

**June Regional Housing Team Meeting
Region Four- Trenton
June 8, 2009**

In Attendance:

Lori Irvine- North Central Missouri Mental Health Center, Elaine Medlock- The Salvation Army, Art Heriford- Green Hills Community Action Agency, Mary Garcia- Green Hills Community Action Agency, Diana Hoppe- Green Hills Community Action Agency, Todd Rodenberg- Livingston County Commission, Sarah Parsons- MHDC, Sandy Wilson-MASW, Mandy Fangmann-MHDC

Continuum of Care (CoC) Region Changes (see attached handout):

Mandy referred to the CoC map handout and explained that there has been staffing changes for the Balance of State (BoS) Continuum of Care, working with the Governor's Committee to End Homelessness. There had previously been three Coordinators working on the BoS, there will now be two Coordinators staffing the CoC. The map shows which Coordinator will be working with each of the 10 regions. Any questions regarding the CoC should go to the Coordinator for the corresponding Region or County. If the questions are HMIS related, they should be directed to Sandy Wilson or Joanne Ivey.

Governor's Committee to End Homelessness (GCEH) Updates:

Mandy mentioned that the GCEH, which is the governing body of the BoS CoC will have regular updates on the meeting agendas. There are sub-committees that are involved in different efforts, and we will have regular updates on what they are working on. Mandy announced that if anyone is interested in getting involved on any of the sub-committees, to contact her or Sandy Wilson and will get you in touch with the committee chair; involvement is encouraged.

SOAR Committee: Mandy explained that SOAR stands for SSI/SSDI Outreach Access and Recovery; to help individuals access their disability benefits in a timely manner. The SOAR model allows the individual to have a representative that can receive duplicate mailings and phone calls to help with the process. There are currently 10 trainers in Missouri; hopefully there will be trainings coordinated throughout the state to train providers on the SOAR model. Mandy mentioned that any updates and training announcements from the SOAR committee will be forwarded on to the group; watch for updates.

Re-Entry Committee: Mandy gave an update on their efforts. The group has been meeting monthly. They are completing studies to see when and where people are being released from and to; looking into home plans. They are also looking at information from the Transitional Living Facilities that ex-offenders are released to if they do not have a home plan. They are looking into surveying the providers that are housing ex-offenders, as well as looking at gaps in available housing. The group is also working directly with Probation and Parole offices. They hope to have a report out in the next couple of months. Watch for updates.

Awareness Committee: Sandy Wilson updated the group on the Awareness Committee...she explained that there are two main events that the committee hosts on a regular basis; one is the Legislative Awareness Day and the other is the annual Homelessness Awareness Day with a Poster Contest. This year will be the 4th annual poster contest on November 19th in the Capitol Rotunda, with the theme of "Homelessness: The Reality Is In Our Backyard". All posters entered will be put on display during the event. Adult posters submissions are acceptable and will be put on display and receive an honorable mention. The children's posters will be judged and each grade category receives 1st, 2nd, and 3rd, recognition while all children will receive a certificate of participation. There will be exhibit tables available again for agencies to educate the community on their efforts in their community and what the organization does. An option of a ½ table will be available, as space is limited. Set up will begin at 8am; would like tables up by 10am and would like agencies to stay at their tables until 2pm. The committee received feedback from agencies that have attended in the past to have something in conjunction with the event so that agencies traveling can benefit from the trip to the Capitol. This year the committee is excited to offer 3 workshops at 45 minutes each; the same 3 workshops will be held in the morning before the event program and in the afternoon as well. The workshops will be: 1- HEARTH Act; changes with the McKinney Vento Reauthorization, 2- Raising Homelessness Awareness in your community; utilizing the media and holding events in your area, 3- Educational needs and rights of homeless children in Missouri. Sandy encouraged everyone to get in touch with their schools and headstart programs after the poster contest information is sent out in August to encourage them to participate in the program. Watch for updates.

Project Homeless Connect (PHC) Committee: Mandy mentioned that the GCEH is planning an event with local service providers in Columbia, MO. The event is scheduled for August 7, 2009 at Stephens College Silverthorne Arena. Mandy explained what PHC event is and referred everyone to look at San Francisco's website (google San Francisco project homeless connect) to see what the event is; the model originated in San Francisco and is now held in 100's of communities. The committee is in need of volunteers, donors, sponsors, and service providers. The day will provide access to services and an opportunity to avoid several barriers that homeless individuals and families may face on a daily basis. Services that will be offered range anywhere from HIV/STD testing, haircuts, access to obtaining a state ID, free item giveaways, and much more. Mandy mentioned that the support needed for this event is huge and we are hoping to have support for around the State. Sarah Parsons mentioned that during a Regional Housing Team Meeting in the southern part of the state, a lady from Kennett, Missouri was so moved by the event that she volunteered to drive up to Columbia for the day and cut hair at the event. Mandy announced that the committee is preparing to launch a website soon and to watch for that to be sent out...please share it with others in the community. The website will allow people to sign up to volunteer, donate online, and find out more information about the event.

