

December Regional Housing Team Meeting
Southeast Region Seven
December 3, 2008

(Handouts: CoC application list, PIT leader snapshot, Resource card,
Needs assessment, 2009 RHTM schedule, Resource sheet)

In Attendance:

Ripley County Crisis Shelter-Elaine Clark-Marten, Ripley County Public Housing-Diane Pruett, United Gospel Rescue Mission-Rita Cooksey, Family Counseling Center-Laura Williams, SCMCAA-Stephanie Moeller, SEMO Christian Restoration Center-Daniel Larkins, MASW-Sandy Wilson, SEMO Christian Restoration Center-Margaret Moore, John J. Pershing VAMC-Casey Sisco, John J. Pershing VAMC-Kris Bowlby, DMH-Edwin Cooper, MHDC-Heather Bradley-Geary, MHDC-Jenni Miller, Ripley Caring Communities-Marsha Branum.

Introductions

Continuum of Care 2009 Application:

Jenni Miller reported that the Balance of State Continuum of Care had submitted their Exhibit 1 application for HUD McKinney-Vento funds. The CoC application list handout shows the Balance of State projects that were submitted with the Exhibit 1 application for just over 5.3 million dollars. The projects are color coded by bonus projects, renewal projects, new projects, and shelter plus care projects. Jenni Miller explained that the Samaritan bonus project is awarded to a continuum if the overall application scores high enough. This project must serve chronically homeless individuals. Burrell Behavioral Health has been selected for this project. The Rapid Re-housing program is a new initiative by HUD this year. The project is to serve homeless families with children and is also a bonus project contingent on the scoring of the application. The Department of Mental Health has applied for these funds. The renewal projects are programs that currently provide transitional housing, permanent housing, or supportive services only. These projects can apply for a one year renewal each year. The new projects included three permanent housing programs and one HMIS expansion project. The rest of the projects are shelter plus care projects that are included on this application but are funded from a different pot of money. These programs are administered by the Department of Mental Health. Jenni Miller explained that those grants that went forward would be funded in 2009. HUD is scheduled to make funding announcements in December for the 2008 application, but with the new electronic system that was implemented this year it is anticipated that it could be later than that. Please contact Jenni Miller for further information on any of the projects listed.

Jenni Miller announced that at the recent Governor's Committee meeting the committee decided to plan a Technical Submission training for those who are funded through the Balance of State Continuum of Care. A Technical Submission requires agencies to write

out more details on their proposed project, including budget items and goals, etc. The training is being planned for February and more information will be going out soon.

Jenni Miller asked any agencies who fall under the 103 counties of the Balance of State to submit any media pieces they had from the last year focused on the Point in Time Count or Homeless Awareness in general so that it may be included in the 2008 Annual Report that the Governor's Committee to End Homelessness submits to the Governor. These items can be faxed, mailed, or emailed to Jenni Miller and are needed before January 22, 2009.

Point in Time Count:

The date has been set for the upcoming Winter Point in Time Count. The date will be January 28, 2009. All counties in the Balance of State will be counting on this date along with other continuums around the State. Jenni Miller passed around a point in time count leader sign-up sheet. Heather-Bradley Geary discussed the importance of participation in the count as it directly effects funding in the state of Missouri.

Jenni Miller discussed the snapshot handout detailing what the responsibilities of a county leader are. Jenni Miller announced that the point in time count tools would be available on the MHDC website under the Community Initiatives tab. This tab will include links to the power point trainings for leaders and volunteers, volunteer release forms, and surveys. The summer survey will be used again for the winter count. The summer survey had a new question on it addressing doubled-up individuals. These individuals are not considered homeless by the HUD definition and agencies are not required to seek them out. The question was created to record those doubled-up individuals and families if agencies come across them on the day of the point in time count. The survey will continue to include this question in order to begin to understand the extent of individuals living doubled-up around the State.

Jenni Miller announced that Laura William's request for some way of identifying that volunteers for the point in time count are in fact volunteers of the Governor's Committee was heard and addressed. The Governor's Committee discussed this and came up with a business card. The card has the Governor's Committee logo and important contact numbers on the back. Anyone interested in providing these cards to their volunteers on the day of the point in time count should contact Jenni Miller. Donations for the point in time count were discussed. Donations are optional, but agencies are encouraged to collect donations to give out on the day of the count. Some agencies also include a resource information sheet to hand out with donations.

Needs Assessment:

Jenni Miller discussed the final needs assessment document. Jenni asked for clarifications to any of the needs listed for Region Seven. There were no amendments to the needs assessment. It will be presented to the Commissioners in April.

2009 RHTM Schedule:

The 2009 regional housing team meeting schedule was discussed. Jenni Miller asked the group if the Poplar Bluff location was still working out for everyone. The group agreed that the meeting location is working well. Laura Williams announced that they have a new building and she would be interested in finding out if they can host a meeting. Laura is going to check on this for the March meeting.

Resource Sheet:

Jenni Miller discussed the resource sheet that was handed out. The first resource is a study that can be found at the link provided discussing ideas for new supportive housing programs. The study discusses how supportive housing programs can benefit a community. The second resource is a study that discusses the impacts of rent and utility costs rising faster than income. The link to the study is provided. The resource sheet contains a “grants” section and includes three links to funding opportunities for youth, elderly, and domestic violence programs. Jenni Miller announced that a representative from the U.S. Census Bureau attended the Homeless Awareness Day event and shared an employment opportunity. The U.S. Census Bureau will be hiring thousands of people to conduct the upcoming census. The next census count will be April 1, 2010. There will be local jobs with good pay available all over the State. A link was provided for more information. In addition, you can get more information by calling 1-866-861-2010. Jenni encouraged the group to share this with their agencies and clients.

