

**September Regional Housing Team Meeting  
Southeast Region Seven  
September 16, 2008**

(Handouts: CoC guide, July 2008 PIT Count Reports,  
Homelessness Awareness Flyers, Resource Sheet)

In Attendance:

Ripley County Crisis Shelter-Leah Wiggs, Ripley County Crisis Shelter-Elaine Clark-Marten, United Gospel Rescue Mission-Rita Cooksey, Ripley County Public Housing-Kelli Ibrahim, SEMO CTC-Stephanie Thomas, Family Counseling Center-Laura Williams, ILCSEMO-Kathie Kearbey, SCMCAA-Stephanie Moeller, SEMO Christian Restoration Center-Daniel Larkins, SEMO Christian Restoration Center-Margaret Moore, MASW-Sandy Wilson, United Gospel Rescue Mission-Rev. Gregory W. Kirk, John J. Pershing VA MC-Kris Bowlby, MHDC-Heather Bradley-Geary, MHDC-Hillary Unrein, MHDC-Jenni Holtaway, OFRPC-Ilene Ward, John J. Pershing VA MC-Casey Sisco, SEMO Christian Restoration Center-Martessa Harmon, Poplar Bluff City Council-Lloyd Matthews, DMH-Edwin Cooper.

Introductions

Overview of Continuum of Care:

Jenni introduced the 2008 Missouri Balance of State Continuum of Care Guide. In conjunction with the Governor's Committee to End Homelessness the three Balance of State coordinators created the guide to outline the tasks of the Governor's Committee to End Homelessness and the Continuum of Care. Jenni pointed out the organizational charts in the beginning of the guide. Everyone was advised to read the guide on their own time. Jenni also pointed out the last page which has helpful websites and definitions. The Governor's Committee along with the coordinators hope to visit this guide annually to keep it updated.

Point in Time Count:

The report from the 2008 summer point in time count was handed out. The new summer report is set up exactly like the winter report. The current report has both summer and winter numbers for each region for comparison. The very last page of the report has the sheltered and unsheltered numbers reported for each county. There was a discussion held about how the point in time count went during the summer. The next point in time count will be during the last week of January, most likely that Wednesday. The January count is required by HUD.

A question came up about creating a name badge or some way to identify that you are a volunteer of the Governor's Committee to End Homelessness during the point in time count. Jenni will bring this suggestion to the GCEH and report back to the group.

### Foreclosure:

Debbie Irwin from Beyond Housing planned to talk about foreclosure. Debbie fell ill and could not be at the meeting. Heather Bradley-Geary spoke in her place. Heather explained that in December of 2007 the United States Government distributed monies for Housing Finance Agencies to distribute to agencies providing foreclosure counseling. MHDC applied for and was awarded these monies. There are nine agencies throughout the State of Missouri that MHDC supports with this money in order to provide foreclosure mitigation. These agencies can be found on the MHDC website under the Community Initiatives tab. Jenni will email the foreclosure handouts that Debbie planned to give out.

### Shelter Plus Care:

Edwin Cooper talked about shelter plus care. Edwin reported that the shelter plus care program in Poplar Bluff has a very large waiting list. He reported that there were thirty plus people on the waiting list. Edwin stated that he did not want to discourage anyone from sending in applications and that they are always taking them. He asked providers to send him applications if they have anyone who meets the shelter plus care eligibility criteria.

### Needs Assessment:

Jenni handed out a list of unmet needs that was compiled from a discussion at the March 5, 2008 regional housing team meeting. Jenni asked for the group to look over the list to see if there was anything they would like to see added. The list of unmet needs will be put into a report for the whole state by region that Heather Bradley-Geary will present to the Commissioners. After a short discussion, the need for an emergency shelter and transitional housing for women and children (closest is Doniphan), economy/gas, section 8 waiting list, and no half way houses were added to the list of unmet needs. It was also discussed that the SEMO Christian Restoration Center's emergency shelter does not house anyone with a felony and there is a need for this population.

Lloyd Matthews from the Poplar Bluff City Council was in attendance. He thanked all of the providers for their continued hard work in providing housing and social services. He suggested the possibility of MHDC presenting to the City annually on the SHP programs and housing issues. It was suggested that MHDC in conjunction with the providers in this region present that information.

### Homelessness Awareness Day:

Sandy Wilson discussed the homelessness awareness day poster contest. The theme this year is "our community cares about homelessness". Sandy urged everyone to take five minutes to call your local schools and head starts to make sure they are aware of the contest. All posters submitted will be on display at the Capitol during homelessness awareness day on November 20, 2008. The event will run from 10am to 2pm. Sandy announced that there would be display tables available for agencies at the event. There will be half tables for agencies in order to fit

more in. The tables can be registered for on a first come, first serve basis. Please see the attached handouts for more information on homelessness awareness day.

#### Resource Sheet:

Jenni stated that she wanted to point out three items on the resource sheet. The first item was the game created by the Springfield Continuum of Care. The game that was developed is called "survival". It is a game intended to work like a poverty simulation. It gives the players a chance to experience what homeless individuals experience by moving forward, backward, collecting clothing, finding shelter, picking think about it cards with national statistics on them, etc. The game is brand new and a kit can be purchased for \$149. Please contact Michelle Garand (contact information on resource sheet) for more information about the game.

The next resource that Jenni pointed out is the new Community Initiatives Department link on the MHDC website. If you go to the MHDC home page on the left hand side there is the link. This will lead to contact information along with information related to the Missouri Housing Trust Fund and the Continuum of Care. Jenni also pointed out the new housing locator button on the MHDC website. On the home page of the MHDC website you can click on the housing locator button and find listings of affordable housing by county.

#### HMIS:

Sandy Wilson talked about HMIS. She mentioned a new post-test that will be given to anyone who is becoming a new user with the HMIS system. This test must be passed in order to get a username and password. She discussed the need for quality data in the HMIS system. The Balance of State Continuum of Care has been chosen to be included in HUD's AHAR. Everyone's HMIS data needs to be current by September 30<sup>th</sup>.

#### Next Meeting:

The next meeting will take place December 4, 2008 at 9 a.m.