

March RHTM minutes:
Central-Region Five

In Attendance:

Edwin Cooper-DMH, Denise Heet-VA Hospital, Dianna Moore-CMCA, Leland Stepney-Phoenix Programs, Dean Brown-DMH, Melissa Owsley-Morgan County Health Center, Lena Thoenen-Community Health Center, Jamie Pitzen-Salvation Army, Patti Magruder-MACA, Teresa Brandon-Burrell Behavioral Health, Vikki Pauley-Columbia H.A., Brenda Rocaberto-DMH, John Robertson-MASW, Sandy Wilson-MASW, Mandy Fangmann- MHDC

Unmet Needs:

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

- Edwin mentioned the chronic population is difficult to serve, those in and out of institutions; mental illness is hard to serve
- Lack of landlords working with agencies on rent and allowing move-ins
- Vikki spoke about bad credit and large outstanding bills that clients have, difficult to resolve the issue and once resolved difficult to provide ongoing support
- Vikki also mentioned Shelter Plus Care and public housing waiting lists are long; Section 8 waiting list is closed
- discharged from hospitals (Columbia and Fulton)—no place to go
- Columbia gets a lot of individuals that travel from surrounding areas to get services; Denise mentioned an interview with Helping Hands Across Missouri in Moberly—in the interview HH stated that when they cannot help, individuals get a “once in a lifetime night in jail” or they take them to the County line and drop them off
- Denise mentioned, for chronically homeless, we don’t have enough long-term resources to help them succeed, no long term maintenance
- Edwin mentioned need for intensive, short-term, wrap-around services; after 30 days need housing first and services; safe-haven model or transitional, short term housing
- Teresa mentioned that Burrell is working on getting an 811 and tax credits for more development in the area
- Lack of affordable housing

Linkages between TH and PH:

- Denise mentioned there is a challenge to transition from TH to a PH—due to lack of permanent and affordable housing, lack of relationships with landlords that will work with those having disabilities, chronic homeless, etc.

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 \$2,715,687; 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. This will be a learning process for us all.
- 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. This could take several weeks; it is recommended that all agencies do this now. You must have a DUNS number before you register on CCR. If you do not have a DUNS number, you can go to www.ccr.gov and click on the DUNS link on right side of screen to get a number assigned. **Vikki mentioned that you must renew your numbers annually- her agency learned that the CCR is linked with the Department of Defense— she gave a heads up to watch for information coming from the DOD to remind you to renew your number, as you would probably otherwise overlook information coming from the Dept. of Defense**

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 final report will be presented to GCEH, HUD, and to our Commissioners.

- 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.
- Dianna stated that the weather seemed to play a large part in not finding homeless in their area; also mentioned that next time they will try to take food to give out-coffee and breakfast, etc.
- Denise asked some individuals that she encountered during the count and they said that long-johns or laundry vouchers would be beneficial
- 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
- Discussed your preliminary 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
- **The GCEH has been in discussion about the Summer PIT Count. GCEH 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 13 counties in need of leaders. (*see attached*)
- Reminder of option 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

National Foreclosure Mitigation Counseling Program:

On December 26th, President Bush signed a special appropriation of \$180 Million to go out for foreclosure mitigation programs, providing foreclosure counseling throughout the State of Missouri. 85% was ear-marked for housing finance agencies. MHDC applied for monies and was awarded close to \$739,000. The funds will go out across the state to sub-grantees to provide foreclosure counseling at three levels. These sub-grantees have already been assigned to the grant. This is a one time special appropriation, and the money must be spent by December 31st.

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

-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

Other Announcements:

Heather said that Trust Fund applications will be out earlier- probably in June and due on September 12th; Heather is working on changing priorities to-- #1 Homeless Prevention, #2 Construction, #3 Home Repair, #4 Operating/Match Funds, #5 Rental Assistance; this is based off the order of requests last year's round—this is up to the Commission and is only a Staff recommendation.