

Regional Housing Team Meeting Minutes – Region 3
9/9/08

Attendees:

Beverly Krouse – FSD
Linda Tramontin – Helping Hands Across Missouri
Rod Tramontin – Helping Hands Across Missouri
Mindy Garrett – Northern Missouri Community Action Agency
Ruth Valkenaar – Victim Support Services
Bill Hogg – Salvation Army
William Smith – High Hope Employment Services
David Davison – Northeast Missouri RPC/RDC
Sheila Jones – Salvation Army
Debbie Irwin – Beyond Housing
Joanne Ivey – HMIS
Hillary Unrein – 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. Linda and Rod both spoke on the large number of children living homeless in Moberly and Randolph County.

Foreclosure: Debbie Irwin gave out 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. 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. At the last meeting, several people discussed the possibility of opening an emergency shelter in Kirksville. Linda suggested also opening a shelter in Moberly. The best option, the Randolph County Abuse Shelter, temporarily houses individuals but is always full. Her church gets 3-5 people per day looking for assistance. Rod said Moberly has numerous locations available for a shelter including an old elementary school. For the people they cannot house, the closest aid is in Booneville. Mindy described Shelter Plus Care and said that could be a possible solution. Helping Hands has hired a grant writer for the several grants they are applying for currently which may help. Rod said the City Council of Moberly is receptive to the idea of a shelter and willing to listen to ideas. Bill Smith said he is part of a committee still looking into the possibility of an emergency shelter in Kirksville. Mindy mentioned the current waiting list for Section 8 in Kirksville is 1-2 years.

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 @ 9am