

**June Regional Housing Team Meeting
Southwest Region 9
June 2, 2009**

(Handouts: CoC Map, PITC Report, PITC Survey, Resource Sheet)

In Attendance:

OACAC-Diane Beveridge, Church Army Branson-Christopher Welch, City of Branson Planning and Development-Jim Lawson, OACAC-Nancy Masner, MASW-Sandy Wilson, MHDC-Sarah Parsons, Church Army Branson-Michelle Harllee, House of Hope-Dan Rocha, The Hiding Place-Carolyn Daniel, Church Army Branson-Diane Welch, VA-Michelle Reinmiller, Christian Associates of Table Rock Lake-Alan Catron.

Continuum of Care (CoC) Region Changes:

Sarah 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) Update:

- SOAR (SSI/SSDI Outreach Access and Recovery) Committee
Sarah Parsons gave the SOAR update. SOAR training attendees report that this is a very effective training. Additional SOAR trainings are being planned. The SOAR Committee hopes to hold trainings in the different regions across the State this year. There are currently 10 SOAR trainers in Missouri. Please watch for training notices coming out from the SOAR committee. Sandy Wilson added that one SOAR training has already been held.
- Re-entry Committee
No update.
- Awareness Committee
Sandy gave the update. The next Homelessness Awareness Day will be in November 2009 in Jefferson City. A possible date is November 19. This year's theme will be "Homelessness: The Reality is in Our Backyard". The Committee is looking to add a mini-conference to the day's program. The mini-conference will offer three 45 minute workshops. The workshops will be: 1-HEARTH Act; changes with the McKinney Vento Reauthorization, 2-Raising Homelessness Awareness in your community, 3-Educational needs and rights of homeless children in Missouri. The program will include a keynote speaker and the poster winners will be announced. The 4th annual poster contest will take place across the State this fall. Please encourage your schools and Head Start programs to participate. The posters should be created using the theme. All posters that are submitted will be on display at the Capitol for Homelessness Awareness Day.

The children's posters will be judged and each category will have a 1st, 2nd and 3rd place. The judging of the posters will take place on November 2, 2009. In the past Head Start programs have required permission slips to give out children's names. These will need to be turned in on time this year in order to appear in the program. If they are not in by the time the programs are printed the names will be announced at the event. There will either be a permission slip attached to the entry form or schools will be asked to provide their own. Head Start believes they have a permission slip to use. Display tables will be available for agencies again this year. Information will come out about reserving your agency a table. The 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 table until 2 pm. If you plan to have a table and attend the mini-conference you must make sure that you send enough staff to watch the table while others attend the workshops. The Awareness Committee is always looking for new members so if you are interested in serving on the committee or assisting with the Homelessness Awareness Day planning contact Sandy.

- Project Homeless Connect Committee
Sarah gave the update. The GCEH is planning its first Project Homeless Connect event in Columbia, MO. The event will take place at Stephen's College Silverthorne Arena on August 7, 2009. The committee is looking for volunteers, donors, and sponsors. The website for the event is under construction and will be sent out soon. Michelle Reinmiller gave an update about the Springfield Hope Connection. The Jasper/Newton (Joplin) Continuum of Care will have their second Project Connect event on August 12th.

CoC Updates:

- 2008 HUD Debriefing
Sandy gave the update. Sandy explained how the HUD Exhibit 1&2 application process works. She also discussed the importance of data collection for these applications. It is important for agencies to be entering accurate HMIS data because this information is included in the Balance of State application to HUD. If you feel that you are having any problems or are confused about the guidelines contact Sandy Wilson for technical assistance. HUD recently sent the debriefing out from the last round of applications. This includes the CoC's score on the application. The Balance of State scored well above the average score. If you are interested in learning more about the debriefing please contact your coordinator.
- Application Timeline
Sarah gave the update. HUD announced that there will be a registration webcast for CoC's on July 15th. This webcast will provide instructions for CoC's and will be the first step in the 2009 application process. The GCEH will notify agencies when the HUD Super NOFA is posted and will be holding an application training TBA after the NOFA posting. Sandy added that the renewal process should be easier than last year with the electronic process. Agencies should be able to update information instead of having to enter all of their information again in the HUD ESNAPS application program.