Continuum of Care Updates:

HUD Debriefing: Mandy announced that HUD released the Debriefing from the 2008 HUD SHP application. It is general feedback on what CoC's overall had issues on that might have affected their scoring. The BoS scored well above the average score. Sandy Wilson discussed the importance of data entry into HMIS and the data quality because information from the agencies is entered into Exhibit One and affects scoring for the Continuum. HUD goals are tied in with data from HMIS; i.e.- HUD looks at how long individuals are staying in PH...how many are staying longer than 6 months.

Application Timeline: Mandy discussed the upcoming application round for CoC SHP funds; it is never set in stone when HUD will release the NOFA. HUD has scheduled a webcast for July 15th for lead agencies of Continuum of Care to register their CoC for the 2009 round. The GCEH will notify agencies when the NOFA is posted and will host an application training for agencies that plan to apply for funds; watch for updates from the CoC Coordinators.

Point In Time Count:

Winter Point In Time Count Report (see attached handout): Mandy referred to the report from the last count, January 2009 results. Feel free to use the information in the report for your grant purposes or community awareness and education; please be sure when using information from the report to refer to the copy that was passed out at the meeting or the copy posted on MHDC's website. Mandy briefly reviewed the results for Region 4.

Summer Point in Time Count: Mandy announced the Summer Count date- July 29, 2009. The group discussed the process of an unsheltered count. Mandy passed around a sheet for individuals to sign up to be a county leader. A link will be sent with all necessary documents to conduct the count: including survey, survey instructions, power point trainings and volunteer release form. The link is:

http://www.mhdc.com/ci/point_in_time_count.htm Mandy reminded everyone that the BoS staff are available for assistance with planning for the count and can help with questions as well. Mandy reviewed the new unsheltered survey form (see attached handout) with changes and encouraged everyone to review the survey instructions sheet that will be sent out so that everyone understands the changes. Sandy reviewed changes to the sheltered survey and encouraged everyone to send her any contacts that provide hotel or motel stays for emergency shelter. These agencies, churches, and/or individuals need to be contacted to complete a sheltered survey for the count.

Todd Rodenberg asked about surveying agencies on what they provided all year and not on a single day. The discussion was held that HUD requires a "24 hour" count.

Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-housing Update:

Sandy Wilson gave an update on the HPRP funds coming into the State. Sandy explained the allocation of money to the State and entitlement areas. The State will receive \$12million; which will be coming through the Department of Social Services (DSS). The State will give each county (not entitlement area) an allocation of the funds. Letters will be sent out to the Presiding County Commissioners of each county to notify them of the funds coming into their area. If your agency is interested in these funds you will need to contact your County Commissioners to let them know in the form of a letter of intent. The Commissioners have two weeks to respond that they want to accept the money. Any money that is not accepted into the counties will go

into another round of funding; the next round of funding will be open to the entitlement areas such as St. Louis, Springfield, etc. The contracts must be executed and the money must be out by September 30, 2009. Sandy informed everyone that if they have questions about the process to contact the DSS office- Jayme Abbott or Doris Hofford.

MASW Updates: Sandy discussed the Coalition for the Missouri Housing Trust Fund. The bill did not pass. The Coalition will continue its efforts to put forth legislation to increase the MHTF. If you are interested in receiving e-mails from the Coalition, let Sandy know and she will add you to the list.

Resource Sheet (see attached handout): Mandy referred to the resource sheet in the meeting packets; everyone was encouraged to register with United Way 2-1-1 information and referral resource. Sarah mentioned that MHDC released a homeless study- the link is on the resource sheet.

Agency Reports and Announcements:

Mandy mentioned that there will be two survey monkey links sent out with the meeting notes; one is in response to the Regional Housing Team Meetings and the other is on the BoS CoC. Please be sure to complete the surveys, your feedback is appreciated.

*MHDC-*Sarah Parsons announced that the TF NOFA has been posted online with the application. She announced that application workshops will be held in July; the dates and locations are online at www.mhdc.com under the Trust Fund tab.

MASW- Sandy announced that MASW will hold its annual conference in St. Louis- one day conference.

The Salvation Army- Elaine Medlock reported that they will be taking applications for the Back to School assistance July through August. They will serve families in Grundy and Livingston as a priority. They are able to provide school supplies and clothing for children; last year they served 60 kids and are expecting more this year.

Green Hills Community Action Agency- Announced that the Health Department does a school supply assistance with no county or income guidelines, scheduled for June 23rd. Booths will be set up for screenings and information. Also announced that there will be a Poverty Simulation on June 29th.

Livingston County Commission- Todd noted that there is a need to include City Officials, specifically in Chillicothe, to be made more aware of the homeless issues that face the community. Sandy mentioned that to get them interested and to the table, need to think about what captures them and what their interest is.