

Regional Housing Team Meeting Minutes – Region 2
9/9/08

Attendees:

Melissa Williams – Northeast Community Action Corporation
Rhonda Lunceford - Northeast Community Action Corporation
Debbie Irwin – Beyond Housing
Sheila DeBary – The Salvation Army
Kelly Jazenboski – Preferred Family
Steven Laws – HRC
Judy Edmonson – Avenues
Joanne Ivey – HMIS
Hillary Unrein – MHDC
Heather Bradley-Geary – MHDC
Nathan Stock - MHDC

Nathan Stock opened the meeting

Introductions after the meeting began

Overview of Continuum of Care: Nathan 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. Kelly mentioned the importance of including doubled-up individuals in the report. This would make a more comprehensive report.

Foreclosure: Debbie Irwin spoke about the current foreclosure crisis. She passed out materials including detailed Statewide Foreclosure Rates broken down by county. 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. Also, 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: Nathan presented the Unmet Needs of the area as discussed at the previous meetings and asked for additional input. Melissa noted that Hannibal has no Section 8 housing right

now. The list has been suspended but they hope to open it back up on December 19th. Kelly mentioned that there is a shortage of places to rent. The paper usually has ads but recently has had none.

Resource Sheet: Nathan 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: Joanne Ivey 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 9th @ 2pm