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PROS Board Seeks Input on Measuring & Reporting Rapid Exits from Homelessness

Diversions from shelter and the safety net are potentially cost saving, yet unmeasured systematically

San Diego, CA (May 4, 2023) – The San Diego Taxpayers Educational Foundation’s year-old Public Regional Outcomes Standards (PROS) Board invites public comment on a [new draft measurement and reporting principle in homelessness services](#). Specifically, this exposed draft aims to create consistency in the measurement and reporting of successful and expeditious activities in ending someone’s homelessness that avoids significant costs. These activities are referred to as “rapid exits.”

The US Interagency Council on Homelessness [states](#) that “[r]apid exit strategies are appropriate after a household has entered emergency shelter or stayed in an unsheltered setting, and serves to help them move as quickly as possible back into housing with the support of services and a minimal level of financial assistance.” The feedback the PROS Board has received from operators in the field is that these rapid exits are not recorded consistently or systematically.

“We know in our region that more people fall into homelessness than leave,” said Gregory A. Stein, chair of the PROS Board and CEO of Shadowbox. “This rule will enable consistent measurement and reporting of rapid exits to help the community identify opportunities to scale the most effective programs.”

The goal of the PROS Board’s effort is to adopt regionally accepted public good evaluation and reporting standards that will create a common language for how San Diego tracks outcomes at the operator and municipal levels in reducing homelessness. System-wide metrics, while key for seeing overall regional performance, is one level removed from the operators and municipalities, which limits the ability for policy makers, who are responsible for public investments, or philanthropic investors to make specific and subregional policy and funding choices.

Homeless service providers and all funders, public and private, can use these rules to self-audit and independently audit performance and create assurances that the network of individuals and organizations working to end homelessness are acknowledging where things work well within the system. Ultimately, the consistency in reports will permit the optimal investment of limited resources from their myriad sources.

Funders are now exploring how to integrate the PROS Board reporting requirements into their agreements with their fund recipients. This choice simplifies what administrative work they ask of their grant recipients so they can focus more resources on the work, not the reporting.

“I envision a future when an operator, regardless of how many funders they have, makes a standard set of reports that satisfies all their funders, public or private,” said Haney Hong, member of the PROS Board and also president and CEO of the San Diego County Taxpayers Association. “Service providers are getting crushed with bespoke reporting, and when the funders simplify and standardize what they request



– using the collaboratively developed PROS Board rules – more of the resources can go to serving people and less to administration.”

Hong adds further, “I acknowledge that this future I envision may be years away, so the sooner we start these conversations, the sooner that future becomes reality. The great work of the PROS Board working groups and board itself is the homework we do so we just don’t complain about bespoke reporting, but have solutions to help.”

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The San Diego Taxpayers Educational Foundation supports the San Diego County Taxpayers Association and the general taxpaying public with in-depth research and educational programming for community leaders and civil servants. The Foundation convenes the regional community of public policy practitioners, educators, and artists who want to study issues objectively and to facilitate civility and citizenship in public policy discussions. The Foundation also administers the new Public Regional Outcomes Standards Board (PROS Board), which sets regionally accepted principles in evaluating and reporting public good outcomes.