**MACCH implements federally mandated Coordinated Entry System - July 2018**

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**Navigating through the maze of resources and programs has long proved a challenging process for people experiencing homelessness. The federal government issued a mandate that required all Continuums of Care to establish coordinated entry systems by January 2018 that streamline the process of finding resources and housing solutions.**

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**Coordinated entry programs seek to identify those who are at risk or are experiencing homelessness, complete assessments of each case and provide individualized referrals for resources. The standardized system also allows Continuums of Care to prioritize people most in need of assistance.**

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**Metro Area Continuum of Care for the Homeless (MACCH) has since implemented coordinated entry system that assists Douglas and Sarpy counties in Nebraska and Pottawattamie county in Iowa. Six publicly advertised access points are located throughout the Omaha metro area, which serve as starting points of the coordinated entry system for homeless individuals and families seeking assistance.**

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**The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) outlines qualities of effective Coordinated Entry. Among them include:**

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**• Ensure all people have fair and equal access to the coordinated entry process in an inclusive manner.**

**• Do not screen out people for assistance because of perceived barriers such as lack of employment or income, drug or alcohol use or a criminal record.**

**• Ensure the coordinated entry process does not delay access to emergency services such as shelter.**

**• Ensure all coordinated entry locations and methods offer the same assessment approach and referrals using uniform decision making processes.**

**• Link the coordinated entry process to street outreach efforts so that people sleeping on the streets are prioritized for assistance in the same manner as any other person assessed through the coordinated entry process.**

**• Put safety protocols in place to ensure safety of all individuals seeking assistance.**

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