

Regional Housing Team Meeting Minutes – Region 3
6/10/08

Attendees:

Mary Lee Bailey – Northeast Missouri Community Action Agency
Deane Valkenaar - Northeast Missouri Community Action Agency
Bill Smith – High Hope
Kim Kriegel – High Hope
Debra Wohlers – Kirksville Regional Office
Patti Preston – Kirksville Housing Authority
Amy Elliott – Rural Advocates for Independent Living
Theresa Myers – Rural Advocates for Independent Living
Sheila Jones – Salvation Army
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 3 showed good numbers with concentration in Kirksville area. Heather pointed out 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. Instead of asking if somebody is a veteran, it might work better to ask if someone has served in the military. Nathan said 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. Heather made the comment that double-up individuals need to be included in the count. This doesn't mean actively looking for the doubled-up population, but still filling out a survey form for them. The summer count will take place July 15th. 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. Sandy Wilson then 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 will come. Kim Kriegel asked for verification that applications will be turned into MHDC and not DMH. Heather talked about the Pro-Rata share for the BoS this year. Roughly \$2.9million with about \$500k will go toward new projects. Also, in addition to Supportive Housing, there are two extra pots of money this year. The Good Samaritan Bonus goes to agencies serving the chronic homeless population. The other is Rapid Rehousing. Little information is available about this program at this time, but more to come. Sandy and Heather discussed the application review process.

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. This plan is one of the reasons all agencies are required to attend the regional meetings. The plan will not work unless all players are at the table to discuss.

Homeless Awareness Day: Sandy talked about the upcoming Homeless Awareness Week November 16-22. Children's poster age groups will be the same as last year. 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.

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.

Shelter Plus Care: Patti Preston said they are still working out the process within the Housing Authority. Kim mentioned she had somebody who refused to fill out an application because there is a two week waiting time. There needs to be more victim support services. She has thought about expanding High Hope to address domestic violence. Heather asked if any apartments in the region have set-aside units for homeless and agreed there is a need for Emergency Shelter. Mary Lee Bailey said Emergency Shelter is good but the goal is a permanent solution. Theresa Myers suggested several possible leads around Kirksville for places which could serve as an Emergency Shelter. She mentioned Ken Read and Jerry McMaine as real estate developers/owners who would be good to contact. She also thought it would be good to get the city council involved in the process for input and support. Kim agreed Kirksville would be best for ES location because of job opportunities. Transportation would not be as much of an issue. Patti said there are 290 on the Section 8 waiting list and she has to recommend other areas for people. Nathan suggested gathering resources, making contacts, and working to get city council members and real estates personnel to the next regional meeting to discuss issues. He 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. Ronda asked about how to fill out the APR since they serve individuals from two continuums. Sandy said people don't count for both continuums, only one. Registration is now open on the HUD website hud.gov for the Art and Science of Grant Writing training. 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 a decrease for the north region from 14% to 7%. This is based on population and the need based on numbers through the Point In Time count. Sandy reiterated the importance of the count. 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. Approximately \$4.2 million will be available for the MHTF this year, down from \$4.7m last year.

HMIS: Sandy mentioned that for future meetings they will need a space with internet access and privacy to conduct an HMIS users training session. She talked about the Risk Analysis Test and the importance regarding the last date data was entered for a client. The goal is a 55%-65% utilization rate. For Emergency Shelter Grant funds, look at the categories for assistance provided. Make sure the funds are pulling accurately. They are developing a tip sheet to make sure everything is set up correctly for the ESG. John mentioned that he is working with MISI on a user manual for step-by-step instructions on how to use the guide. Sandy asked everyone new to HMIS to go to their website.

Adjournment

Next meeting September 9th @ 2pm