

**December Regional Housing Team Meeting
South Central Region Eight
March 11, 2009**

(Handouts: CoC Awards, CoC Funding History, Poverty Summit Flyer, Resource sheet)

In Attendance:

MHDC-Jenni Miller, MHDC-Heather Bradley-Geary, Christos House-Jennifer Miller, Christos House-Kathy Barron, Samaritan Outreach Center-Vicki Elmore, Texas County Food Pantry-Sister Clare Reinert, MASW-Sandy Wilson, Agape Home-Robert Soucy, Ozark Action Inc.-Paul Clark, Probation and Parole-Richard Chronister.

Governor's Committee to End Homelessness (GCEH) Update:

- Annual Report: Jenni Miller announced that the annual report for the Governor's Committee to End Homelessness (GCEH) has been completed and submitted to the Governor's office. Jenni thanked all of the agencies who send in media pieces for the public relations portion of the report. Jenni explained that although the GCEH is made up of appointed members, there are sub-committees that anyone is welcome to join. The group went over the current active sub-committees.
- SOAR Committee: Heather Bradley-Geary gave a report on the SOAR Committee. SOAR stands for SSI/SSDI Outreach and Recovery. SOAR is a specific model for assisting people with obtaining disability benefits. Responsibilities of the SOAR Committee include training and technical assistance to implement the SOAR model throughout Missouri to help homeless individuals with a disability obtain their disability income within a reasonable amount of time (90-120 days rather than 3 years). There will be a SOAR training April 1-2 in Fulton. Space is limited.
- Re-entry Committee: Jenni explained that this group is working with probation and parole to understand the challenges of placing ex-offenders into housing plans. They are studying how housing plans for ex-offenders work. The group is also looking into federal rules and regulations on Section 8 to see if this might be a housing avenue for ex-offenders. The committee is also working with the GCEH to add a question to the unsheltered Point in Time Count survey and the HMIS intake form. The committee would like to see a question identifying if the reason for homelessness is incarceration.
- Awareness Committee: Sandy Wilson explained the responsibilities of the Awareness Committee. These include planning and hosting Legislative Awareness Day and Homelessness Awareness Day annually. The Awareness Committee is looking for new members to possibly expand Homelessness Awareness Day 2010 into a mini-conference. Contact Sandy if you are interested in joining or assisting this committee.
- Project Homeless Connect Committee: Jenni explained that this is new committee that is dedicated to planning, coordinating and facilitating the first Project Homeless Connect event for the GCEH. The event will take place in Columbia on August 7, 2009 at the Silverthorne Arena on the Stephens College

campus. This event is designed after the National Project Homeless Connect model that originated in San Francisco. The main goal of the event is to provide homeless individuals with results and not referrals on the day of the Connect. The Columbia/Boone County event will serve as a single access point for homeless families and individuals to receive assistance and resources on one day. The goal is to move the event around the State to a new community each year. Jenni announced that Springfield will be hosting a similar event on March 24, 2009 called the Hope Connection at the OTC campus. Jenni let the group know that she is co-chairing this committee with Mandy Fangmann of MHDC and to let her know if anyone is interested in volunteering for the event or just attending the event to see what a Project Connect looks like.

CoC Updates:

- HUD Announcements: Jenni announced that HUD had made award announcements for Continuum of Care SHP funding. Jenni was happy to announce that the Balance of State (BoS) received all of its new and renewal projects along with a Samaritan Bonus project to serve chronically homeless individuals. The BoS was awarded just over 4.5 million dollars, making it the most money to ever come into the Missouri BoS. Heather Bradley-Geary thanked all of the agencies that worked very hard on the Exhibit Two's and thanked the Coordinators and Planning Committee for their hard work on the Exhibit One portion of the application. Jenni referred the group to the two funding handouts. The first handout was a list of all of the applications that went through with the BoS application that were funded. The handout lists the agency, region, new or renewal grant, project type, amount requested, and the amount actually awarded by HUD. Jenni stated that DAEOC was listed as region 7 for both of their projects and they are actually in region 6. These changes will be made when the handout goes out on the minutes. The second handout lists the funding history of the Missouri BoS.
- Technical Submission Training: Jenni announced that the GCEH will be holding technical submission training for those who are funded or for those who anticipate applying in the future. Funded agencies are highly encouraged to attend, although this is not a required training. The technical submission is the next step for agencies awarded SHP dollars. The technical submission is the final agreement between the agency and HUD. This document outlines final details on a program's budget, goals, etc. The GCEH hopes that this training will help alleviate the time agencies spend going back and forth with HUD to make corrections. This training will be April 1, 2009 in Jefferson City at the Truman Building. It is not yet clear whether or not renewal agencies will have to submit technical submissions. Jenni will keep the group posted.
- 2009 NOFA: Jenni discussed the 2009 NOFA for the CoC grants. Jenni stated that the NOFA should come out in the spring, but posted last year closer to summer. The GCEH will be announcing another application training to be held once the NOFA is released.

- FMR Update: Heather Bradley-Geary stated that the GCEH is working with HUD on a formal process for agencies to request an increase in their FMR. It has been discussed with HUD and the GCEH Planning Committee that agencies can only increase their FMR at renewal time by submitting a letter with supporting documentation. The GCEH will continue to work with HUD and the group will be updated when further information is available.

