

Regional Housing Team Meeting Minutes – Region 10
9/11/08

Attendees:

Ronda Wickham – MVCAA
Larry Billingsley – Pathways
Elizabeth Stewart – PCCP
Cynthia Hopper – Salvation Army
Patty Thompson – WCMCAA
Bob Vickers – PCCP
Bruce Gabriel – Missouri Probation and Parole
Susan Moore – Johnson County HELP
Julie Lannan – Johnson County HELP
Debbie Adams – FAITH, Inc.
Angela Farr – RPM/Lighthouse
Debbie Irwin – Beyond Housing
Hillary Unrein – MHDC
Sandy Wilson – HMIS
Heather Bradley-Geary - MHDC

Heather Bradley-Geary opened the meeting

Introductions after the meeting began

Overview of Continuum of Care: Heather presented the Continuum of Care Process Guide for the Balance of State. The guide gives all the basic information about how the continuum functions. As items change from year to year, the guide will be updated and made available to anybody interested. Questions and comments would be appreciated if anything was omitted or should be considered.

Point In Time Count: The numbers from the July 15th point in time count have been received and entered. Each member received a copy of the new 2008 report. The report includes the data from both winter and summer counts. Data is broken down by region and county. Most agreed the count was a success this time. However, it was more difficult than the winter count primarily because of difficulties getting volunteers. Also could not pre-identify homeless families. A request was made for a list of all the non-profits, church groups and food pantries which would make the count easier.

Foreclosure: Debbie Irwin gave information about the current foreclosure crisis. She passed out materials including detailed Statewide Foreclosure Rates broken down by county. She touched on foreclosure counseling funding for sub-grantees through MHDC. Her power point presentation gave information about the causes of foreclosure, the risks involved, some common terms about foreclosure, types of mortgage loans, the delinquency cycle, homeowner's responsibility, how to get counseling and options for loss mitigation. The delinquency cycle in Missouri is currently a quick three months, but banking lobbyists in Jeff City are working to extend that. The Commission recently approved a policy to stop foreclosures temporarily. HUD has an 800 number to call about foreclosure warning signs. That is: 800-569-4287. By calling for counseling, a home owner may discover they have several options to keep their home. The website www.freddiemac.com/corporate/buyown/english/avoiding_foreclosure/dos_and_donts.html gives advice on action steps and things not to do when facing foreclosure.. The HOPE Hotline at 888-

995-HOPE offers free counseling 24-hours a day/7 days a week. Agencies can order HOPE Hotline Foreclosure Prevention Campaign Materials at www.neighborworksstore.org. To contact Debbie Irwin: call 314-533-0600 x44 or email dirwin@beyondhousing.org.

Needs Assessment: Heather presented the Unmet Needs of the area as discussed at the previous meetings and asked for additional input. The group reiterated the need for an emergency shelter and the lack of public housing. PCCP made the comment that they turn away 48 people per week who need assistance. They mentioned that they would like to have a chart which they could use to track the people they cannot help. The chart would include items such as referral name, family size and county of origin. Also, in Sedalia they can't find hotel/motel vouchers and utility deposits are a problem for many people. Another need in the area is increased landlord recruitment for low-income housing through CSBG.

Resource Sheet: Heather gave some housing and general resources as outlined in the Resource Sheet. Several sights have useful homelessness data including:

www.endhomelessness.org/content/article/detail/2058

www.homeless.samhsa.gov

www.serve.org/nche/downloads/data_comp_03-06.pdf

MHDC recently added a Community Initiatives Link to their website. The link gives info about the several programs and agencies involving the Community Initiatives department.

www.mhdc.com/ci/index.htm

Two new resources for housing: <http://ahl.mhdc.com> and http://rdmfhrentals.sc.egov.usda.gov/RDMFHRentals/select_state.jsp

Contact Michelle Garand with the Springfield Continuum of Care for more information about a board game they developed which goes through the cycles of homelessness:

mgarand@commpartnership.org.

HMIS: Sandy Wilson reported on the HMIS. The next hearing for the Coalition to increase the Housing Trust Fund will be held in St. Louis. Date to be determined. The annual MASW Conference will be October 22nd and 23rd in Columbia.

Adjournment

Next meeting December 10th @ 10am