

Yakima County Human Services  
Data Committee  
MEETING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER  
INTRODUCTIONS

The **March 11, 2024** Data Committee Meeting came to order at **11:00am**.

Members present: Dave Hanson (SOC)

Zoom: Linda Dilembo (Valley Mall), Jeanna Hernandez (Community Member), Suzi Carpino (Camp Hope)

Human Services staff present:  
Deann Bergquist, Ivan Orozco

\*If you don't see your name or your organization name here, please email Deann at [Deann.Bergquist@co.yakima.wa.us](mailto:Deann.Bergquist@co.yakima.wa.us)

**OLD BUSINESS**

*Approval of minutes*

Approval of Minutes: February 15, 2024 Data Committee Meeting.

*Jeanna Hernandez moved to approve the minutes from the February 15, 2024, Data Committee Meeting. Dave seconded. No one abstained/denied. The motion carried.*

**NEW BUSINESS**

Updated HENA & YAHA  
Data

a. Updates to Race & Ethnicities – Comparing HENA & YAHA data to recent American Community Survey estimates for Yakima County

Ivan Orozco began the meeting with the breakdown of the total unduplicated clients who had a HENA completed at 673. Of those asked the question of 'When was the last time you had housing for 6 months or longer', the majority of submissions at 45% were for the category 'More than 2.5 years ago'. Those submissions for 'Between 6 months and 2.5 years' were at 28% and those with the answer 'Less than half a year ago' were at 27%.

There were only three agencies that have submitted HENAs, including Grace City Outreach (GCO), Northwest Community Action Center (NCAC) and Yakima Neighborhood Health Services (YNHS). Ivan displayed a bar graph indicating the number of submissions for the months of July 2023 through February of 2024 which showed both the quantity of submissions by month and allowed for comparison between agencies to get a better idea of when and where the submissions are higher or lower. It also indicated that YNHS had the highest number of submissions and there was some discussion about why this might be the case.

Ivan reviewed the Race and Ethnicity, comparing the 2022 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates for Yakima County & Local HENA submissions slide and noted that the Hispanic/Latin(a)(o)(x) population was the highest for Yakima County at 51% via the ACS 5-Year Estimates, but only 34% for HENA submissions for this demographic. White alone HENA submissions continue to be the highest at 47% for the HENA and 41% in the ACS 5-Year Estimates. The third highest submission category was the American Indian/Alaska Native/Indigenous at 13% for the HENA and 3% for the ACS 5-Year Estimates.

The age group break down slide had a total of five age groups, including '35 to 44' with 202 submissions, '45 to 54' with 135 submissions, '55 to 64' with 124 submissions, '65 or Above' with 52 submissions and 'Unknown' with 1 submission, which Ivan explained was due to only having a partial date of birth. There were no big changes to the Veterans and only 24 of the 649 unduplicated clients report they have Veteran status. The question 'Where have you slept in the

b. Updates to Age Groups – Displayed across 5 separate age groups

c. Month to Month Submissions by Agency

last 24/48 hours?’ was broken down by Demographics. The top two highest submissions remain ‘Outdoors/Car/Boat/RV’ with 399 submissions and ‘Emergency Shelter (Camp Hope, UGM, DV Shelter)’ with 127 submissions. The remaining submissions were made up of Transitional housing, Department of Corrections, Multiple Locations, Hotel Paid by Comprehensive & Provider Pay Hotel/Motel, Other, Psych Facility and Hospital responses had less than 10 submissions.

For the slide with submissions based on the question ‘When was the last time you had housing for 6 months or longer? The highest response among clients in HENA continues to be ‘More than 2.5 years ago’ at 299, the category of ‘Between 6 months and 2.5 years ago was at 190 with those in the ‘Less than half a year ago’ was at 182.

For HENA, the highest score a client can receive is a 13, as of February 2024, the average overall score is a 5. When filtered by age groups, 25 to 34 y.o.’s and 65+ y.o.’s are averaging a score of 5, with all other age groups averaging a score of 6. When filtered through Race/Ethnicity, Hispanic/Latin(a)(o)(x) are averaging the lowest score at 5, Nativie Hawaiian/Pacific Islander are averaging the highest score of 7, but that is due to such a small HENA data set with that population. All other Race/Ethnicities are averaging a score of 6

The YAHA had 113 Unduplicated Clients. Hispanic/Latin(a)(o)(x) is by far the largest demographic when filtered through Race/Ethnicity, at 64% of all YAHA submissions. White alone is the second highest at 25% and American Indian, Alaska Native, or Indgenous be the third highest at 11%. The rest of the race/ethnicities are suppressed due to have less than 11 submissions.

Dave Hanson mentioned the difference between HENA and YAHA when it came to the top two Race/Ethnicities being submitted. YAHA is trending closer to what the ACS 5-Year Estimates for Yakima County is showing.l

Ivan shared that the majority of YAHA submissions are coming from Rod’s House, YNHS next in the higher count. No other agencies have submitted YAHAs through February.

Suzi Carpino asked a question about the HENA submissions for Camp Hope and Ivan pulled up the data, noting that there is a downtrend in submissions after their highest month of October 2023 (83). with only five submissions coming in February 2024 from Grace City Outreach.

Dave asked a question about the YAHA data and Ivan mentioned the Policy team is reviewing this to see if changes should be made in the data collection.

Jeanna Hernandez asked if the numbers in the HENA are accurately counting individuals or are we missing some of the data. Ivan said they will be reviewing the most current data, and they will be looking from December to mid-March. They should be sent out at the end of March and in April they will have a better idea if there are any big shifts in the numbers. The first quarter data quality report will include records from December 2023 to March 2024, other records in 2023 or 2022 may need review if corrections were not made from the Data Quality report that the WA Department of Commerce sent out in December 2023.

**Action: Ivan will reach out to Suzi when he finds the reason for the drop in their numbers and discuss what numbers will be included.**

Ivan presented a slide detailing the types of issues identified in the HMIS system. Among these issues, discrepancies in birth dates were noted, along with instances where unaccompanied minors were enrolled in projects despite no

Reports	Head of Household enrolled with them. Another common issue related to bed night stays, where individuals appeared to be staying at a shelter based on HMIS data, even when they were not actually present. These findings highlight the importance of ongoing data quality assessments and corrective actions to ensure accurate and reliable information in the system.
a. Previewing the HMIS issues we'll be reporting to agencies on a quarterly basis.	Suzi raised a concern regarding shelter overlap and sought guidance on how to address it effectively. Ivan suggested that improved communication between agencies could help determine whether individuals are actively staying in multiple shelters simultaneously. Suzi further inquired if Camp Hope should reach out to another agency if a client approaches them but may still be in the system for the previous night's stay. Ivan agreed that such coordination would be beneficial in ensuring accurate data. Regarding day clients, Ivan clarified that since there are no bed night stays associated with them, Day services should be included in Outreach or Resource Center program if available. This clarification underscores the importance of accurately capturing data relevant to shelter stays while avoiding unnecessary entries for day clients.
<i>Next Meeting</i>	<b>DATE: April 15, 2024</b>
<i>Adjourn</i>	Location: Hybrid Zoom and In Person at the Human Services Conference Room With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at <b>11:50am</b> .