Regional Triad Collaboration

"Regional Triad" : *District of Columbia, Montgomery County, and Prince George's County.*

- These three jurisdictions in the MWCOG joined a data sharing MOU in 2017.
- CES representatives from each jurisdiction met in April 2021 to discuss sharing data from BNLs on a monthly basis to better coordinate housing resources within the Triad region.
- Decision was made in first meeting to focus on Vets BNL as a pilot for this sort of collaboration, with monthly match meetings throughout the summer and September as a check in point to determine direction of collaboration.
- First step: creation of a matrix of BNL creation and eligibility to ensure we all understood each other's processes.

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BNL Matrix

Variations in Generating and Managing BNLs:

1. Residency Requirements/Designations
   - All three jurisdictions have different residency requirements.
   - Examples include how a jurisdiction would verify residency and inclusion of history of homelessness/housing to be eligible.
2. BNL Management and Matches
   - Veteran definitions differ by jurisdiction.
   - Not every jurisdiction has a BNL meeting the Community Solutions definition.
   - Active/inactive policies differ.
   - Differences in inclusion on BNL of those matched to housing/currently enrolled.
   - Not every BNL includes the same data points.
   - Not every jurisdiction houses its BNL in HMIS or compiles the same way.
   - Not every jurisdiction uses the BNL as the main tool to identify referrals to available housing resources.

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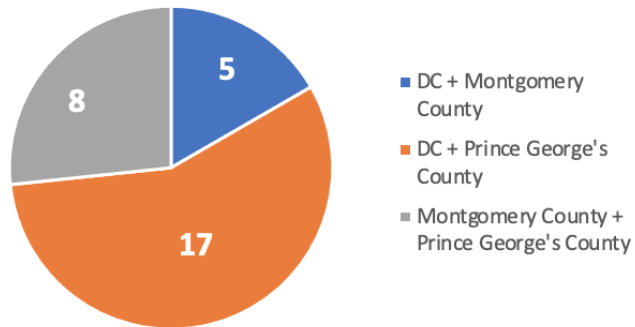
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Process

1. All three jurisdictions upload most recent Vets BNL monthly, DC also includes dataset of Vets in VA TH/SSVF programs in each of three jurisdictions (data housed in DC's HMIS) for checks on individuals who are in a program, but not on a BNL.
2. DC matches data in order to:
   - Flag Vets active on two lists for case coordination to assign to only one list.
   - Flag Vets not on a BNL for case coordination to assign to a BNL.
   - Flag other duplicate records to help "clean up" BNLs (e.g., one jurisdiction may have knowledge of a client who has moved into housing, or may be deceased, etc.)
3. Triad meets to review matches monthly and case conferences individuals who were flagged, following up where needed, to assign to most appropriate list.

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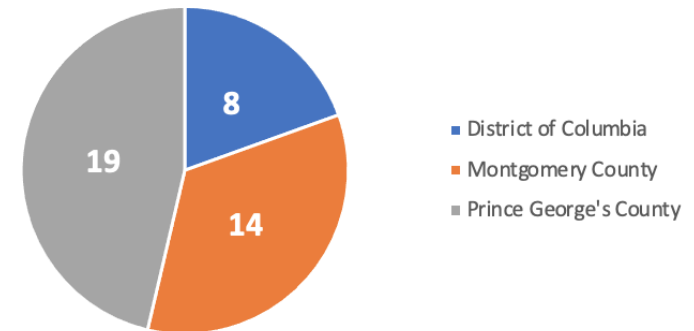
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Outcomes

- 30 Vets were case conferenced to streamline BNLs
- 41 Vets were added to a BNL

Vets BNL Matches Between Jurisdiction
May - September 2021

- 5 — DC + Montgomery County
- 17 — DC + Prince George's County
- 8 — Montgomery County + Prince George's County

Vets Added to a BNL (Previously Not on Any BNL)
May - September 2021

- 8 — District of Columbia
- 14 — Montgomery County
- 19 — Prince George's County

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Outcomes

- Development of Protocols Document:
  - To facilitate offline work; consistent processes for handling duplication and decision tree for case conferencing
  - Grounded in three guiding principles:
    - The By Name List (BNL) should be used as a tool for tracking need and reporting progress towards functional zero.
    - The By Name List (BNL) should be the primary tool for identifying referrals to and tracking available housing resources in a jurisdiction.
    - Jurisdictions will recognize and honor client choice *whenever possible.*

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Why is this important? -- Regionally

- Expands the concept of Coordinated Entry beyond our jurisdictional boundaries; this helps us, as a region, get the most out of limited resources so we can more rapidly and effectively house Veterans.
- Together, we have been able to create a shared vision for this work and a roadmap so that we have a better understanding of where we're eventually headed.
- We know who the points of contact are in each of the three jurisdictions, and we know that we can call or email each other with questions, and we'll work through next steps on cases together.
- Eventually, deduplication and learning about client preferences will help us have a more accurate understanding of the need for services and housing within the region and gaps in services.

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Why is this important? -- Locally

- Prince George's County

- Montgomery County

- District of Columbia

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Next Steps: Short Term

- Moving work with Vets to (mostly) offline using protocols document, meeting schedule TBD (possibly once a quarter).
- Shifting focus to Singles BNLs, starting in November.
- Developing an automated system of matches and BNL shared data warehouse to support ongoing tracking and access by all three jurisdictions with Vets BNLs.
- Working to tighten data quality and consistency in elements collected to facilitate better warm hand-offs and services with clients.

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Next Steps: Long Term

- Should we strive towards alignment in terms of BNL management and matching of resources?
- Should there be a widescale effort to standardized data collection processes?
- Should we set a goal of having each jurisdiction join the BFZ movement through Community Solutions?
- What policy changes would need to be made in order to be able to honor client choice more?
- Other thoughts?

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