



Regional Housing Team Meeting

December 2, 2010
Region Five

Minutes

In attendance:

Carol Baker, Russell House; Edwin Cooper, DMH; Brooke Dawson, DMH; Jennifer Graves, Comprehensive Human Services; Patti Magruder, MACA; Dana Coats, Salvation Army; Dianna Moore, CMCA; Rebecca Roesslet, Columbia/Boone County OCS; Craig Valone, Burrell; Kimberly Moore, Russell House; Gin Britton, Salvation Army; Alana Miller, Boys and Girls Town of Missouri; Captain Terry Selvage, Salvation Army; Sandy Crider, Loving Hearts Outreach; Dana Sherrer, MOCA; Gary Stoner, Burrell; Nathan First, New Life Evangelistic Center; Heather Windham, Rainbow House; Liz Hagar-Mace, DMH; Sandy Wilson, MASW; Joanne Ivey, MASW; Heather Bradley-Geary, MHDC

Note taking: Heather Bradley-Geary asked for a volunteer to take notes. Jennifer Graves volunteered.

Governor Committee to End Homelessness updates:

- SOAR Committee – Heather Bradley-Geary reported that SSI and SSDI Outreach Access and Recovery continues to be a priority. Training for front line workers in submitting applications for clients will be held in February and information on the training will be coming in the next month.
- Re-Entry Committee – Dianna Moore reported the committee is close to presenting a document to the Governor's Committee making recommendations for services needed for newly released prisoners (based on release data provided by the courts). The next meeting will be the committee's last meeting unless it receives a new directive from the Governor's Committee.
- Awareness Committee – Sandy Wilson reported the committee is focused on 2 events: a legislative awareness event typically held in April and Homeless Awareness Day (November 19th). This year's Homeless Awareness day included the 4th annual Poster Contest. Participation in this contest was the highest it has ever been with 317 posters submitted. Since not all posters could be displayed at the Capitol, a slide show was created to highlight the entrants (this is also available on the MASW website). Break out sessions included education on the Hearth Act (Liz Hager-Mace); Educational Needs of Homeless (DECE and Salvation Army Midland Division); and How to Raise Awareness. Information on the educational components will be available on MASW's website next week. The Rainbow House Essay Winner spoke at the event and read the amazing essay. Ms. Wilson reported that if they are able to get the essay on the website, it is worth the read. Attendance for the entire day was estimated at 125-130 individuals (the same as last year). The committee would like to increase attendance next year and asked for suggestions on workshop needs.

- Project Homeless Connect Committee—Heather Bradley-Geary reported that the Project Homeless Connect held in August in Columbia was a huge success and the Columbia PHC will be held again (the Columbia committee will meet in January for the first time, hoping to make 2010's event even better than last year). The Governor's PHC Committee will focus on a 2010 Project Homeless Connect to be held in Branson. People have already volunteered to chair the Event Committee and the Branson Mayor is on board. Ms. Bradley-Geary stated the ultimate goal is to have one day where all communities provide a Homeless Connect event. Poplar Bluff, St. Joseph, and Joplin have all begun to discuss the possibility in their communities.

CoC Updates:

- Application Submission –The Continuum of Care application was submitted on November 23, 2009. Heather Bradley-Geary reported that Burrell Behavioral Health, Central Missouri Community Action Center, and Pathways have all submitted new projects as a part of this year's application and the Salvation Army has a renewal project (for both Jefferson City and Columbia). The awarded renewal projects will be announced first and awarded new projects will be announced at a later date.
- Funded agency requirements—If funding is awarded, agencies must submit a technical report to both HUD and MHDC (new requirement) in addition to the APR. GCEH will conduct 1 site visit per year.
- Annual report to the Governor –Ms. Bradley-Geary asked that any agencies who have media pieces (press releases, stories on the agency or the homeless in the community, etc.) send them to Mandy Fangman at MHDC. These can help strengthen GCEH's annual report to the Governor.
- 2010 RHTM Schedule – Region 5's schedule for Housing Team meetings is included in the meeting packet. The next meeting is scheduled for March 4th at 9 a.m. at the MASW office in Jefferson City.

Point-in-Time Counts:

- Summer count report – The 2009 Summer Point-in-Time Counts are included in the meeting packet. The report is on those areas participating in the Balance of State. The MHDC website has whole State data. Sheltered homeless totaled 1,492 and unsheltered homeless totaled 974 on the day of the count. Region 5 had 365 sheltered and 185 unsheltered homeless on this date. This was the highest count the PITC the Balance of State has ever had. The number of homeless seems to be increasing and the count is becoming more accurate.
- Winter PITC date – The Winter Point-in-Time Count will be held on January 27th using the same process as the summer PITC. The MHDC website will have surveys available soon. Ms. Bradley-Geary reminded those who that each survey should be completed for each individual or family (household) counted.
- Leaders for the Count – Rebecca has agreed to lead Boone County but there are several counties without PITC leaders. Ms. Bradley-Geary asked those

attending the meeting to please sign up to lead a county if they are willing. Sandy Wilson also asked that agencies enrolled in HMIS and using this data for their sheltered PITC, please complete a survey for any folks sheltered in motel/hotels – these numbers are not tracked as homeless through the HMIS system. The sheltered count will require separate surveys for each type of housing provided and for each county where housing is provided. Please complete a survey even if the number housed is “0” to keep your agency on the list. CMCA asked if hotel/motel vouchers under the HPRP program should be included in this count – the answer: “yes”.