Point in Time Count (Sheltered and Unsheltered):

- Winter Count Update (Unsheltered): Jenni discussed the Winter 2009 Point in Time Count that took place on January 28, 2009. Due to the ice storm that devastated most of the South and parts of the Central regions some areas were not able to perform a count. Jenni announced that St. Louis City called HUD and re-scheduled their count that morning. The BoS and every other continuum went forward with the count on January 28. Jenni stated that they are still receiving surveys from agencies and thanked everyone for the information that they were able to obtain. Jenni thanked everyone who assisted with the count. MHDC is still working on a final report due to the storm and staff changes. A report will be mailed out to the group and discussed in the June Regional Housing Team Meeting. Jenni explained that although the BoS does a count twice a year, HUD requires a count every other year in the last week of January. This happened to be the year that HUD requires a count. Jenni stated that the GCEH is prepared to explain the circumstances of the count in the next Exhibit One section of the CoC application. A discussion was held about the ice storm in the area. Jenni thanked all of the county leaders and let them know that the surveys that were sent into Kathy Barron had to reflect one survey per individual or household. You cannot put multiple people on one survey. Kathy is still waiting for a few survey corrections and she will send onto Jenni.
- Winter Count Update (Sheltered): Sandy Wilson announced that she has preliminary numbers of just over 1300 people that were sheltered on January 28, 2009. Sandy will have a full report of the sheltered portion of the count broken down by sub-population soon posted on the MASW website. Agencies are encouraged to let Sandy know if they know of any agencies providing shelter or hotel/motel vouchers in their communities because she might not know about them and they need to be included in the sheltered count.
- Summer Count: Jenni let the group know that the summer count date has been set for July 29, 2009. All continua in the State of Missouri will count on that day. Jenni explained that by having all of the continua count on the same day it reduces the possible duplication of numbers in the State. The summer count will be very important to get accurate numbers since the winter count will most likely not reflect the true number of unsheltered homeless individuals and families. Jenni passed around a sign-up sheet for county leaders.

Poverty Summit:

Jenni explained that Missouri will hold its first Poverty Summit on June 9, 2009 in Jefferson City at the Capitol Plaza and referred to the Save the Date handout. The Registration deadline for the summit is May 15, 2009. Jenni explained that the group could refer to MACA's website (www.communityaction.org) on the bottom of the Save the Date flyers to gather further information, register, donate, etc. The general cost of registration is \$35, the rate for students and senior citizens is \$25, and \$10 for low-income participants. Jenni encouraged the group to keep sending the Save the Date flyer out.

MASW Updates:

Sandy updated the group on the Coalition for the Missouri Housing Trust Fund. The Coalition 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. Sandy asked that anyone not receiving these updates should let her know so that she can add them to the list.

DMH Updates:

Heather-Bradley Geary explained the Rent Assistance Program (RAP) program that is offered by DMH. This program is intended to fill the gap for people waiting for housing as a bridge subsidy. It can also be used as for special project based assistance and as a permanent rental subsidy for people who may not qualify for Section 8 or Shelter plus Care. For further information please contact Liz Hagar-Mace or Edwin Cooper at the Department of Mental Health.

Resource Sheet:

Jenni discussed the resource sheet that was handed out (*see attachment*). The first section refers to general information. Jenni talked about Angel Food Ministries and the group discussed several locations in the area. Jenni talked about the toolkits from HUD and encouraged the group to always check the HUD Homeless Resource Exchange (HRE) website. The HUD resources listed focused on employment strategies. Jenni discussed the grants section. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) announced two grant opportunities related to services that can be provided in housing programs. The Missouri Housing Trust Fund 2010 NOFA will be posted online at mhdc.com in spring 2009. Application trainings have been posted; you can also refer to the website for this information. Jenni mentioned another resource that was not on the resource sheet that was discussed in one of the central region meetings. There is a counseling program for families of returning veterans. The program has licensed therapists to work with the family members. The program does not require participants to have a diagnosis and services are free. The program is available statewide and they have service coordinators for each region called Administrative Agents. You can look for your region on the DMH website.

Agency Reports/Announcements:

- MHDC: Heather announced that the homeless study would be released in April, 2009. Heather also announced that public hearings for the MHTF will be coming up and the time and date will be posted on the MHDC website.
- MASW: Sandy announced that there are some serious potential cuts to DMH. She explained how this would affect things and urges people to take action. Please contact Liz Hagar-Mace for further information.
- Agape Home: Robert announced that they have a 14 bed shelter. People stay from 60-90 days. They are funded by local donations and ESG grants. Robert is fairly new to the agency and looking for guidance from other agencies.
- Ozark Action Inc.: Paul announced that the stimulus money for their weatherization program is going to be huge. They will go from assisting 60 homes per year to almost 400. He mentioned that income guidelines will go from 150% to 200%. Head Start will be trying to add new classrooms. A discussion about stimulus money was held with the whole group.
- Samaritan Outreach Center: Vicki announced that SOC has been approached about writing the CDBG grant for their new shelter. This is due the last day of March. There will be a public hearing on Friday. She discussed the ice storm and that there are still limbs on their roof.
- Christos House: Kathy explained that they have a 36 bed facility to serve women and children. They try to have the women exit within 90 days. Their director has resigned and Susan is acting as their director at this time. She mentioned that they have outreach offices and resale stores in Alton and West Plains.
- Texas County Food Pantry: Sister Clare asked a question about the 2009 MHTF desk guide. Heather Bradley-Geary addressed the addition of a safe and sanitary environment. A discussion was held about what to do when you are working with landlords with sub-standard properties.
- Department of Corrections: Richard discussed the Re-entry local steering teams in Howell and Wright counties. Howell county is working with Ozark Action Inc. He discussed their third resource fair for ex-offenders and said they are going really well. They are trying to have them every quarter. They are looking for additional members for the re-entry committee. He discussed community re-entry awards. Howell county applied, they are going to be annual awards at up to \$25, 000.

HMIS Technical Assistance:

There was not technical assistance session. For HMIS questions and assistance please contact Sandy Wilson.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will take place June 2, 2009 at 2 pm. The location is TBA.