Point in Time Count (PITC):

- Winter Point in Time Count Report
Sarah gave the Point in Time Count update. The Winter Point in Time Count report was handed out. This is the most recent report available. The winter count experienced an ice storm that affected all of the South Region's numbers. The report can also be found online on the MHDC website. Sandy Wilson told the group that HUD requires a PITC every other year, but encourages CoC's to do additional counts. The GCEH has elected to do a count twice a year in the BoS.
- Summer Count
Sarah explained the importance of the Point in Time Count. The PITC numbers are taken into consideration when making Trust Fund allocations. She encouraged agencies interested in applying for Missouri Housing Trust funds to keep in mind that if they show that there are no homeless in their area or region on the PITC it will be difficult to justify funds going to that area. Christopher Welch explained the Point in Time Count process to the group.
 - Date: The next count will take place on July 29th. Most CoC's in Missouri will be counting on the same day.
 - Explanation of count:
Leaders: county leaders are responsible for conducting the count in a particular county. They are responsible for recruiting volunteers, training the volunteers, planning out the count areas and turning the completed surveys in to MHDC. A sign-up sheet was passed around asking for county leaders. One-on-one assistance is available for new leaders.
 - Surveys: Sandy went over the changes to the unsheltered survey. Please be sure to review these surveys to make sure you understand the questions. Instructions for completing the survey will be sent out and posted online. The new question about incarceration was identified by the Re-entry Committee of the GCEH. They are looking to get more information on homelessness and ex-offenders. Sandy went over the sheltered survey that will be used and discussed the changes that have been made to this survey. If you are providing shelter or hotel/motel vouchers please make sure that Sandy knows about you and that you are completing sheltered surveys for the PITC.
 - PITC materials will be posted on the MHDC website at http://www.mhdc.com/ci/point_in_time_count.htm

Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-housing Program (HPRP) Update

Sandy gave an update about the HPRP funds coming into the State. Sandy explained the allocation of money to the State and entitlement areas. The State will receive \$12 million. The State money is coming in through the Department of Social Services (DSS). The State will give each county (not in an entitlement area) an allocation of the funds. Letters will be sent out to the Presiding County Commissioners of each county notifying 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 from the counties will go back to DSS and they will do another round of funding. The next round of funding will be open to entitlement areas (Springfield, Kansas City, etc.). The contracts must be executed and the money must be out by September 30, 2009. If there are questions about the HPRP funds you should contact the DSS office-Jayne Abbott or Doris Hofford.

MASW Updates

- Sandy gave the MASW updates.
- 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 Missouri Housing Trust Fund. If you are interested in receiving emails from the Coalition let Sandy know and she will add you to the list. Alan Catron added that their agency would like to see changes with the MHTF statute to include transportation in eligible expenses.
- Sandy let the group know that MASW will hold its annual conference in St. Louis. This will be a one day conference.

Resource Sheet

Sarah went over the resource sheet that was handed out. Everyone is strongly encouraged to register their agency with 2-1-1. This is the United Way number for social service referral for the State of Missouri. Sarah announced that the Homeless Study has been posted on the MHDC website.

Agency Reports/Announcements:

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 Trust Fund 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.

VA- Announced that funds are coming for prevention and technical assistance.

OACAC- There is a Section 8 deficit, so now as people drop off they will not be able to replace them.

Church Army- Announced that the Missouri Poverty Summit had extended its registration. They will be holding training classes for point in time count volunteers. They have begun their new single-mother's program. They are looking into utilizing the Branson Mall as the focus for the point in time count. Announced the work force housing meeting is working to bring more affordable housing to the community.

Forsyth Tax Credit- The group was curious about the status of a tax credit deal in Forsyth, MO. Sarah Parsons reported back that “They are working on finishing the plans and getting the rest of their financing in place. This process is a little more difficult in these economic times, but they are moving forward. I would anticipate that they will begin construction before the end of the year”.

Hiding Place- Reported that as of July 1st they will no longer be only a domestic violence agency. They will operate as an emergency shelter. They are currently at full-capacity.

HMIS Technical Assistance

Those who do not use the HMIS program were dismissed from the meeting. HMIS users stayed for a TA session.

Next Meeting: September 24, 2009 at 9a.m.