

September RHTM minutes:

Central-Region Five

September 18, 2008

In Attendance:

Teresa Brandon-Burrell Behavioral Health, Edwin Cooper-DMH, Patti Magruder- MACA, Dianna Moore-CMCA, Carol Baker-Phelps County Family Crisis, James Kimbro-Phoenix Programs, Vikki Pauley-Columbia H.A., Sandy Wilson-MASW, Linda Clemens- Ecumenical Ministries, Paul Nangole- Salvation Army, Steven Bacon- MDHSS, Flo Osborn- Salvation Army, Heather Bradley-Geary- MHDC, Mandy Fangmann- MHDC

Balance of State Continuum of Care Guide (see attachment):

-Mandy explained that at the last RHTM we briefly discussed what a Continuum of Care (CoC) is, what the Balance of State is, what the Governor's Committee to End Homelessness (GCEH) is, and what roles do MHDC, DMH, and MASW play with the CoC.

-Due to the new involvement with Trust Fund agencies at the Regional Housing Team Meetings (RHTMs) and new agencies involved in the CoC, the GCEH directed the CoC staff to compile a handout to explain the organization and roles within the Balance of State. Mandy pointed out the helpful websites at the end of the packet along with a list of acronyms and definitions. This will serve as an informational guide and will be updated as necessary or annually.

-If you have any questions or have suggestions on what you think would be helpful to have in the guide, please notify Mandy and she can pass that along to the GCEH.

Current Continuum of Care application:

Heather spoke about the current CoC application in to HUD for SHP and S+C funds. Heather mentioned that the Review Committee met the 1st week of September to review all submitted grants. Mandy and Liz to meet on September 20th to finalize last items and we will submit soon. HUD has extended the deadline to October 16th but we hope to get the application in much earlier. Our pro-rata share was roughly 2.9 million, we will apply for all renewals and three new projects; in addition applying for two set asides- DMH applying for Rapid Re-Housing around \$830,000 and a CoC agency is applying for the Samaritan Bonus that serves 100% chronically homeless.

Trust Fund Update:

Heather said the Trust Fund applications were due Friday. The preliminary numbers will be posted today, but note that the geographic allocations have not been broken out at this time...i.e.- MASW serves several regions throughout the state, but they are just listed right now in the Central Region b/c that is where they are located. The list will only note the agencies and the amounts that they applied for. Staff recommendations on the applications will be made to the Commission on 12/19, but do post them online a week before. Also, Heather mentioned that MHDC staff is considered on quiet period on

December 12-19th, and cannot accept phone calls or e-mails from anyone. Just note that MHDC staff is not ignoring you during this time if you contact any MHDC Trust Fund or CoC staff.

Point In Time Count (see attachment):

-Mandy thanked the county leaders for their assistance by taking on the role of a leader, and also mentioned that the leaders did a great job training their volunteers with completing the answers on the surveys. The more answers we receive completed on the survey, the better answers we can provide on Exhibit One application for the CoC-- Mandy mentioned that it affects the CoC scoring as well.

-Mandy briefly reviewed the recent PIT Count results (handout); 1862 on the first page is the total count, with 601 out of that being unsheltered. Region Five is detailed on page 6 of the handout, the total for Region Five was 104 unsheltered for a total of 408 homeless individuals and families; Mandy explained that 408 is the total of both sheltered and unsheltered numbers

-Mandy told group to use the information as needed--to apply for funding, show the need in their area, etc. If anyone would like more detailed information on a specific region or county, you can contact Mandy for unsheltered and Sandy for sheltered.

-Mandy mentioned that the GCEH will be looking for county leaders again soon, and will be hopefully be finalizing leaders at the December RHTM; if you know anyone that might be interested, please send their contact information to Mandy

Foreclosure (see attachment):

Heather discussed the foreclosure crisis in the state and the current allocation of funds to provide foreclosure counseling. Brochures were passed out with agencies receiving funds through a grant that MHDC received- these agencies provide free counseling. For more information, see the mhdc website- www.mhdc.com, go to Community Initiatives on the left and then the Foreclosure Mitigation link.

One thing to keep in mind is that MO is not a judicial state, and so families can be foreclosed on in basically 90 days, so it is imperative that people call in as soon as possible. We have five target areas in MO that are at a rate of more than 50% of mortgages past due—STL, St. Joseph, KC, Springfield, and Joplin.

Debbie Irwin with Beyond Housing was unable to attend, but handouts are attached with the minutes.

Shelter Plus Care-DMH:

-Edwin briefly gave an overview what the Shelter Plus Care program is and how referrals are made to the program and some of the roadblocks that are encountered. If you are not a DMH provider, it will be best to work directly with DMH and refer clients to DMH to work through the system. Edwin mentioned that there is availability in the Camdenton and Rolla area.

-If you need to contact Edwin, you can reach him at edwin.cooper@dmh.mo.gov

-Vikki explained not to get frustrated and to put in an application in Boone County/Columbia, as the waiting list continually changes. To contact Vikki, you can e-mail her at vpauley@columbiaha.com

Needs Assessment:

-Mandy reviewed the comments from the March RHTM discussion about the unmet needs in the local communities in this region. Mandy stated that this does help with some parts of planning for the CoC application, but also a report will be put together and shared with the Commission and the GCEH; this report is being finalized at this time with a goal to have a final report for the CoC at the December meeting. Attendees were given the opportunity to review a summary of the items that were mentioned in March and provide additional comments.

