

**Rescheduled December Regional Housing Team Meeting  
Southwest Region Nine  
January 13, 2009**

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

In Attendance:

Dawn Engel-Church Army Stone County, William St. Clair-Christian Associates of Table Rock Lake, Randy McCoy-The Kitchen Inc., Christopher Welch-Church Army Branson, Diane Welch-Church Army Branson, Denise Bench-Consumer Credit Counseling, Sandy Wilson-MASW, Craig Valone-Burrell Behavioral Health, Gary Stoner-Burrell Behavior Health, Tony Claremont-Burrell Behavioral Health, Mayra Garcia-Boys and Girls Town, Michelle Reinmiller-VA, Greg Greven-Southwest Center for Independent Living, Alan Catron-Christian Associates of Table Rock Lake, Captain Ronald Key-Salvation Army, Jenni Miller-MHDC, Sarah Parsons-MHDC

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 was scheduled to make funding announcements in December for the 2008 application, but with the new electronic system that was implemented this year among other issues no one is sure when funding announcements will come out. Jenni will keep the agencies posted on when the announcements come out. 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 early April 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 faxes, mailed, or emailed to Jenni Miller.

#### 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 metro continuums around the State. Jenni Miller passed around a point in time count leader sign-up sheet. Jenni 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 reported that one region had requested some way of identifying that they were in fact volunteers of the Governor's Committee on the day of the point in time count. 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.

Christopher Welch discussed how he has coordinated the count in the Branson area. He discussed the various donations they have received and the large amount of volunteers they have recruited. He discussed the care packages and resource sheets that would be going out to every individual surveyed. He announced that they had PITC sweatshirts

available for purchase. Christopher described how the count has become a community event and the importance of not only counting the individuals and families but reaching out to help.

#### Needs Assessment:

Jenni Miller discussed the final needs assessment document. Jenni asked if the group had any changes or additions. Christopher Welch reported that since creating this document he feels that the Branson community has moved forward with meeting some of the needs in the area.

#### 2009 RHTM Schedule:

The 2009 regional housing team meeting schedule was discussed. The group decided that meeting at Church Army in Branson would work well for the future and that we would keep the location for the following year.

#### 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 take place April 1, 2009. 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. Christopher spoke briefly about the census jobs and is happy to talk with anyone as a representative for the 2010 census count.

Jenni also passed out information from Carol Ward on the benefits of a Community Children’s Fund. The handout discussed what statute allows for the establishment of the fund, which counties have passed the tax, and what kinds of services could be funded through the tax.

#### Shelter plus Care:

Edwin Cooper could not attend the meeting. Jenni Miller reported that there were several openings in the Branson area. For further questions please contact Edwin Cooper or Liz Hagar-Mace at DMH. Edwin can be reached at 573-751-8208 or

Edwin.cooper@dmh.mo.gov. You can also contact Burrell Behavioral Health representative Tony Claremont.

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.

Sarah Parsons-Missouri Housing Development Commission:

Sarah reported that the Missouri Housing Trust Fund announced the funded agencies for 2009. She reported that there was just over 18 million dollars in requests and 4.2 million dollars funded. She read off the agencies that were funded in the south region. If anyone has any questions about their application Sarah is happy to go over it with you. There will be a mandatory training for funded agencies in Springfield on January 22, 2009. Agencies will receive their grant agreements at the training.

Greg Greven-Southwest Center for Independent Living:

Greg announced that his agency has a comprehensive resource list for the Springfield area. This was in response to earlier conversation. He also announced that the agency received a grant to assist women with disabilities and will start in March.

Craig Valone-Burrell Behavioral Health:

Craig announced that Springfield will hold a Project Homeless Connect event titled "Hope Connection" in Springfield on March 24 at the OTC campus and will be supported by Convoy of Hope. The group will be looking for volunteers very soon.

Randy McCoy-The Kitchen Inc:

Randy announced that they will be changing continuum leadership for the Greene/Christian/Webster Continuum of Care. Dwayne Long with NAMI will be taking over as Chair of the committee. The group is working on their 10-year plan. This process will include developing a "homeless bill of rights" for the community.

Christopher Welch-Church Army Branson:

Christopher announced that their recent loaves and fishes program served 234 meals. The agency was funded with MHTF and will be using the dollars for a single mothers program. Christopher discussed the upcoming census and his role for Stone and Taney counties.

Denise Bench-Consumer Credit Counseling:

Denise announced that they lost half of their MHTF money from last year. They will not be able to give as much assistance. She reported that they have had a 98% success rate with clients.

Michelle Reinmiller-VA:

Michelle introduced herself to the group. She works out of the Mt. Vernon office. She discussed the clinic in Branson “Baby Branson” and discussed that the new clinic “Big Branson” is coming. She reported that she works with the HUD VASH program, a new initiative that is a section 8 voucher coupled with VA case management serving homeless veterans. For more information please contact Michelle.

Alan Catron-Christian Associates of Table Rock Lake:

Alan reported that their transitional and emergency program has been running for over a year and are going very well. They are also participating in the loaves and fishes program.

Captain Ronald Key-Salvation Army:

Captain Ronald Key reported that they are happy to partner with loaves and fishes. He reported that they had a FEMA meeting and will be receiving more funds.

Mayra Garcia-Boys and Girls Town:

Mayra reported that they are a residential facility for children and youth. They provide emergency shelter for children and youth ages 10-18. They have openings.

MASW-Sandy Wilson:

Sandy discussed the Coalition working to increase the funding of the Missouri Housing Trust Fund. She reported that they had a senator at the last meeting. There will be a bill introduced. Materials will be coming out soon, so keep an eye out for it. Sandy announced that the Awareness Committee of the Governor’s Committee to End Homelessness is looking for volunteers to help with their 2 annual events. More information will be going out and let Sandy know if you would like to join the committee. There will be a legislative awareness day held on February 12 at the Capitol. This is a great opportunity to talk with legislators and staff will be available at the event to help you make that connection.

Jenni Miller-MHDC:

Jenni announced that the Joplin community will also be holding a project homeless connect event on January 28. The Governor’s Committee to End Homelessness has

formed a project connect sub-committee and will also be holding a connect event in Columbia. More information will be reported at the March meeting.

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.

HMIS Technical Assistance:

Sandy Wilson held a technical assistance session for registered HMIS users.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be March 12, 2009 at 9am. The meeting will be held at Church Army Branson.