

Regional Housing Team meeting Minutes-- Region 2

3/2/2009

Attendees:

Sarah Parsons—MHDC

Hillary Unrein—MHDC

Rev. James Bridges—F.A.C.T.

Melissa Williams—North East Community Action Corporation

Peggy Walley—Doug. Comm. Serv.

Maj. Normalene Daniels—The Salvation Army

Sandy Wilson—MASW

Rhonda Lunaford—North East Community Action Corporation

Sheila DeBary—The Salvation Army

Kelly Lockwood—Hannibal Regional Office

Angel M Long—Faithwalk Ministries

Bishop: Harold G. Long—Faithwalk Ministries

Dewayne Long—Faithwalk Ministries

Sarah Parsons opened the meeting with introductions

GCEH Updates: Sarah explained that the Annual Report was completed and submitted to the Governor and thanked everyone that participated by submitting newspaper clippings, sending in stories, etc. Sarah turned the floor over to Sandy stating that she would be discussing the sub committees of the GCEH. Sandy explained that she was unsure of what SOAR stood for but that we would note it in the minutes (**SSI SSDI Outreach Access and Recovery) Sandy explained that the SOAR Committee was fairly new and that the idea is that individuals can get their SSI/SSDI in a reduced time period. (** 90-120 days rather than 3 years). Sandy also encouraged those that were interested to get involved. Sandy spoke briefly upon the Re-entry committee stating that the idea behind this committee is to provide housing for ex-offenders. Hillary stated that this committee is still in the beginning stages and they are still working on creating outcomes, completing research, a logic model, etc. Sandy also explained what the Awareness Committee was, explaining that they put on the Homeless Awareness Day event every year and that they are looking to grow the event by possibly housing a conference for agencies to

participate in, in connection with the poster contest that is held every year. Sandy also explained that the Awareness Committee also participates in Legislative Awareness Day that is held every year but this year it has been postponed. It is regarding affordable housing and homeless issues in the state of Missouri. She believes that the new date for the legislative Awareness Day will be held sometime in March. Sarah discussed the Project Homelessness Connect Meeting explaining that the idea originated in San Francisco and that it is a one day event in which homeless individuals can come and receive actual services on that day. Examples of individuals that may be there offering their services to the participants are nurse practitioners, podiatrists, dentist, eye doctors, or even veterinarians to treat the individuals pets. Sarah stated that the PHC Committee is currently meeting and they plan for their PHC to be on Friday, August 7 in Columbia at Steven College. Sarah encouraged individuals to volunteer and stated that they could touch base with Mandy or Jenni. Sandy asked that at least one person from the group present to come and participate in PHC. Springfield will be holding a Project Connect on Tuesday, March 24, 2009 at the Ozark Technical Community College.

CoC Updates: Hillary gave updates on HUD announcements-Balance of State funding--directed everyone to look at the handouts in their packets. Pointed out that this was the most money that had ever come into the BoS and that all projects were funded with the exception of the Rapid ReHousing Bonus project. Also went over the CoC Homeless Asst. Awards for 2002-2008 with the comparison of what funds were received in the state of Missouri versus what the BoS funding was. A representative from the Salvation Army asked a question on the definition of homelessness and Sandy explained the definitions and the difference between the CoC homeless definition and the HUD homeless definition. Hillary announced the Technical Submission Training. Sandy explained in more detail what the Technical Submission training is and its purpose. Hillary explained that the training is open to all and that it is highly encouraged that agencies attend if funded or interested in being funded. The training will be held on April 1, 2009 10:00am -4:00pm at the Harry S. Truman Building Rm 400 in Jefferson City. Hillary announced NOFA for CoC will be released in the summer and talked of application workshop training. Sandy explained exhibit 1 and 2 process and how the application is funded. Hillary explained that MHDC is currently working with HUD to figure out a formal process for agencies to make a request to have their FMR's raised as we know that a lot of agencies are working on out-dated FMR's. NECAC commented stating that FMR is really low and they are having a difficult time paying rents.

