

**March RHTM minutes:**  
East Central-Region One

In Attendance:

Dave Kennedy-Jefferson County, John Gary-Gibson Recovery, Roy Jones- Community Caring Council, Jerome Riley- Community Counseling Center, Helen Mickan-BJC Behavioral Health, Teresa Welch-Vision House, Michelle Ramirez-BJC Behavioral Health, Laura Harper-Community Caring Council, Natalie Sandoval-Community Caring Council, Karen Miller-BJC Behavioral Health, Garrett Harris-Disabled Citizens Alliance, Sandy Wilson-MASW, Alissa Smet-MHDC, Mandy Fangmann- MHDC

Unmet Needs:

A discussion was held on the unmet needs in the local area.

Housing Needs:

- St. Francois County mentioned that they need all types of housing, including TH, PH, and ES; there is only one shelter in the three counties around St. Francois and that particular shelter can only hold 3 families
- Natalie mentioned that in the Cape area there is not enough TH and PH, but there is a huge need for Emergency Shelter/Housing; Salvation Army is one option for ES but they only provide one/two night hotel vouchers; the only shelter is about 15 miles outside of Cape; there is not much to offer for individuals and families and have to turn many away; there is a DV shelter, but of course only serve that population escaping a DV situation
- John mentioned the challenge of working with population that has substance abuse or other disability, and working with those that have co-occurring disorders
- Roy discussed their study on TH, and trying to get Churches involved in providing ES and longer term housing; possibility to provide some needs through the faith-based communities; also have a local committee working on an assessment of rent-reasonable market
- Dave from Jefferson County mentioned most sheltered in their area were through DV or through faith-based organizations, possible one/two night hotel stays; nothing for the families; finding housing for those with mental health issues is a challenge-usually call Edwin Cooper with DMH; discussed possible unit set-aside in a low-income housing complex by working with local developers
- Roy pointed out there is always SOME need; once we meet a need, another comes up

Linkages between TH and PH:

- Jefferson County does not have a linkage from TH to PH, as they do not have a PH setting to transition individuals into
- Cape has good communication b/wn TH to PH programs, but just not enough of housing
- Section 8 waiting list has been a huge problem--limits the PH options as well
- Jeff. County has challenges of land with mobile homes being bought and re-sold, but at a higher level of housing, with no replacement for affordable housing in the area

-Dave started a discussion of partnering with developers for affordable housing, but the challenge of working with developers to get tax credits, negotiating with HUD, etc. many people do not want to get involved; there are many challenges facing this issue

#### Continuum of Care Funding:

-A copy of the 2007 HUD awards for the entire State of Missouri was handed out. The CoC staff would like to keep you informed of what is going on state-wide and not only in the BoS (Balance of State). (*see attached*)

-Mandy mentioned that only two new projects were funded in the entire State of Missouri; those are new Shelter Plus Care grants in Kansas City and St. Louis City.

-The BoS CoC did not receive funding for the new proposals that were submitted on the 2007 application, but all renewals were awarded a one year renewal.

-Passed out a handout tracking the amount awarded to the BoS CoC since the year 2002. One correction was noted for 2003 amount of \$2,517,687; the handout that was presented at the meeting is incorrect. (*see attached-with correction*)

#### CoC Training Information:

-Mandy noted that the NOFA (Notice of Funds Available) has not been released and it may not be released till May, possibly even June. The GCEH (Governor's Committee to End Homelessness) had tentatively scheduled training in April, but this will be changed due to the late release of the NOFA.

-Once NOFA is released, CoC staff will send out a letter with details on how to access the NOFA online, along with details on the training for the upcoming application process.

-The GCEH states that all agencies applying for a New or Renewal grant through CoC are required to attend both days of the two day training. Will be held in Jefferson City, dates to be announced; lunch to be provided the first day.

-It is encouraged to send the grant writer, program coordinator, and staff that enters into HMIS to training

-New to the process this year, the GCEH is requiring that all agencies applying for new funding must have a pre-application site visit. GCEH will be staffing these visits and will be reviewing your program plan, etc. More details at training on this.

-HUD will be requiring online submissions this year; more details to follow. The GCEH and CoC staff will be having conversations with HUD to see how this process will work with online submissions and ranking proposals at the continuum level.

-All agencies must have a DUNS number to apply. This is a means of identifying business entities on a location basis.

