

**March Regional Housing Team Meeting  
Region One  
March 10, 2009**

In Attendance:

Patricia Ferrell- Salvation Army, Rachel Hawkins- St. Francois H.A., Roy Jones- Community Caring Council, Dave Kennedy- Jefferson County, Helen Mickan- BJC Behavioral Health, Karen Miller- BJC Behavioral Health, Tina Rodgers- Salvation Army, Amy Greif- BJC Behavioral Health, Linda Fitzgerald-DWD, Glenda Strange- Shared Blessing Homeless Shelter, Sherry Killian- East MO Action Agency, Molly Strickland- Lutheran Family and Children's Services, Sharon Brown- Community Counseling Center, Tim Gould- 4Sight Counseling, Emile Floyed- VIP Industries, Sandy Wilson-MASW, Heather Bradley-Geary- MHDC, Hillary Unrein- MHDC, Mandy Fangmann-MHDC

Governor's Committee to End Homelessness (GCEH) Update

- Annual Report: Mandy announced that the annual report has been sent to the Governor's office. Mandy thanked everyone for their participation with submitting media documents that showcased their community; these documents were included in the annual report.
- SOAR Committee: Mandy gave a brief overview of what SOAR stands for, SSI/SSDI Outreach Access Recovery. SOAR is a federal program that trains providers on how to access SSI and SSDI for clients in a reasonable amount of time. SOAR is holding training on April 1<sup>st</sup> and April 2<sup>nd</sup> in Fulton. Please contact Brooke Dawson at [Brooke.Dawson@dmh.mo.gov](mailto:Brooke.Dawson@dmh.mo.gov) for more information.
- Re-Entry Committee: Mandy stated that this committee is led by Vevia Sturm at Department of Corrections. The committee meets monthly and is addressing issues with the housing authority and Point In Time Count. The committee is working with housing authorities on federal mandates for ex-offenders and in receiving housing vouchers. The committee is working on getting a question on the Point In Time Count surveys to address ex-offenders. In addition, the committee is working with HMIS leaders to allow an intake question to be formed around incarceration. For more information please contact Vevia Sturm at [Vevia.Sturm@doc.mo.gov](mailto:Vevia.Sturm@doc.mo.gov).  
Linda discussed the local Re-Entry team in Park Hills.  
It was suggested that the Re-Entry committee work to identify landlords for Re-Entry. Another point was brought up about working for their employment; how can the committee focus on working with local employers to hire ex-offenders.
- Awareness Committee: Mandy reported that the Governor's Committee will be holding a homeless awareness day event again in November of 2009. In 2010 it is the goal of the Governor's Committee to hold a mini-conference in conjunction with homeless awareness day. This will take a larger committee and support. To volunteer for the awareness committee, please contact Sandy Wilson at [Wilson@masw.org](mailto:Wilson@masw.org). Roy suggested going across the state and helping show the issues and increase awareness for all communities and not only holding the event in Jefferson City. Heather explained that the GCEH strongly encourages all communities to hold their own events in their area during the National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week. Roy suggested sharing ideas on what other communities are doing to help other communities plan. A toolkit with ideas and media toolkit was discussed. The toolkit can be given to any interested community to help with their planning efforts.

- Project Homeless Connect Committee: Mandy gave a brief overview of Project Homeless Connect, a day set aside to provide results to people who are homeless. Mandy stated that the GCEH is excited for the first event that they will be planning and she discussed her experience volunteering at a San Francisco Project Connect event. This is an event that provides results rather than referrals. The day will include services including, but not limited to haircuts, pedicures, connections to housing, medical check-ups/health screenings, etc. Balance of State will be holding the first Project Homeless Connect on August 7, 2009 in Columbia. Mandy stated that the goal is to move the event around the state to a new community each year or every other year. Mandy announced that the committee needs more volunteers and the event needs volunteers. To volunteer for Project Homeless Connect, please contact Mandy Fangmann at [mfangmann@mhdc.com](mailto:mfangmann@mhdc.com) or Jenni Miller at [jmiller@mhdc.com](mailto:jmiller@mhdc.com).

#### Continuum of Care updates

- HUD Announcements: Mandy referred everyone to the handouts (*see attachments*), a list of agencies funded under the 2008 HUD announcements and a chart of funding amounts over the last several years. Mandy stated that it is an exciting time for the entire State of Missouri. The GCEH is excited to announce that the Balance of State Continuum of Care was fully funded with the exception of one bonus grant for rapid re-housing. This is the most funding that has ever come into the Balance of State under the continuum of care. Mandy congratulated the agencies on this year's application and also the STL CoC in attendance at the meeting.
- Technical Submission Training: Mandy announced that the Governor's Committee will be holding a technical submission training on April 1, 2009 in Jefferson City, Truman Building, room 400. The technical submission is paperwork that is due to HUD after initial approval of the grant; part 2 of the application process that will ask for more details on your budget, goals, etc. Mandy explained that this will hopefully help alleviate much extra time spent going back and forth with HUD to make corrections. Any agency that is being funded is strongly encouraged to attend, this is not a required training. Any agency that is thinking about applying for funds in the future is also invited to attend. It was discussed that HUD will not allow the use of Admin. Dollars to attend this training; only trainings that HUD sponsors are allowed for this use. Roy encouraged the GCEH to work closely with HUD to change this policy.
- 2009 NOFA: Mandy announced that the HUD NOFA for Continuum of Care funds are usually released in Spring, but it could be closer to Summer depending on how HUD handles this current round of funding. The last NOFA was posted in June. Once the NOFA posts, the Governor's Committee will hold be holding an application (Exhibit Two) training.
- FMR Update: Mandy announced that the Governor's Committee is working with HUD to determine if agencies can increase their FMR rates at renewal. It has been discussed with HUD and the GCEH Planning Committee that agencies can only increase their FMR at renewal time...and must submit a letter with supporting documentation. The GCEH will continue to work with HUD to nail down the formal process for this.

