

March RHTM minutes:

Southwest Region- 9

3/4/08

In Attendance:

Tami Neal
Donna Rushing
Christopher Welch
Dana Rushing
Tiffany Bick
Alex Agulcar
Kandy Loehr

Unmet Needs:

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

Affordable housing (lacking and inadequate), Low Pay, high cost of living, several weekly rentals in the Branson area (no way to cook meals), cycle of poverty with no affordable housing, low-income housing is not low enough, no workforce housing, (it costs about \$2000 to fully move into housing), not enough education/awareness of the public, Project Based Section 8 (when it exists it does not allow those with felonies), credit checks and felonies keep people from being housed, reentry housing, help from management companies, apartments in general need to built no more condos, city involvement in housing issue, public transportation (help coming from Mayor and churches), Emergency Shelters, Warming Center, Feeding Shelter. (Weekly rentals should not end until a solution is created or all of those people would end up displaced)

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*)

- -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:

-Sarah noted that the NOFA (Notice of Funds Available) has not been released and it may not be released until 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.

A representative from an agency in another meeting reported 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:

- Sarah thanked all individuals that assisted with the count.
- Sarah 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.
- Sarah 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.
- 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: 224 were sheltered; utilized 250 beds of 419 available on night of count; 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; 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.

-Sarah passed around a sign-up sheet for County Leaders. There are still 10 counties in need of leaders for your region. (*See attached*)

- 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

-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 Sandy, as well as the website and tip sheets

Other Announcements:

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.