

## **June RHTM minutes:**

### **Central-Region One**

June 4, 2008

#### **In Attendance:**

Sandy Crider-Loving Hearts, Roy Jones-Community Caring Council, Dave Kennedy, Helen Mickan-BJC Behavioral Health, Michelle Ramirez-BJC Behavioral Health, Jerome Riley-Community Counseling Center, Teresa Welch-Vision House, Angela Hobbs- Vision House of Cape Girardeau, Tim Gould-4 Sight Counseling, James LaBuudy-MO Sex-Offender Treatment Center/DMH, Sherry Killian-East MO Action Agency, Heather Forys-Jefferson/Franklin Community Action Corp., John Robertson-MASW, Sandy Wilson-MASW, Jenni Holtaway-MHDC, Heather Bradley-Geary- MHDC, Mandy Fangmann- MHDC

#### **Overview of the Missouri Balance of State Continuum of Care:**

-Mandy said that there has been confusion regarding what a Continuum of Care (CoC) is, what the Balance of State is, what the Governor's Committee to End Homelessness (GCEH) is, and what roles do MHDC, DMH, and MASW play with the CoC.

-Due to the new involvement with Trust Fund agencies at the Regional Housing Team Meetings (RHTMs) and the confusion of other agencies involved in the CoC, the GCEH is working on a handout to pass out at the September meeting to explain the organization and roles within the Balance of State.

-Heather explained that under the Community Initiatives Department at MHDC, we staff the Balance of State CoC, which falls under the GCEH; we also happen to administrate the Missouri Housing Trust Fund which is not under the GCEH—however these both fall under the Community Initiatives Department; keep in mind that although we are the lead agency for the BoS, we don't make funding decisions, we only staff the BoS for the GCEH; the reason that MHDC is requiring Trust Fund agencies to attend meetings is b/c we are not going to end homelessness unless everyone is at the table and our Commissioners felt it is necessary for everyone to be at the table; it is important to hear from you all on what the needs are in our State and then that information is taken back to the GCEH and to the Commissioners of MHDC; we want the meetings to be beneficial for you, but we need to know information to report to HUD, etc.

-DMH, MHDC, and MASW all have an appointed seat on the GCEH

#### **Other:**

Heather mentioned that MHDC received a \$729,000 grant for Foreclosure Counseling. She said that Tim Gould with 4-Sight Counseling has been doing an amazing job working on this closely with MHDC. Tim held a training at the end of March for this. Tim said that anyone needing help should call, they have helped a bunch of individuals; have stopped at least 22 or 23. Tim shared a success story of someone facing foreclosure and stopped the process in less than a week. Heather mentioned that MHDC will be applying for more foreclosure counseling money in the future...stay tuned.

Roy discussed that so far the money is only for counseling. Heather said that is correct, but that is all that the Government is releasing...just a counseling piece.

It was discussed, however, that foreclosure payment assistance is a type of assistance that can be provided under a Homeless Prevention grant through the Missouri Housing Trust Fund.

### **Point In Time Count:**

-Mandy reviewed the recent January 2008 PIT Count results (handout). 1904 was the total of sheltered and unsheltered homeless in counties that fall within the Balance of State. The grayed counties on the front page are not included in this report, as they each have their own Continuum of Care and completed their own counts. Each Region has a separate page with detailed information. The last page shows county breakdowns, with numbers listed for the total sheltered and unsheltered by county. Mandy reminded everyone that these numbers are reported to HUD, Congress, and the Commissioners; we would like to keep the issue of homelessness in their eyes for funding decisions.

-Mandy mentioned that the GCEH is gearing up for the July 15<sup>th</sup> PIT count. Briefly reviewed handout- PIT snapshot. Mandy mentioned that there is a Power Point to explain the count and what the duties of a county leader for the unsheltered count includes, as well as a Power Point that leaders can use to train their volunteers.

-Mandy passed around a sign-up sheet to ask for county leaders; she stressed that the CoC staff are here for support with planning and implementing the count in your county. The staff can provide website resources and send forms/documents, as well as discuss a plan of action one on one with the county leader.

-The role of the leader is to plan out the process for the count in their county, utilize volunteers to complete the count, and collect the information to send on to MHDC for the GCEH. The most time-intensive duty would be mapping out the county and making contacts with agencies to complete the service-based portion. Mandy briefly reviewed other duties detailed on the PIT snapshot handout.

