

Regional Housing Team meeting Minutes-- Region 3

3/2/2009

Attendees:

Sarah Parsons—MHDC

Hillary Unrein—MHDC

Sandy Wilson—MASW

Cynthia Higgins-NMCAA

Bill Hogg—Salvation Army

Ruth Valkeneer—Victim Support Services

Connie J. Johnson-USDA Rural Development

William Smith—high Hope Employment

Kim Kriegel—High Hope Employment Services

Mindy Garrett--NMCAA

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 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, 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 and is held every year but this year is 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 PHC on Tuesday, March 24, 2009 at 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. Hillary announced the Technical Submission Training. Sandy explains 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 if 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 trainings. 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 the 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 found over 20 unsheltered individuals and stated 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 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...we use it 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:

Salvation Army—announced that they moved the thrift store and that business is great as more people can easily find it and see it. They are very excited.

Victims Support Services: Stated that they will be having a shower on April 18th—Wal-Mart and Hy-Vee for victims support services.

Adjournment

Next Meeting: June 9, 2009 @ 9am