

## September RHTM minutes:

### East Central-Region One

September 17, 2008

#### In Attendance:

Nickie Coleman- East MO Action Agency, Edwin Cooper- DMH, Roy Jones-Community Caring Council, Jerome Riley- Community Counseling Center, Natalie Sandoval- Community Caring Council, Teresa Welch-Vision House, Angela Hobbs- Vision House of Cape Girardeau, Loretta Kincaid-4 Sight Counseling, Loetta Blair-Jefferson/Franklin Community Action Corp., Sandy Wilson-MASW, Patricia Ferrell- Salvation Army, Ben Stillwell- Salvation Army, Tom Davisson-Community Caring Council, Heather Bradley-Geary- MHDC, Mandy Fangmann- MHDC

#### Balance of State Continuum of Care Guide (see attachment):

-Mandy explained that at the last RHTM we briefly discussed what a Continuum of Care (CoC) is, what the Balance of State is, what the Governor's Committee to End Homelessness (GCEH) is, and what roles do MHDC, DMH, and MASW play with the CoC.

-Due to the new involvement with Trust Fund agencies at the Regional Housing Team Meetings (RHTMs) and new agencies involved in the CoC, the GCEH directed the CoC staff to compile a handout to explain the organization and roles within the Balance of State. Mandy pointed out the helpful websites at the end of the packet along with a list of acronyms and definitions. This will serve as an informational guide and will be updated as necessary or annually.

-If you have any questions or have suggestions on what you think would be helpful to have in the guide, please notify Mandy and she can pass that along to the GCEH.

#### Current Continuum of Care application:

Heather spoke about the current CoC application in to HUD for SHP and S+C funds. Heather mentioned that the Review Committee met the 1<sup>st</sup> week of September to review all submitted grants. Mandy and Liz to meet on September 20<sup>th</sup> to finalize last items and we will submit soon. HUD has extended the deadline to October 16<sup>th</sup> but we hope to get the application in much earlier. Our pro-rata share was roughly 2.9 million, we will apply for all renewals and three new projects; in addition applying for two set asides- DMH applying for Rapid Re-Housing around \$830,000 and a CoC agency is applying for the Samaritan Bonus that serves 100% chronically homeless.

#### Trust Fund Update:

Heather said the Trust Fund applications were due Friday. The preliminary numbers will be posted today, but note that the geographic allocations have not been broken out at this time...i.e.- MASW serves several regions throughout the state, but they are just listed right now in the Central Region b/c that is where they are located. The list will only note the agencies and the amounts that they applied for. Staff recommendations on the applications will be made to the Commission on 12/19, but do post them online a week before. Also, Heather mentioned that MHDC staff is considered on quiet period on December 12-19<sup>th</sup>, and cannot accept phone calls or e-mails from anyone. Just note that

MHDC staff is not ignoring you during this time if you contact any MHDC Trust Fund or CoC staff.

Point In Time Count (see attachment):

-Mandy thanked the county leaders for their assistance by taking on the role of a leader, and also mentioned that the leaders did a great job training their volunteers with completing the answers on the surveys. The more answers we receive completed on the survey, the better answers we can provide on Exhibit One application for the CoC-- Mandy mentioned that it affects the CoC scoring as well.

-Mandy briefly reviewed the recent PIT Count results (handout); 1862 on the first page is the total count, with 601 out of that being unsheltered. Region One is detailed on page 2 of the handout, the total for Region One was 29 unsheltered for a total of 173 homeless individuals and families; Mandy explained that 173 is the total of both sheltered and unsheltered numbers; Discussed that there was an overall decrease in the Summer from the Winter count results.

-Mandy told group to use the information as needed, to apply for funding, show the need in their area, etc. If anyone would like more detailed information on a specific region or county, you can contact Mandy for unsheltered and Sandy for sheltered.

-Mandy mentioned that the GCEH will be looking for county leaders again soon, and will be hopefully be finalizing leaders at the December RHTM; if you know anyone that might be interested, please send their contact information to Mandy

Foreclosure (see attachment):

Debbie Irwin (see attached handouts sent from Debbie) was unable to attend, so Loretta Kincaid with 4-Sight counseling discussed the foreclosure crisis. Heather passed around pamphlets with phone numbers to agencies that are funded through the monies received through a grant that MHDC applied for—for more information, see the mhdc website- [www.mhdc.com](http://www.mhdc.com), go to Community Initiatives on the left and then the Foreclosure Mitigation link.

Loretta discussed the issues and situations that she has seen in the immediate area and some of the ways that the foreclosures can be stopped. Loretta said she is working on about 5 a week. Hope to put on workshops in the near future to educate the community. 4-Sight has saved around 45 homes as of August 22<sup>nd</sup>, starting back in April. Roy asked about the types of situations that have caused foreclosures, and what they have seen the most of. Loretta said it is really about 50/50 on families that have an arm that reset vs. those that are going through an unexpected crisis.