-Mandy discussed the two ways to conduct the count—

Service based is when leaders organize the agencies/companies to have surveys on hand, and any clients that come in within the 24 hour time frame of the count, the agencies would complete a survey with them. A street count is organizing volunteers to go out to known (or unknown) locations that homeless may be staying, to complete the surveys.

-Mandy asked for any leads that she can contact to discuss the opportunity of being a leader.

-Heather discussed the importance of the PIT Count and the need for full coverage; she stated that the numbers are presented to the Commissioners and we can't prove to them that there is a need without everyone's help

-Mandy briefly reviewed the Survey Form handout to show how the data on the report is collected by volunteers. There are changes on the form from the previous form for the January count. There was a discussion around the question about Veteran status and the possibility that the low % of Veterans reported may be a result of the way the question is phrased; this question will be reworded to address this issue.

-Roy spoke about the likelihood of Veterans becoming homeless, due to returning from service with mental health problems; some of the individuals with greatest needs are Veterans

-Sandy discussed the Sheltered Count—MASW has been conducting the sheltered count for a couple of years now; if you provide Emerg. Shelter beds whether through ES building, TH units, or by putting in hotel/motels and have not been contacted by MASW in the past to get your numbers, we will need to add you to the list of agencies surveyed for the count, contact Sandy Wilson to be added. All agencies in the BoS HMIS system...your data will be pulled by MASW for the count, but you need to be sure that your data is entered within three working days of the count. For agencies that provide shelter but do not enter into ROSIE, this will be the first year to use Survey Monkey, everything will be done through the internet. The results will run on the same timeline as the unsheltered count. If you have any questions on how to do the survey, John will be on stand-by to assist.

-A discussion was held about question #5 on the Survey Form, Dave had a question of why “doubled up” was included as an option; Mandy addressed that the GCEH is aware that it does not fit with the HUD definition, however this information will still be reported to the Commissioners as information that falls in line with homelessness issues, but it will not be included on the report as part of the unsheltered numbers; Sandy mentioned that it is good to have on the form for two reasons-- #1, although the County Leaders do a great job of explaining to the volunteers what HUD’s definition of homeless is, having this option as an answer allows for any volunteers that fall through the cracks on getting a thorough explanation of what the “unsheltered” homeless definition is...it allows for us to catch the “doubled up” situation instead of counting it as unsheltered and #2, there are several community groups that like to focus their efforts on the “doubled up” population on a local level; as an example, Sandy pointed out that this would be tracking the population that was discussed recently at the Jefferson County Network meeting about their population of “doubled up” w/ friends and family

- Sandy explained that leaders are not expected to go out and “find” doubled-up, but if you ask someone, “where are you going to sleep tonight?” and they say they will be staying at their sister’s house, we would like for the volunteers to mark the appropriate answer of “doubled up”

-Sandy Crider asked about the folks that are going back and forth from doubled-up to being unsheltered and how to count them during the PIT. Mandy explained that it is wherever that individual or family is staying during that 24-hour time period and it does not matter what situation they were in a different night.

### **CoC Application Timeline and Information:**

-Mandy reviewed the timeline and told interested agencies to mark their calendars for July 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> for the CoC application training in Jefferson City. This is mandatory for all agencies interested in applying for new or renewal grants through the CoC. The NOFA should be released around the beginning of July and the GCEH has tentatively set a deadline of August 22<sup>nd</sup> for proposals to be submitted. The GCEH will then review and rank the proposals and submit the applications to HUD in September. The amount of funds available for this round (the Pro-Rata Share amount) is \$2,910,792. Mandy mentioned that there will be further details on the amounts available at the training. Watch for a mailing to come with detailed information on the training location, time, etc.

### **10-Year Plan to End Homelessness:**

-Each CoC in the State of Missouri has their own plan (Balance of State, Kansas City, St. Joseph, St. Charles, St. Louis County, STL City, Springfield, and Joplin); the GCEH put together a revised version of the Balance of State's plan; examples were passed out to view, if you would like copies please contact Heather or Mandy; this lists the goals of the GCEH

-This is available on the MHDC website under "recent news", as well as on the MASW website.

