

Regional Housing Team meeting Minutes—Region 4--Trenton

3/3/2009

Attendees:

Sarah Parsons—MHDC

Hillary Unrein—MHDC

Marta Buckman—Good Samaritan Center

Sarah Maloney—Green Hills Community Action Agency

Art Heriford—Green Hills Community Action Agency

Elaine Medlock—Salvation Army

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 stated that she would be discussing the sub committees of the GCEH. Sarah explained that SOAR stood for **SSI SSDI Outreach Access and Recovery. Sarah 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). Sarah also encouraged those that were interested to get involved. Hillary 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. Sarah 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. Sarah 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. Springfield will be holding their PHC 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. Hillary announced the Technical Submission Training. 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 training. 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-dates 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 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. Sarah 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 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: Sarah briefly 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. In previous meetings Sandy had 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. Sarah stated that the projection for next year for the MHTF is that it will fall below \$3 million. A woman from the Salvation Army questioned why the realtors have been so opposed to the increase in the fee. Group discussed neighborhood stabilization.

DMH Updates: There aren't any announcements for SPC in this area.

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:

Green Hills CAA: Talked about their housing development in Hamilton that is currently in progress. They are looking to expand their weatherization program based on the stimulus money that they are receiving. Currently the program is operating on a waiting list so the goal is to increase the weatherization crews from 2 up to 4. They are also getting ready to hire on an Energy Services Director to focus on 'green energy' and to make the weatherization process more efficient.

Good Samaritan Center: Explained that they do senior home repair and more funds have come into that program. They have a free health clinic that is on Fridays—recently just started. They have volunteer nurses that come in and she stated that this is a really great resource for adults without insurance. They serve rural Clay and all of Ray County.

Salvation Army: Working on changing water company policy regarding getting them to waive the late fees or do something that will benefit the client. Salvation Army also discussed their concerns with the pay day loan companies and asked if anything is being done to address this increasingly worrisome issue. Sarah mentioned that they should try and get in contact with MO Housing Preservation. She gave them the name of the person to contact (Debbie Irwin-- Beyond

Housing, Missouri Foreclosure Prevention Coordinator (314) 533-0476
Dirwin@beyondhousing.org.

MHDC: Sarah discussed the recapture funds process/requirements and how they will be notified. Sarah also stated that they could start pulling from their 2009 grant on April 1, 2009.

Adjournment

Next Meeting: June 9, 2009 @ 2pm