Shelter Plus Care:

Edwin mentioned that the closest Shelter Plus Care is a county south of here (Cape). If you have consumers or clients that need housing feel free to contact Edwin at [edwin.cooper@dmh.mo.gov](mailto:edwin.cooper@dmh.mo.gov)

There are some vacancies in St. François County, accepting applications. The bootheel is pretty full, and usually full.

### Needs Assessment:

Mandy reviewed the comments from the March RHTM discussion about the unmet needs in the local communities in this region. Mandy stated that this does help with some parts of planning for the CoC application, but also a report will be put together and shared with the Commission and the GCEH; this report is being finalized at this time with a goal to have a final report for the CoC at the December meeting. Attendees were given the opportunity to review a summary of the items that were mentioned in March and provide additional comments.

The comments from March were:

- all counties expressed need for Emergency Shelter
  - specifically need more, some are far distances and most only serve DV pop.
  - need for actual shelter and not just hotel/motel vouchers
- Lack of TH was mentioned in St. Francois, Cape, and Jefferson counties
- Lack of PH in St. Francois, Cape, and Jefferson counties
- challenges working with population that has substance abuse and co-occurring disorders
  - along with that the issue of those individuals cycling in and out
- Section 8 waiting list makes it difficult to transition to PH
- lack of affordable housing, specifically mentioned in Jefferson County

Additional comments in the meeting today were:

- need for men's TH
- need for family shelter, though most have found someone to stay with family or friends there is still a need for shelter and direct supportive services
  
- Teresa shared a new housing resource--- House of Hope recently opened through Cape 1<sup>st</sup>, to serve men with substance abuse; she does not believe they started housing anyone at this time
- Also shared Mending Hearts in Cape, can house up to 10 women

### Homelessness Awareness Event (see attachment):

Sandy reviewed the details about the upcoming homelessness awareness event on November 20<sup>th</sup>, that falls in the National Homelessness and Hunger Awareness Week. Our event will take place in the 1<sup>st</sup> floor rotunda at the State Capitol. The GCEH will be holding their 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Poster Contest, with the theme "Our Community Cares About Homelessness". All posters will be on display at the event, and the age categories will receive 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> prizes. Any student/child can enter, the entries do not need to submit their poster through their school; invite your children, grandchildren, friends' children, and children in local shelters and housing programs to submit posters. It was also noted that adults in shelters and housing programs can submit posters. They will not be eligible for prizes, but their posters will be displayed and will receive an honorary mention and certificate.

-Sandy reviewed the event schedule and talked about the opportunity for agencies to have a display table at the event. Right now there is only space for about 15 tables, the

Homelessness Awareness Committee is asking for those that can use a ½ table to note that on their table registration form to allow space for more agencies to set up.

-Sandy asked for assistance with calling local schools and HeadStart programs to be sure that they have received the information on the poster contest. If they have not, please supply them with the forms or provide them with Sandy's or Mandy's contact information and encourage them to participate.

#### Resource Sheet (see attachment):

-Mandy mentioned that staff will plan to have a resource sheet to hand out at each RHTM; if anyone would like to add something to the list please contact us at least a month in advance of the next scheduled RHTM to be added

-Mandy highlighted some items from the sheet—MHDC has an affordable housing search option posted online now, go to [www.mhdc.com](http://www.mhdc.com) and click on the link on the right side of the home page; Also the Springfield CoC has developed a board game that takes the players through an experience of homelessness, details and contact information is on the resource sheet, games are \$149

#### HMIS/MASW:

-Sandy discussed the upcoming MASW conference and passed out the pamphlets with conference details.

-Sandy talked about the accountability to agencies for data quality in HMIS, this is important for the CoC application, as well as the BoS HMIS data will be submitted and used for HUD's AHAR (homeless assessment report) this year—all information needs to be current and accurate by September 30, 2008. If you have problems, please contact the office to assist with meeting your needs and helping with any problems.

-Sandy reminded everyone about the basic and advanced online trainings. This is now being instituted before individuals can receive their username and password.

-Sandy encouraged feedback on the website, if it is user friendly, are there are items that are hard to find on the page.

-The sheltered PIT count was discussed. For all agencies entering in the HMIS for ES and TH, that information is pulled off the system. However, if the agencies are not in the system there is a need for Sandy to know about the new agencies that are providing ES and TH, along with agencies that are not new but are providing this type of housing. At the December meeting, Sandy will ask for information on local agencies and churches that provide this yet may not be in the HMIS system.

#### Other Announcements:

-As a facilitator for the Coalition for the MHTF, Sandy discussed the Senate Select Committee that is looking at the effectiveness of the trust fund; the first step was to hold hearings across the state; the last one to be in STL has been determined by the SS Committee as unnecessary. She discussed a few of the ideas on generating an increase in the trust fund that were discussed at the hearings. Sandy asked to stay tuned to her e-mails about the progress and calls for action.

-Heather announced that at MHDC, the Community Initiatives Department now has a link online at [www.mhdc.com](http://www.mhdc.com) with details on the programs that fall under the CI Department--- Trust Fund, Foreclosure Mitigation, and CoC with information on RHTMs and staff contact information is now available.

**Mandy announced the next meeting is set for December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 9am in Farmington, MO.**