding committee participation, diversifying representation, and sharing the workload across a larger group to address capacity concerns.

- **Training/orientation for new board members is needed.** Board members expressed a desire for more clarity of their roles and expectations.
- **The Annual Meeting allows the board to get critical feedback that *informs* decisions.** The nature of the Annual Meeting is to inform the HMIS Community of our work and gather your feedback. The Board uses that feedback to inform decisions and action planning, but there isn't a need to incorporate decision making into the Annual Meeting (at least right now).

BYLAWS WORK – NEXT STEPS

The Bylaws Workgroup is partnering with the Racial Equity and Data & Disparities (REDD) Committee to continue this work. This partnership is focused on answering the following questions related to our bylaws:

- Are we incorporating our values of diversity, equity and inclusion within the board and committee structure? Do we represent the populations we serve?

- Are end users' interests adequately reflected within the board and committee structure?

After we've gathered the information that we need to answer these questions, the Bylaws Workgroup and REDD Committee will use what we've found throughout this process to recommend any new changes to the bylaws.

We will share a final summary of this process and proposed changes with the HMIS Community to get your feedback. The proposed bylaws changes will be announced at the 2022 Annual Meeting and voted on following the meeting.

WANT TO JOIN IN THE BYLAWS FUN?!

The Bylaws Workgroup is looking for volunteers to help guide this important work! If you are a process thinker, passionate about improving HMIS, and willing to shape the future of the Board and its committees, this is the job for you!

Please contact Cara Lundquist (clundquist@live.com) or Joel Salzer (joel.salzer@state.mn.us) for more information about how to join.