

**March Regional Housing Team Meeting  
Region Five  
March 9, 2009**

In Attendance:

Ruth Adkins- Salvation Army, Carol Baker- PCFCS/Russell House, Kristin Baker- New Horizons, Edwin Cooper-MO DMH, Brooke Dawson- MO DMH-Comp Psych. Services, Jennifer Graves- Comprehensive Human Services/The Shelter, Patti Magruder- MACA, Dianna Moore- CMCA, Joanne Ivey- MASW, Vicki Bullock- Salvation Army Center of Hope, Kyrie Brumley- MOCA-Pulaski County PHA, Beth Rachau-MOCA, Amanda O'Bryan- Salvation Army Columbia Corps., Craig Valone- Burrell Behavioral Health, Rebecca Roesslet- Columbia/Boone County Office of Community Services, Julie Roark- SERVE, Inc., Sandy Wilson-MASW, Mandy Fangmann-MHDC

Governor's Committee to End Homelessness (GCEH) Update

- Annual Report: Mandy announced that the annual report has been sent to the Governor's office. Mandy thanked everyone for their participation with submitting media documents that showcased their community; these documents were included in the annual report.
- SOAR Committee: Brooke Dawson and Kristin Baker gave a brief overview of what SOAR stands for, SSI/SSDI Outreach Access Recovery. SOAR is a federal program that trains providers on how to access SSI and SSDI for clients. SOAR is holding training on April 1<sup>st</sup> and April 2<sup>nd</sup> in Fulton. Please contact Brooke Dawson at [Brooke.Dawson@dmh.mo.gov](mailto:Brooke.Dawson@dmh.mo.gov) for more information.
- Re-Entry Committee: Dianna Moore gave a report for this committee which is led by Vevia Sturm at Department of Corrections. The committee meets monthly and is addressing issues with the housing authority, Federal Rules and Regulations on Section 8, working with Probation and Parole Regions to find the challenges with placing ex-offenders and looking at home plans- how long they last and studying how they work. The committee is working on getting a question on the Point In Time Count surveys to address ex-offenders. In addition, the committee is working with HMIS leaders to allow an intake question to be formed around incarceration. For more information please contact Vevia Sturm at [Vevia.Sturm@doc.mo.gov](mailto:Vevia.Sturm@doc.mo.gov).
- Awareness Committee: Sandy reported that the Governor's Committee will be holding a homeless awareness day event again in November of 2009. In 2010 it is the goal of the Governor's Committee to hold a mini-conference in conjunction with homeless awareness day. This will take a larger committee and support. To volunteer for the awareness committee, please contact Sandy Wilson at [Wilson@masw.org](mailto:Wilson@masw.org).
- Project Homeless Connect Committee: Mandy gave a brief overview of Project Homeless Connect, a day set aside to provide results to people who are homeless. Mandy stated that the GCEH is excited for the first event that they will be planning and she discussed her experience volunteering at a San Francisco Project Connect event. This is an event that provides results rather than referrals. The day will include services including, but not limited to haircuts, pedicures, connections to housing, medical check-ups/health screenings, etc. Balance of State will be holding the first Project Homeless Connect on August 7, 2009 in Columbia. Mandy stated that the goal is to move the event

around the state to a new community each year or every other year. Mandy announced that the committee needs more volunteers and the event needs volunteers. To volunteer for Project Homeless Connect, please contact Mandy Fangmann at [mfangmann@mhdc.com](mailto:mfangmann@mhdc.com) or Jenni Miller at [jmiller@mhdc.com](mailto:jmiller@mhdc.com).

#### Continuum of Care updates

- HUD Announcements: Mandy referred everyone to the handouts (*see attachments*), a list of agencies funded under the 2008 HUD announcements and a chart of funding amounts over the last several years. Mandy stated that it is an exciting time for the entire State of Missouri. The GCEH is excited to announce that the Balance of State Continuum of Care was fully funded with the exception of one bonus grant for rapid re-housing. Mandy congratulated the agencies on this year's application. Mandy discussed that there are new projects in the Central Region.
- Technical Submission Training: Mandy announced that the Governor's Committee will be holding a technical submission training on April 1, 2009 in Jefferson City, Truman Building, room 400. The technical submission is paperwork that is due to HUD after initial approval of the grant; part 2 of the application process that will ask for more details on your budget, goals, etc. Mandy explained that this will hopefully help alleviate much extra time spent going back and forth with HUD to make corrections. Any agency that is being funded is strongly encouraged to attend, this is not a required training. Any agency that is thinking about applying for funds in the future is also invited to attend. It was discussed that HUD will not allow the use of Admin. Dollars to attend this training; only trainings that HUD sponsors are allowed for this use. Roy encouraged the GCEH to work closely with HUD to change this policy.
- 2009 NOFA: Mandy announced that the HUD NOFA for Continuum of Care funds are usually released in Spring, but it could be closer to Summer depending on how HUD handles this current round of funding. The last NOFA was posted in June. Once the NOFA posts, the Governor's Committee will hold be holding an application (Exhibit Two) training.
- FMR Update: Mandy announced that the Governor's Committee is working with HUD to determine if agencies can increase their FMR rates at renewal. It has been discussed with HUD and the GCEH Planning Committee that agencies can only increase their FMR at renewal time...and must submit a letter with supporting documentation. The GCEH will continue to work with HUD to nail down the formal process for this.