Shelter plus Care:

Edwin Cooper discussed the shelter plus care program. Edwin informed the group that Poplar Bluff was extremely full and they are now seeing a little turnover and are beginning to do referrals from waiting lists. Edwin encouraged agencies to always send applications in. A few individuals requested Edwin’s contact information. Edwin can be reached at 573-751-8208 or Edwin.cooper@dmh.mo.gov.

Agency Reports/Announcements:

Jenni Miller announced that the meetings from now on would include an agency report/announcement section. This is an opportunity for people to share what their agency is currently doing or a time for an agency to give an announcement.

Heather Bradley-Geary-Missouri Housing Development Commission (MHDC):

Heather announced that the 2009 Trust Fund applications were due on September 12, 2008. The staff recommendations to the Commission will be posted on MHDC’s website on December 5, 2008. MHDC employees will then be on “quiet period” meaning that if an agency has a trust fund application in for review that MHDC employees can not speak with them until after the Commission meeting on December 12, 2008. Heather also announced that Sarah Parsons has come back to the Community Initiatives Department at MHDC to fill the position of Trust Fund and Community Initiatives Assistant Manager

previously held by Daniel McKim. Heather also discussed the recent Consolidated Plan hearings. She reported that the Consolidated Plan is a document that goes to HUD describing how the State will use HOME, HOPWA, ESG, CDBG, and Continuum of Care funds. The hearings are an opportunity for the Department of Economic Development, Missouri Housing Development Commission, Department of Social Services, and Department of Health & Senior Services to travel the State together presenting the Consolidated Plan and receiving feedback. Comments on the Consolidated Plan are welcome until December 15, 2008.

Jenni Miller-Missouri Housing Development Commission (MHDC):

Jenni reported that after being married in September her last name was officially changed to Miller from Holtaway and to start looking for emails from Jenni Miller. Her new email address is jmiller@mhdc.com.

Edwin Cooper-DMH:

Edwin discussed the ATR program and working with the faith-based community to set up a meeting to discuss accessing housing resources. Edwin also reported that they are moving forward with their initiative to work with the VA to provide housing for veterans.

Ripley County Crisis Shelter-Elaine Clark-Marten:

Elaine announced that Melissa Morgan is back from maternity leave. She announced that they have a housing program with six scattered site units. She also said that they have two transitional units.

SCMCAA-Stephanie Moeller:

Stephanie reported that the agency has utility money but the utilities have to be on or the money has to be used for a crisis situation. The client needs to have a disconnect notice. She reported that there had been quite a few changes to the energy assistance program. The state has done away with space heaters for liability issues. Now they are issuing blankets. They have also reduced the qualifying poverty level to 135% and raised the eligibility amounts. She hopes this will help more people in need.

Family Counseling Center-Laura Williams:

Laura reported that they are moving into their new building. She reported that they put in an application for an 811. They are working with DMH and the VA for transitional housing. Laura talked about their SHP scattered site program.

Ripley County Public Housing-Diane Pruett:

Diane reported that they will be taking applications in February until the last day of the month.

United Gospel Rescue Mission-Rita Cooksey:

Rita reported that they acquired their new building. They have hired a construction company to go in and remodel the first story. They will be giving out 1,000 Christmas boxes on December 20. They will also be serving a Christmas dinner. Rita also

announced that on December 9 at noon the Chamber of Commerce would be providing a luncheon for non-profits. You do not have to be a member to attend.

SEMO Christian Restoration Center-Daniel Larkins:

Daniel reported that they are working with the ATR treatment center and the VA. Their utility assistance ended in July. They are still receiving calls for assistance on a daily basis. They refer these calls to the MHDC helpline number for rent and utility assistance. They have 10 units of permanent housing through the HUD SHP program that they are just starting to put together.

John J. Pershing VA Medical Center-Kris Bowlby:

Kris reported that they had their first VA stand-down and it was a success. She reported that there were many lessons learned for the next time. She reported that they have VASH vouchers slotted for them and they are working on getting them.

MASW-Sandy Wilson:

Sandy announced that Jennifer Carter from the Governor's Committee to End Homelessness wanted everyone to know about a new statute that was passed in Missouri. The new statute extends shelter, advocacy, and case management services for qualified minors to homeless shelters and DV shelters. Sandy explained that Missouri does not have emancipation laws, but they have qualified minors. For more information about the statute please contact Sandy Wilson.

Homeless Awareness Day:

Sandy Wilson discussed the recent homeless awareness day event sponsored by the Governor's Committee to End Homelessness at the Capitol in Jefferson City on November 20, 2008. The Governor's Committee holds an event every year in conjunction with the National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week. Sandy discussed the poster contest that was held around the state for pre-K/Head Start through high school around the theme, "our community cares about homelessness". There were 60 posters submitted for the contest, with over 300 students working in groups and as individuals for the submissions. Jenni Miller passed around a program and pictures from the event. Sandy reported that 110 people attended the event along with three Legislators. The Governor's Committee has already begun talking about changes for next year and Sandy invited comments for next year from anyone who attended the event. Rita Cooksey showed everyone the poster that was submitted by a member of the United Gospel Rescue Mission who was also presented with a special recognition at the homeless awareness event. Rita reported that she and her husband had a great experience at homeless awareness day. Her husband enjoyed walking around the Capitol. Sandy Wilson mentioned that other people had reported that and they would be working on the possibility of setting up Capitol tours for next year.

HMIS Technical Assistance:

Sandy Wilson did not hold a formal technical assistance meeting.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be March 11, 2009. The location is TBA.