

Data & People with Lived Experience: How to Have A Robust By-Name List

Amber Chandler and Rachel Walden

Overview

Participants will engage in discussions about processes aimed at enhancing data practices by including individuals with lived experience of homelessness. This breakout session will focus on practical strategies for involving people with lived expertise in data work, tapping into their insights to better understand disparities within the homeless response system and ensuring their voices are central in shaping data management and collection policies.

We'll explore several strategies, including:

- **Creating Opportunities for Ongoing Feedback:** Setting up structured ways for individuals with lived experience to provide continuous input on data collection processes. This will help ensure their perspectives are integrated at every stage, improving both the accuracy and relevance of the data we gather.
- **Collaborative Data Analysis:** Partnering with individuals who have experienced homelessness to analyze data and uncover the stories it tells. Their involvement can shed light on systemic issues and the real-world impact of existing practices.
- **Co-Designing Data Processes:** Actively engaging people with lived experience in designing data management and collection processes. This collaborative approach leads to more effective and culturally informed data practices.
- **Utilizing Storytelling:** Incorporating personal narratives and qualitative data alongside quantitative findings. Storytelling can reveal the human experiences behind the numbers, offering a richer understanding of homelessness.

Through these strategies, we aim to create a data landscape that accurately reflects the voices and experiences of those it seeks to serve. By prioritizing the inclusion of individuals with lived experience, we can develop a more effective and compassionate homeless response system.

Additional Details

In our pursuit of ending homelessness, knowing who is experiencing homelessness is critical. Including those closest to the issue and those who have experienced it will ensure that a community understands and feels confident that it knows who is experiencing homelessness.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

Having a robust by-name list (BNL) is the only way we can accurately measure our progress in ending homelessness.

Inclusive policies and procedures are essential to effective data management and collection.

Including people with lived experience of the system will uniquely inform the process of developing and managing by-name data (BND), enhancing a community's progress toward the goal of ending homelessness.

Considerations for Equity

Having inclusive voices matters and helps ensure that the problem is being addressed comprehensively. This inclusivity encompasses identity and culture, ensuring that when solutions are being developed and put into practice, they are carefully designed to respect, acknowledge, and incorporate the beliefs, traditions, and customs of the individuals and communities they affect.