Point in time count (sheltered and unsheltered): Sarah announced that the PITC took place in January and that preliminary numbers for that count should be ready in April, numbers will be emailed out. NECAC stated that they found over 20 unsheltered individuals and that they hire some of the homeless men that they work with to go out and complete the surveys for them. Sandy explained the PITC process, how it was done, and reasons for the PITC. She also explained the sheltered count and asked for individuals to be on the look out for new agencies that provide hotel/motel vouchers so that we can add them to the list for the next count. Sarah announced date for summer count (July 29, 2009, last Wednesday of July) and invited new agencies to become familiar with the needs in their community.

Poverty Summit: Hillary announced the Poverty Summit explaining what it was and what the main topics of the Summit were going to be. Explained that they could refer to MACA's website on the bottom of their Save the Date flyers to gather further information, register, donate, etc.

Registration deadline for the Summit is May 15, 2009 and the cost for general admission is \$35.00. Hillary/Sandy pointed out that this might be a good opportunity for agencies to attend due to the low cost of the Summit. Date of Poverty Summit is June 9' 2009 at the Capitol Plaza Hotel in Jefferson City, MO.

MASW Updates: Sandy discussed the Coalition for the MHTF stating that there will be a decrease in the funds available because the fee is based on the real estate market/ \$3.00 recording fee. She stated that MASW is advocating increasing the recording fee to \$10.00 with \$7.00 going to the MHTF and \$1.00 staying with the recorder of deeds. It is SB 268 and it is currently in the committee of Progress and Development. Sandy encouraged agencies to contact their representatives to have a hearing on the bill. Sarah stated that the projection for next year for the MHTF is that it will fall below \$3 million.

DMH Updates: Hillary made the announcement that there is availability in Hannibal/Kirksville area for SPC.

RAP: Rent Assistance Program...is used in three ways:

1. For some **special project based assistance** for example...a transitional housing program for women with substance abuse issues and their children. Once they've completed the program they move to permanent housing...sometimes Section 8, sometimes Shelter Plus Care, etc.
2. As a **bridge subsidy** for people who qualify for Section 8 and are on the wait list and who have an immediate housing emergency...could be homeless and don't meet the HUD definition or maybe the head of household isn't the person with a disability so they don't qualify for Shelter Plus Care, etc...
3. In some cases it is a **permanent rental subsidy** for those who don't qualify for Section 8 or Shelter Plus Care.

Resource Sheet: Sarah went over the Resource sheet pointing out that the Transform Missouri is a new website that was created by the Governor where individuals, businesses, and agencies can submit their ideas and feedback about how to use the stimulus money and create jobs in MO. Anyone can submit an idea. Sarah also noted that the MHTF 2010 NOFA is expected to be posted online at www.mhdc.com in spring 2009 and to mark your calendars for the application trainings. All information regarding the trainings is posted online. Application due date is July 7, 2009

Agency Reports/Announcements:

NECAC: Discussed the programs that they offer and that the stimulus money that they would be getting would be used for equipment and staff.

Salvation Army: Stated that they have a Caring and Sharing Day where individuals can come in and get food from the Central MO Food Bank. They also stated that they just completed a strategic plan and they are trying to figure out what direction is next and that they are trying to branch out.

Douglas Comm. Serv.: Stated that they are an umbrella organization. Stated that they also put on a Christmas Program and organize church camps to come and build homes.

F.A.C.T.: Have a mentoring-school program to help students with their homework. Have an Educare program where they work to license/train daycare providers. Have programs to help reduce/prevent smoking and a re-entry program.

Faithwalk Ministries: Located in Paris, MO. They are a faith based organization and work with a sister organization. Do outreach—substance abuse counseling and work with Burrell to work with youth/juveniles. The program works with children ages 9-17 and their parents—work with 1X per week (This is funded through the Dept. of Public Safety). Have a Christian school Pre K-7th grade and an ACT program in which they work with alternative schools to get individuals their diplomas /GED's. They also have a child learning care service during church services for children ages 0-9 years old. Have a Food and House center in which they distribute food monthly and do deliveries to individuals that are home bound. Provide health classes, food education classes, and MH screenings.

MHDC: Discussed homeless study and gave another reminder on TF Trainings.

Adjournment

Next Meeting June 8, 2009 @ 3pm