

Regional Housing Team Meeting Minutes – Region 10
6/9/08

Attendees:

Linda Kirk – Pettis County Community Partnership
Elizabeth Stewart - Pettis County Community Partnership
Ronda Wickham – Missouri Valley Community Action Agency
Becky Camden – Pathways
Patty Thompson – West Central MO Community Action Agency
Melissa Boren-LaFleur – FSD-Johnson County
Michelle Allen - West Central MO Community Action Agency
Mary Endicott - Missouri Valley Community Action Agency
Evelyn DeLaGarza – Consumer
Peggy Williams – Burrell Health
Sandy Wilson – MASW
John Robertson – MASW
Heather Bradley-Geary – Missouri Housing Development Commission
Nathan Stock – Missouri Housing Development Commission

Nathan Stock opened the meeting

Introductions around the table after the meeting began

Continuum of Care Overview: Nathan Stock mentioned that his department has received several questions about the Continuum of Care, what it is, and MHDC's role within the Continuum. Heather Bradley-Geary explained that this meeting is held by the Governor's Committee to End Homelessness. The GCEH oversees the Balance of State CoC. MHDC's Community Initiatives Department staffs the Balance of State but only Heather holds a seat on the GCEH. The GCEH takes the concerns of the regions and the Balance to the Governor.

Point In Time Count: Nathan presented the findings from the January Point In Time Count report. The overall number of people found this year nearly doubled. This might be because more people are homeless, we counted every county, or both. Region 10 had good numbers overall. Heather mentioned the report only covers the Balance of State continuum. Nathan mentioned that the number of veterans might be low because many men and women don't consider themselves vets if they don't receive benefits. Ronda Wickham confirmed that this happens. Instead of asking if somebody is a veteran, it might work better to ask if someone has served in the military. Nathan mentioned that this change will be made to the next survey form. Nathan also pointed out other changes to the survey form and will send it out electronically to everybody helping with the July count. The summer count will take place July 15th. All counties in this region are covered. Nathan discussed the HUD definition of homelessness, the responsibilities of county leaders, how to fill out the survey form, things to bring on the count and contact information for questions. Linda Kirk mentioned the increased difficulty in finding volunteers for the summer count because college students have gone home. Sandy

Wilson discussed the sheltered PIT count. Anybody using hotel/motel vouchers needs to be counted. This year they will use Survey Monkey through the internet to ask questions on the day of the count. This will save on time and costly paper mail. Also, she needs an up-to-date list of any organization in the area who gives out hotel/motel vouchers even if it is only once a year. Heather then discussed the importance of an accurate count. The count numbers are a factor in determining the need of the area. This directly affects funding resources for the Missouri Housing Trust Fund and Continuum of Care.

CoC Application Timeline: Nathan went through upcoming dates for agencies applying for CoC funding. HUD will release the NOFA July 1st or soon after. The application will be available at this time. There will be a mandatory training July 24th and 25th in Jefferson City. Applications are due to MHDC by the end of the day August 22nd. It is still unknown how agencies need to submit their applications. More information to come. Sandy pointed out the Pro-Rata share for the BoS this year is roughly \$2.9million with about \$500k going toward new projects.

10-year plan: Heather discussed the 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness. If an agency needs copies, contact MHDC. The name has changed to The Plan to End Homelessness in Missouri. It is a tool that agencies should use in their communities to create awareness.

Homeless Awareness Day: Sandy talked about the upcoming Homeless Awareness Week November 16-22. All children's posters will be on display this year. For agencies that want to set up a booth, space is limited this year and should sign up for a half-table if possible. For the poster competition, they want to identify agencies to become liaisons with schools in their communities in order to increase student participation. Ronda asked if MACA will be allowed to have another huge display since it represents so many agencies. Sandy asked that agencies please try to reduce the size of the display.

Housing Legislation: Sandy discussed the cycle of proposals through Housing Legislation. The website masw.org details all bills brought before legislation and their movement within the system. No bills were passed this year.

Coalition for the Missouri Housing Trust Fund: Sandy gave an update with the coalition. The bill to increase the Trust Fund did not pass this year. Agencies are encouraged to talk with local legislators while they are home over the summer about the MHTF increase. MASW is active to create awareness among agencies. Senator Gibbons has appointed a committee for the MHTF to look at a possible increase. The committee consists of five members. Their identities are unknown at this time. To get increase, they need people at the local level to come to meetings and get involved by having good impact stories.

Nathan pointed out the importance of open discussion and input by agencies at the RHTMs. Sharing ideas and resources will help solve issues on a local level.

Resources: Nathan described the different resources included in the information packet. Patty Thompson asked about the Art and Science of Grant Writing training. Registration is now open on the HUD website hud.gov. Heather talked about the Missouri Housing

Trust Fund. The NOFA and application are available on mhdc.com. Applications are due September 12th. The new Allocation Plan shows an increase for the Central Region of the state from 15% to 17%. Changes have been made to the application, particularly, there is no more 5-page narrative required. Training sessions for the trust fund will be July 11th - 16th. Attendance recommended but not required. The funding priorities changed this year. One and two on the list remain the same. Rental Assistance moved from 3rd to 5th. Home Repair moved up to 3rd. Operating/Match Funds moved up to 4th. Patty asked why the change. Approximately \$4.2 million will be available for the MHTF this year, down from \$4.7m last year.

Sandy Wilson and John Robertson then conducted an HMIS users Technical Assistance session. All non-HMIS users required to leave.

Adjournment

Next meeting September 11th @ 9am