



Three Rivers Community Action, Inc.

Serving people in Goodhue, Rice, and Wabasha Counties

**Goodhue County Homeless Response Team Minutes
Friendship House, 480 W 5th Street
Red Wing, Minnesota
January 5, 2009, 10:00 a.m.**

Attendance

Facilitator: Shirley Gregory, Three Rivers Community Action, Inc
Cathy Goggin, New Beginnings Pregnancy and Family Services
Doug Foster, Common Bond
Kris Kvols, Goodhue/Wabasha Sexual Assault
Janae Blakeslee, Cannon Falls Area Schools
Jane Wassink, Red Wing Schools
Jane Whiteside
Janet Adams, Goodhue County Adult Detention Center
Jeanne Follstad, Catholic Charities Counseling
JoAnn McNamara, HOPE Coalition
Marilyn Olson, Seniors Community Service Employment Program
Melissa Olson, Workforce Development, Inc.
Parker Quammen, Goodhue County Habitat for Humanity
Tim Sletten, Red Wing Police Department

Recording Secretary: Jenae Pagel, Three Rivers Community Action, Inc

Welcome and Introductions

Welcome and introductions were made.

Approval of December 1, 2009 Minutes and January 5, 2010 Agenda

Tim Sletten made a motion to approve the December 1, 2009 minutes and the January 5, 2010 agenda. Kris Kvols seconded, the motion was approved.

Training Opportunities

Shirley Gregory said that the SOAR Work Group scheduled for January 15, 2010 is cancelled. Instead they will be hosting a "GAMC Community Partner Forum" for anyone interested in learning more about how to help their clients on GAMC who will be transitioning to Minnesota Care starting March 1, 2010.

January 28, 2010 is the Point in Time Homeless Count for HUD. This is only a one day count. Shirley said that if you know of anyone who is homeless on that day or someone comes in to your office please count them and give the name to her. Shirley will send out an email to everyone a couple days before the count to remind them. Tim Sletten said that there is at least one person that he knows of who is homeless and living in his car. He said that many people have offered him places to stay and he chooses not to stay in his car.

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CoC Update

No CoC updates.

Program Sharing

Janet Adams shared some information for Jack Nordgaard about the Free Clinic. This clinic will be for people who do not have any insurance and are low income. The clinic will be open every Tuesday night starting January 26, 2010. It will be open from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and is located in the Emergency Room of the old Fairview Hospital. As of right now, the clinic will not be taking appointments. Rather it is one on a first come-first serve basis. At the February meeting she will bring in flyers and brochures for everyone to pass out so people know about it. Shirley said that there was a nice article in the Rochester paper about the Free Clinic.

Parker Quammen said that they found a family for their Red Wing house. They sold two houses and now found another qualifying family for a future home. They plan on building a house in Red Wing and in Lake City. They have sent a lot of applications out and received few back.

Marilyn Olson said that her program is full at this time, but heard yesterday that a short term spot will be open because of stimulus money. They have to be 55 years of age or older and low income to qualify for her program.

Kris Kvols said that they are switching their name to SARA (Sexual Assault Resource Agency). They are starting a support group on January 14, 2010 for victims or survivors of sexual assault. It will run for ten weeks. They are now doing an electronic version of their newsletter instead of paper version. They will be asking for permission to add people's email addresses to the list for the newsletter.

JoAnn McNamara said that what she has seen a lot of disconnect threats with water bills in the Community Care program. She said that the late fees are getting really high and asked that if as a group, we could do something about it. As soon as clients get a shut off notice, they get charged the late fee before they are even shut off. Kris Kvols added that the letter/shut off notice is pretty aggressive. The fees just keep adding up and never stop; it's hard for people to get caught up after they miss a payment. JoAnn said that she would like to bring this to the Council members at a City Hall meeting. Parker Quammen wanted to know what they would bring to the Council. JoAnn said that she would like to ask them to bring down the late fee charges to the price they were originally. She was wondering if there could be a grace period for these people to get their money paid. Tim Sletten said that another option would be to invite someone from Public Works here to our meeting or set up a separate meeting time to talk to us about what is actually happening. He said that way we get more information before we take it in front of the Council and make sure have our facts correct. JoAnn said that she would contact someone from public works to set up a meeting. She also said that if people were interested in joining her for the meeting they are welcome. Jane Wassink said that a lot of kids use the shower at school because their water is shut off at home.

Shirley said that she has been really busy but expects her work load to slow down soon as some of her programs are spent out. She only has three programs with funds left to help people with and they are RHASP, HPRP and United Way funds. Emergency Food and Shelter dollars should be refunded by April. Three Rivers currently has two openings for Transitional Housing.

Doug Foster said that things have been going pretty well. They are dealing with a mother and her two children right now who live in one of the long term units. She was arrested for possession of a substance and was given a ten day notice to vacate. She has the option to fight

the case. Doug said that as of right now she is innocent until proven guilty. He said that as of this point he doesn't know what is going to happen.

Janae Blakeslee said that the NHS (National Honor Society) did a great job raising money for the food shelf.

Jane Wassink said that they continue to see an increase of families doubling up. She also said that the Shop with a Cop was really neat and went well. Tim Sletten said that it was a success. The officers were great with the kids and they also had to K-9 there and the kids loved him. Walmart was great and they couldn't have asked for anything better.

Cathy Goggins said they had about 800 clients come through last year. They saw 22 babies being born as well. They are funded through donations and grants.

Melissa Olson said they just started a culinary program which has 15 students. They partnered with Southeast Technical College to do it. It's held at Mississippi National Golf Links.

Next Meeting Date/Time: February 2, 2010 10:00 a.m. Friendship House Conference Room.