HMIS Updates:

➤ HPRP

- 1) Agency enrollment— MASW has contacted all agencies on the HMIS system and the initial rush has been met.
- 2) Training schedule – Trainings and enrollment were suspended for a period but this is no longer happening – the training schedules are operating normally. Ms. Wilson suggested checking the website regularly for dates of monthly trainings. She reminded agencies that they still need to go through the HPRP training even if they are a current user.
- 3) Data Entry –Late forms will no longer be accepted (data should be in within a 3 day turnaround). Ms. Wilson asked that agencies not put down email information that is not yet active – test emails that bounce back will hold up paperwork. Reports are now on the website and Ms. Wilson suggested those with questions refer to their ROSIE manual. Each agency received a CD Rom with copies of the ROSIE manual.

CMCA reminded the committee that once the HPRP funding comes in, calls may flood in.

➤ MHTF agencies with Homeless Prevention Funds:

- 1) Agency enrollment—Ms. Wilson would love the opportunity to meet with any new agencies interested in enrolling.
- 2) Training schedule – Monthly trainings have been scheduled and are posted on the website from 1-1-10 through 3-31-10. She reminded agencies that they still need to go through the HPRP and MHTF training even if they are a current user.
- 3) Data Entry –Agencies receiving MHTF Homeless Prevention funding must be entering data in the HMIS system by 4-1-10.

Resource Sheet: Heather Bradley-Geary reported that a resource sheet was included in the meeting packet. The National Center on Family Homelessness is a particularly good resource for stats, the Ameren Foundation is a good funding resource, and there is a current employment opportunity for agency clients as hiring takes place for the census.

Announcements:

MHDC – Mandy Fangmann is on maternity leave effective mid/late January until mid-April. Contact Heather Geary or Jennifer Miller during this period. Jessica, an MSW student is serving as an intern for MHDC for the year (through April). Recommendations for MHTF funding will be made to commissioners on December 10th and posted on December 11th. By December 18th, agencies will be notified if the recommendation was approved or not. Awards will be posted by December 21st on the MHDC website. Note: December 11th through December 18th is considered “QUIET TIME” at MHDC – staff will not be returning phone calls or emails during this period.

Missourians to End Poverty (MEP) is a group that has been meeting on a regular basis for a year and a half. Jennifer Miller is active in the group and it is starting to put together regional groups. CMCA is leading this region. CA – David Mills is forming a Community Action organization and will be contacting agencies for signatures to petition for a Governor’s Committee Task Force.

Boys and Girls Town – Working with 200+/- kids this year for their holiday program (last year, the program only served 70).

Salvation Army – has dropped 5 counties but added 2, dropping about 70 families but picking up 50-60 in Miller and Cole Counties.

Russell House – Gearing up for the holidays.

DMH – received a \$3 million funding cut which has hit hard. Support living dollars are frozen for new placements only. All PATH programs will be switching to HMIS by 2011.

Loving Hearts Outreach - Serving 70-80 families a day – 400 families for the Christmas program. The city allowed us to use a building as a safe house for 2 families. The furnace quit last week but PEO donated funds to repair it.

MOCA-The weatherization program is very busy and the program has a new community garden.

DMH –For those housed in the St. Louis Area – if a client’s last permanent address was in St. Louis and he/she has a disability, there are many openings in The Shelter Plus Care system. Pathways is opening a step down facility in February 2010. It will be a 16 bed facility with a 90 day stay.

12 8-11’s were submitted this year (housing for disabilities).

Burrell is doing well with 8-11 and permanent housing projects beginning. An aftercare clinic will open in the Parkade office within 1-2 days regardless of whether patients have insurance or not. A Caseworker is now making MUPC rounds for those with outpatient care needs.

New Life Evangelical Center - a women and children’s shelter will reopen in Jefferson City soon (closed due to renovations).

Rainbow House – Heather Windham-Price reported Rainbow House has 8 full beds and a waiting list at SOL House (Transitional Living program for teens).

Shelter Plus Care in Rolla is full.

CMCA is gearing up for HPRP program – covers Audrain, Boone, Cole, Cooper, Howard, and Moniteau Counties. It hasn't begun yet because there was a delay in getting the up front funding. Once all the pieces are in place, the program will offer rental assistance for rent in arrears, utility payments, deposits, and new rent 1-3 months. Clients will be required to meet with case managers on an on-going basis and there is an asset limitation (Continuum of Care is supposed to set this standard). CMCA will discuss this further at the Governor's Committee.

There is a meeting to discuss re-entry housing needs at Panera Bread in Downtown Columbia at 1:00 p.m. today. Anyone interested is welcome.
2 positions in the HMIS project are available. These are not remote positions.

CMCA is still working on securing final funding for Transitional Housing. The actual drawings are almost finalized and the agency has applied for Continuum of Care funding to fill the final funding gap. Sol House is providing the programming for the project although we'll be operating the shelter. It will be administered through County Offices.