#### Point In Time Count (sheltered and unsheltered)

- Winter Count Update (Unsheltered): Mandy announced that Missouri Housing Development Commission is still working on the final report. Due to the winter storm that occurred on January 28, 2009 and staff changes the process has been delayed. Mandy shared preliminary unsheltered numbers for Region Five. Several parts of the state was affected by the storm and we have been seeing drastic changes in results. Mandy stated that there will be a note included in the HUD application and on the PITC report to explain why these numbers are such a significant change from previous counts.

- Winter Court Update (Sheltered): Sandy Wilson announced that MASW is continuing to work on the sheltered count; at this point the preliminary number is just over 1300 people that were sheltered on January 28, 2009. An in-depth report will be posted on MASW's website.
- Summer Count: Mandy stated that the next count will occur on July 29, 2009. At the June regional meetings, volunteers will be asked to cover counties. All CoC's in the state will be counting on the same day.

### Poverty Summit

Mandy announced that a poverty summit will be held on June 9, 2009. There was a handout (*see attachment*) given to meeting participants. For more information or to register the link is [www.moaction.org](http://www.moaction.org).

### MASW updates

Sandy Wilson stated that the Coalition for the Missouri Housing Trust Fund continues to work on SB268 to increase the Trust Fund. The bill received a hearing on March 4, 2009, but the committee did not vote it out on the floor. If you are not receiving information regarding the increase, please let Sandy know by contacting her at [wilson@masw.org](mailto:wilson@masw.org).

Sandy briefly discussed the HMIS steering committee and stated that she will be appointing HMIS users from each region of the state. If this is something that your agency would be interested in being a part of, please let Sandy know by contacting her at [Wilson@masw.org](mailto:Wilson@masw.org). You can nominate yourself or a colleague. The steering committee meets four times per year. The next meeting will be held on May 29, 2009.

### Resource Sheet

Mandy briefly reviewed information on the handout (*see attachment*); she referred people to the Transform Missouri website that was developed by Jay Nixon's office. This is a way to share your thoughts and feedback about how to use the stimulus money and create jobs in MO. Mandy also discussed the Angel Food Ministries resource; especially during these hard times it is a good resource for everyone. Anyone can qualify; there are no income restrictions or application process.

Heather pointed out that Missouri Housing Trust Fund grant applications will be due on September 11, 2009. The application will be posted in early June. Public hearings will be held in May; she encouraged everyone to have their voice heard. For more information please go to the following link [www.mhdc.com](http://www.mhdc.com).

### Agency reports/announcements

- Missouri Housing Development Commission: Heather Bradley-Geary stated that the homeless study is almost complete and will be released in April of 2009.

- SERVE: Announced that they have a new TF grant. They are in Callaway County; offer food pantry, job skills and application assistance
- Columbia/Boone County Office of Community Services: Rebecca explained that they oversee social service funding requests
- Burrell Behavioral Health: Craig mentioned that they are in the Parkade Clinic, they are building PH and 811 housing that is moving fast in Columbia. They have DMH \$\$ to provide free counseling to families of returning Vets. You can go online to DMH website and locate your Administrative Agent for your Region of the State of Missouri.
- Phoenix Programs: It was announced that Leland Stepney has transferred from his housing position and is now providing counseling at Phoenix Programs. Alisha Wallace is taking over his old position.
- CMCA: They are working on a Youth TH project; students at University of MO Design School are finishing the final design which will be a “green” design. The project will house 10 homeless youth for up to 12-18 months. She also mentioned that the weatherization dollars are going up around July 1<sup>st</sup>; check out the website. She mentioned that the poverty level requirements have increased to 200% of the level at this time. There is an application online that clients can complete- showmeaction.org
- Salvation Army: Described their services they provide; clothing and food vouchers, utility and rental assistance.
- Comprehensive Human Services: Jennifer Graves stated they are excited for their next round of Trust Fund dollars. They provide 1<sup>st</sup> time Rent and Utility Deposit for clients in their DV Shelter that are moving out on their own. She mentioned that April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month. They are doing presentations and training opportunities that you can keep a look out for.
- Russell House: Carol explained that they are a DV shelter. They provide Rent and Utility assistance to avoid eviction. They will be holding Sexual Assault Awareness activities as well.
- MACA: Weatherization is up to \$5 Billion; Community Services Block Grants to allow staffing in the Counties to 1 Billion; LIHEAP increased as well. Encouraged everyone to get in touch with their CAA.
- DMH: Edwin mentioned 4 new Shelter Plus Care grants; he mentioned vacancies in Kirksville and Hannibal programs
- New Horizons: Kristin two programs- Community Support and PATH/Projects for Assistance with Transition from Homelessness that provides case management and psych services. She also mentioned that she is a SOAR Trainer; they will be providing education to case managers to help their clients access their SSI/SSDI and avoid waiting for a hearing months or a year down the road. She announced an upcoming training and encouraged agency staff to attend.
- MOCA: Discussed the increase in LIHEAP and FEMA
- Salvation Army- Center of Hope: Mentioned services such as help with GED, job skills, life skills; they have a new computer lab with 10 desktops and 5 laptops for clients to use. Vicki discussed how they are not here to be in competition with agencies, but rather to work with agencies in town to help find resources for clients if they cannot provide the requested services. Ruth mentioned that they have seen an increase in requests for assistance.