### Point In Time Count (sheltered and unsheltered)

- Winter Count Update (Unsheltered): Mandy announced that Missouri Housing Development Commission is still working on the final report. Due to the winter storm that occurred on January 28, 2009 the process has been delayed. Mandy shared preliminary unsheltered numbers for Region One, which only 2 unsheltered homeless were reported. The entire South and Southeast part of the state was affected by the storm and we have been seeing these results for this area. Mandy stated that there will be a note included in the HUD application and on the PITC report to explain why these numbers are such a significant change from previous counts.
- Winter Count Update (Sheltered): Sandy Wilson was not present. Mandy announced that MASW is continuing to work on the sheltered count; at this point the preliminary number is just over 1300 people that were sheltered on January 28, 2009. An in-depth report will be posted on MASW's website.
- Summer Count: Mandy stated that the next count will occur on July 29, 2009. At the June regional meetings, volunteers will be asked to cover counties. All CoC's in the state will be counting on the same day.

### Poverty Summit

Mandy announced that a poverty summit will be held on June 9, 2009. There was a handout (*see attachment*) given to meeting participants. For more information or to register the link is [www.moaction.org](http://www.moaction.org).

Roy announced that on March 20, 2009 there will be a Bridges out of Poverty event in Cape Girardeau. He encouraged everyone to attend. Registration is closed after 3/13. It is \$20.

### MASW updates

Sandy Wilson was not present. Heather stated that the Coalition for the Missouri Housing Trust Fund continues to work on SB268 to increase the Trust Fund. Roy encouraged people to contact their Reps. He discussed how everyone can play a part and can help show their local Realtors how it is helping their own community.

Mandy briefly discussed the HMIS steering committee and stated that Sandy Wilson will be appointing HMIS users from each region of the state. If this is something that your agency would be interested in being a part of, please let Sandy know by contacting her at [Wilson@masw.org](mailto:Wilson@masw.org). You can nominate yourself or a colleague. The steering committee meets four times per year. The next meeting will be held on May 29, 2009.

### DMH update

Roy discussed the DMH cuts. Heather discussed that there is a 10% cut across the board for all State Agencies.

### Resource Sheet

Mandy briefly reviewed information on the handout (*see attachment*); she referred people to the Transform Missouri website that was developed by Jay Nixon's office. This is a way to share your thoughts and feedback about how to use the stimulus money and create jobs in MO. Mandy also discussed the Angel Food Ministries resource; especially during these hard times it is a good resource for everyone. Anyone can qualify, there are no income restrictions or application process.

Heather pointed out that Missouri Housing Trust Fund grant applications will be due on September 11, 2009. The application will be posted in early June. Public hearings will be held in May; she encouraged everyone to have their voice heard. For more information please go to the following link [www.mhdc.com](http://www.mhdc.com).

### Agency reports/announcements

- Missouri Housing Development Commission: Heather Bradley-Geary stated that the homeless study is almost complete and will be released in April of 2009.
- Community Counseling Center: Sharon Braun discussed the new funds for counseling services for Vets' families. They are doing presentations in communities. Contact Jerome Riley at Community Counseling Center for more information. Sharon also talked about the New Morning Apartments in Fredericktown; working with clients to increase their self-esteem and demeanor.
- BJC Behavioral Health: Karen said they are back in planning for the CoC application this year and discussed partnering with EMAA. They have toured projects and will be planning their application.
- Workforce Development: Linda Fitzgerald discussed their involvement with their local Re-Entry team. Linda also mentioned access to job skills and job search during the day for clients; contact Ashley at Missouri Career Center for information.
- Shared Blessings Shelter: Glenda Strange discussed the shelter in Bonne Terre, MO. It will house 13 people.
- EMAA: Discussed involvement in Shelter Plus Care for St. Francois County and Poplar Bluff area. There is a housing coordinator that works with increasing client's self-sufficiency and employment.
- Salvation Army: Pat Thieman reported on their Emergency Supportive Services in Jefferson County; many unemployed at this time; they serve several clients with unique needs (through unrestricted funds) such as diabetic supplies and COBRA, but these are limited; their primary client currently is people living on less money and are stressed with finding solutions to make ends meet.
- 4-Sight Counseling: Tim Gould mentioned the NFMCP (foreclosure mitigation counseling); they have helped 145 people since April and have saved all but 3 homes. Contact Darlene or Loretta for more information or to refer clients.
- Community Caring Council: Roy Jones discussed his HUD/SHP grant and TF grant programs. He also mentioned that he is glad that the recent Vision House grant will still be kept in the Cape Girardeau area for those in need in the local community.