The comments from March were:

- difficulty to serve the chronic population and those with mental illness
 - landlords unwilling to work with population
 - not enough long-term resources to help them succeed
- lack of affordable housing and lack of cooperation with landlords to work an affordable rent
- section 8 waiting list and public housing wait lists make it very difficult to transition to PH
- specifically mentioned in Boone County, nowhere to go once discharged from hospitals
- individuals with outstanding bills cannot move into housing—landlords won't let them move in until their utilities are turned on, but the utility company won't turn on their utilities until their outstanding utility bill is paid; not enough resources to get their utilities paid so that they can move

The additional comments made at this meeting were:

- ES for homeless youth
- need for unique funding source for Re-Entry housing; no options for housing due to their criminal records
- transportation
- TH with wraparound services to work on their basic needs
- Vikki mentioned TBRA from City CDBG in Columbia has 17 slots that will not look at criminal records, but the 17 are not enough

-Steven shared the HOPWA STEP program for individuals exiting prison with HIV, working on a plan as they exit and providing assistance

-Edwin mentioned possibly getting permission to list the Oxford House and availability, but they are not really advertised, phoenix programs said the individuals have to be out of prison before they interview for entry into Oxford

-Diana Moore suggested putting the unmet needs report in the Consolidated Plan; Heather agreed; Edwin and Heather also mentioned public hearings in November will allow for public comment and suggested to attend

Homelessness Awareness Event (see attachment):

Sandy reviewed the details about the upcoming homelessness awareness event on November 20th, that falls in the National Homelessness and Hunger Awareness Week. Our event will take place in the 1st floor rotunda at the State Capitol. The GCEH will be holding their 3rd annual Poster Contest, with the theme “Our Community Cares About Homelessness”. All posters will be on display at the event, and the age categories will receive 1st, 2nd, and 3rd prizes. Any student/child can enter, the entries do not need to submit their poster through their school; invite your children, grandchildren, friends’ children, and children in local shelters and housing programs to submit posters. It was also noted that adults in shelters and housing programs can submit posters. They will not be eligible for prizes, but their posters will be displayed and will receive an honorary mention and certificate.

-Sandy reviewed the event schedule and talked about the opportunity for agencies to have a display table at the event. Right now there is only space for about 15 tables, the Homelessness Awareness Committee is asking for those that can use a ½ table to note that on their table registration form to allow space for more agencies to set up.

-Sandy asked for assistance with calling local schools and HeadStart programs to be sure that they have received the information on the poster contest. If they have not, please supply them with the forms or provide them with Sandy’s or Mandy’s contact information and encourage them to participate. (see attached handouts)

Resource Sheet (see attachment):

-Mandy mentioned that staff will plan to have a resource sheet to hand out at each RHTM; if anyone would like to add something to the list please contact us at least a month in advance of the next scheduled RHTM to be added

-Mandy highlighted some items from the sheet—MHDC has an affordable housing search option posted online now, go to www.mhdc.com and click on the link on the right side of the home page; Also the Springfield CoC has developed a board game that takes the players through an experience of homelessness, details and contact information is on the resource sheet, games are \$149

HMIS/MASW:

-Sandy discussed the upcoming MASW conference and passed out the pamphlets with conference details.

-Sandy talked about the accountability to agencies for data quality in HMIS, this is important for the CoC application, as well as the BoS HMIS data will be submitted and used for HUD’s AHAR (homeless assessment report) this year—all information needs to be current and accurate by September 30, 2008. If you have problems, please contact the office to assist with meeting your needs and helping with any problems.

-Sandy reminded everyone about the basic and advanced online trainings. This is now being instituted before individuals can receive their username and password.

-Sandy encouraged feedback on the website, if it is user friendly, are there are items that are hard to find on the page.

-The sheltered PIT count was discussed. For all agencies entering in the HMIS for ES and TH, that information is pulled off the system. However, if the agencies are not in the system there is a need for Sandy to know about the new agencies that are providing ES and TH, along with agencies that are not new but are providing this type of housing. At the December meeting, Sandy will ask for information on local agencies and churches that provide this yet may not be in the HMIS system.

Other Announcements:

-As a facilitator for the Coalition for the MHTF, Sandy discussed the Senate Select Committee that is looking at the effectiveness of the trust fund; the first step was to hold hearings across the state; the last one to be in STL has been determined by the SS Committee as unnecessary. She discussed a few of the ideas on generating an increase in the trust fund that were discussed at the hearings. Sandy asked to stay tuned to her e-mails about the progress and calls for action.

-Heather announced that at MHDC, the Community Initiatives Department now has a link online at www.mhdc.com with details on the programs that fall under the CI Department--- Trust Fund, Foreclosure Mitigation, and CoC with information on RHTMs and staff contact information is now available.

Mandy announced the next meeting is set for December 2nd in Jefferson City, MO.