-HUD is now requiring that agencies register with the Central Contractor Registration at [www.ccr.gov](http://www.ccr.gov). This could take several weeks; it is recommended that agencies do this now. You must have a DUNS number before you register on CCR. Teresa said if you do not have a DUNS number, you can go to [www.ccr.gov](http://www.ccr.gov) and click on the DUNS link on right side of screen to get a number assigned.

### National Foreclosure Mitigation Counseling Program:

Mandy discussed new funding that MHDC has received for this new program. The program will provide counseling through certified housing/foreclosure counselors at agencies located in Missouri. These agencies have already been identified and will be able to take calls from individuals in MO at risk of foreclosure. More details will follow in the future, this is a new program and the funds were just recently awarded.

### Point In Time Count:

- Mandy thanked all individuals that assisted with the count.
- Mandy discussed the 2008 Winter count results...we had hoped to have a full report of the unsheltered homeless found during the count, but we encountered a few road blocks with late submissions of surveys and Daniel McKim was unable to work on the report due to a back injury. Continuum staff will send out a report as soon as it is completed. Watch your e-mail inbox.
- The preliminary numbers were announced at a total of 669 unsheltered homeless in the BoS. This is almost double from last year's results of 342.
- Mandy mentioned that the numbers on the final report may slightly differ from the numbers that you turned in from your local count. Staff had to sort through each survey to avoid duplication and to be sure that all surveyed individuals counted fit the HUD definition of unsheltered homeless.
- The final report will be presented to GCEH, HUD, and to our Commissioners.
- Sandy reviewed the sheltered numbers; preliminary report was passed out (*see attached*) methodology used was pulling data from agencies on HMIS who provide ES and TH; all other known agencies that provide hotel/motel vouchers, ES, TH were surveyed; for 101 counties in State, 78 sent back surveys; change mentioned from 1,168 to total of 1,211 and this may change as surveys still come in;
- Discussed your region results; list of agencies that were surveyed are included on last page of report, and if you know of any agency, Church, etc. that may provide shelter please pass that along to Sandy;
- MASW is hoping to put survey online in future counts
- Dave mentioned having a local touch-point dealing with the local shelters; Sandy mentioned that there are many conversations with each agency that takes place, along with the letter they receive and that having a representative going through the shelters to count is not something that is asked of for the leaders; Roy mentioned going by to build a relationship and trust with those agencies and Sandy agreed that is great
- \*\*The GCEH has been in discussion about the Summer PIT Count. They asked to discuss and get feedback on dates from the agencies at the RHTMs. Due to the late release of the NOFA, with a late July count, concerns had been raised that agencies will be busy with their CoC application and have too large a work load. July is ideal for a 6 month/bi-annual schedule. A discussion was held, and everyone seemed to be interested in carrying out a Summer Count. The staff will bring back suggestions to the GCEH to set a date.
- Mandy passed around a sign-up sheet for County Leaders. There are still 6 counties in need of leaders. (*see attached*)

-Reminder to collect Donations: MHDC is still collecting travel soaps, lotions, etc., but unfortunately will not be able to supply canvas bags this round; agencies can do a donation drive--suggestions list (*see attached*); Sandy proposed an idea to challenge the people attending your meetings to bring items; each meeting can be a different item— i.e.- Tuesday's Staff meeting everyone bring toothpaste; Roy reminded us of the importance of going to the Shelters to drop off donations during the count!-this can help build up trust with shelter providers as well

Other Announcements:

-Mandy discussed the meeting location for future RHTM's for Region One. Cape Girardeau is not centrally located for all agencies traveling in the Region. Mandy mentioned that she is not sure why there was low attendance last round in Farmington. A discussion between agencies in attendance was held. Roy suggested possibly having two meetings in Region One, and mentioned the risk of losing attendance from Cape agencies if moved from Cape. Helen mentioned that they are located in Farmington and either location is okay with them. They have a facility in Farmington that we can use at no charge. Mandy will go back to the whole group and ask for feedback on location.

MASW/HMIS:

-Sandy had toolkits available to work with the Coalition for the Missouri Housing Trust Fund; she is requesting that agencies sign an endorsement form and send back to Sandy- please get in touch with Sandy if you need an endorsement form  
-introductory packets to HMIS are available as well  
-John and Sandy will be utilizing RHTM's to address HMIS problems; after meetings, about 30 minutes, they will walk through training and technical assistance for registered users; you will receive e-mails asking for feedback on your needs so they can plan those help sessions accordingly; continue to use 800 number through the STL office for help; utilize John and Sandy, as well as the website and tip sheets