-Mandy mentioned that the GCEH passed out the plans to our representatives at a recent Legislative Awareness Event at the State Capitol

### **Housing Legislation Update and Coalition for the Missouri Housing Trust Fund update:**

-Sandy reviewed several housing bills filed for legislation this year, of which none went anywhere; there will be an in depth explanation and review of all on the MASW website

-The Affordable Housing and Homelessness Taskforce with MASW has been at the forefront of working to increase the amount of revenue available in the Missouri Housing Trust Fund for some time; last year the taskforce decided to build a broader coalition of statewide stakeholders, and have now formed a coalition called the Coalition for the Missouri Housing Trust Fund; the coalition has worked hard to get Legislators to address the needs to increase funds in the trust fund somehow; when Session was reaching an end, they formed a sub-committee called Futures Workgroup- focused on talking with Senator Gibbons about having an interim committee to look at the issue over the Summer and it has been formed; the committee will consist of 5 members, 3 from Majority Party and 2 from Minority Party; committee may hold public hearings

-Coalition is working on examining types of ways to increase fund, and bring education to Legislators on what the MHTF does, as well the need in their own communities; the Coalition will be sending out a lot of information soon via e-mail list and informing you on how you can get involved

-Sandy discussed the National Housing Trust Fund Bill—in the Senate, passed by Senate Banking Committee; discussed plan for monies to be used

-She suggested everyone go to [www.nlihc.org](http://www.nlihc.org) to track the progress; the coalition gives you information needed to contact Legislators in D.C.—give you the format to cut and paste and send

### **Discussions and Problem Solving:**

-Mandy stated that this will stay a part of the RHTM agendas each round. It is hoped that we can focus on one or two topics each meeting to address the issues in your area.

Mandy requested that everyone send her topics/issues that we can bring forward at each meeting and allow some time to have an open discussion, brainstorm, and help each other with resources to address specific needs. \*Please e-mail Mandy issues that you would like to see at the upcoming meetings; these issues will be brought forward before the Commissioners and the GCEH

### **Resource Sheet:**

-Mandy explained that there will be a resource sheet at each meeting, with some items listed in each category of Grants, Housing, and General.

-Mandy reviewed the Housing resource—to find subsidized housing you can go to HUD's website and follow the instructions on the resource sheet; this will allow you to search by County, City, Zip Code, etc. for low-income housing for Elderly, Family, and Disabled. Some properties may have homeless set-aside units- it depends on their funding set-up.

-Heather and Edwin discussed the possibility of getting a list of tax credit properties that have these units; Edwin discussed the importance of notifying the management companies of this information being dispersed so that we don't bombard them with phone calls asking if their homeless units are available. Heather is looking into this and will get back with the group.

-Diana mentioned that in addition to the HUD search site, MHDC will be posting a similar resource on their website to list and show affordable housing in MO; this is still in progress

-Heather reviewed the Missouri Housing Trust Fund information under the Grants section; for questions regarding the application, call Alissa Smet at 816-759-6696; she pointed out that the funding priorities listed are directly in line with what was requested last year for funding; Heather mentioned that the allocation plan changed drastically- North went from 14% to 7%, South went from 15% to 21%, and the Central went from 15% to 17%--this is based off of population; she reviewed training dates detailed on the Resource Sheet (*see attached*)

-Diana asked if the letters of support from Elected Officials will be a requirement again for the application; Heather said yes, it does not have to be your Congress person or State person, it can be a Mayor or City Council member...just an elected official; she explained that for example if MHDC gets a letter from Claire McCaskill and the Mayor of Columbia they have no difference in weight on scoring of applications

### **Other Announcements:**

-Sandy spoke about the role that GCEH plays for Homeless Awareness and Advocacy; raising awareness; every year there is a National Homeless Awareness Week and this year it falls from November 16-22<sup>nd</sup>; the GCEH hosts an annual event, this year will be the Third Annual Poster Contest to engage all MO schools and Head Start to participate in a poster contest around the theme of "Our Community Cares about Homelessness", last year's theme was "Homelessness is Everywhere in MO" and we had over 100 posters submitted; there is not a date set, but it is tentatively set for the 20<sup>th</sup> if we can get the Rotunda at the Capitol; you will continue to get information as it gets closer; we are hoping to get more agency involvement to go speak with local schools about the contest and event; we also have agency display tables, this year will be around 15 available, but agencies can share a table; you will receive flyers about the tables and event details

### **HMIS:**

Sandy and John dismissed all non-registered HMIS users to go through the database with all users for updates and to address questions.