



Three Rivers Community Action, Inc.

Serving people in Goodhue, Rice, and Wabasha Counties

Rice County Homeless Response Team Minutes
Tuesday, January 12, 2010
Fourth Avenue United Methodist Church
Ruth's House Outreach Office
Faribault, MN

Attending:

Carol Juvland, Three Rivers Community Action, Inc. (TRCA)
Debbie Carter-Barth, Project Home
Jamie Grohman, Rice County Social Services
Joyce Grabowski, Ruth's House
Kari Lynn, Hope Center
Katrina DeYoung-Harper, Rice County Public Health
Karen Kroll, TRCA Mary Anne Higgins, Faribault Commons
Mary Anne Higgins, Faribault Commons
Sue Warring, Community Action Center of Northfield
Recording Secretary: Jenny Nelson, TRCA

I. Welcome & Introductions

Members were welcomed to the meeting and introductions were made.

II. Review & Approval of January agenda and December minutes

Debbie Carter-Barth motioned to approve the January 12, 2010 agenda and the December 8, 2009 minutes; Jamie Grohman seconded the motion; motion carried.

III. Discussion

a. Living on Little Event

- Being that we just held the last event in September, it is a good idea that we are moving the date out since they would have been quite close together. The idea had been to hold the event in January to coincide with HUD's Point in Time survey, but the people who meet HUD's definition of truly homeless have moved out of the area. The population is now in the southern states – staying in this area now while being homeless per HUD's definition is basically a death sentence. Since federal funding is attached to the numbers, we will still need to capture this information; we will just not be able to get the info on HUD's chosen date. The Community Kitchen, which is now up and running, may be a good place to do the count.

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Wabasha, MN 55981
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- In discussing when to hold the next event, it was brought up that during the summer people can camp and fish, so numbers may be low as they would not be experiencing an emergency at that time. In September it may have been too late as people might have already started moving south; everything depends on the weather. We need to find people who are good at being invisible, and we want to see people we've never seen before. With all of the time that is being invested in this we are looking to get new information and see new faces. Perhaps Leonard could help us to plan – he may know when people start getting back into the area. Schools may also have population information for seasonal workers. It was a general consensus that sometime at the end of April or the beginning of May would be a good time to hold the next event.
- In planning for the next event, we need to go to the population, as they may not come to us. Perhaps, now that we know where some of the camps are, we could have the police go in and post the information at those sites. As we know they utilize the public library we should also make sure the info is there.
- Mary Anne has a lot of hand-out information on the H1N1 flu; if a nursing home wouldn't be a good fit for the event, the info could be given to someone else to have at their table.
- Migrant and seasonal workers and their families will be getting back into the area in May – Centro Campesino in Owatonna might be a good resource.
- Mary Anne has a contact named Allison at Catholic Charities in the Twin Cities, and Allison knows Ruby Payne. Mary Anne will check on the possibility of having Ruby come to a future meeting to help us come up with ideas for outreach to homeless individuals.
- Debbie will contact Project Quest for outreach possibilities. She will also contact Victoria at the Hospitality House, the men's shelter in Owatonna. She will see if there is any new information regarding where people are coming from. This may be a good place to do outreach as well
- Everyone should check with their speakers and contacts to see where the best place to hold the event would be.

b. Future Outreach Events

Tabled until after the next Living on Little event.

IV. Agency Announcements/Updates

Carol

- Carol introduced Karen Kroll, the new Family Development Specialist and Family Loan Program coordinator. She will be working in Faribault on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.
- Carol has enrolled five or six families in HPRP. An average visit lasts two hours just for paperwork; she then has to go to see the apartment to make sure it meets habitability standards. For households with pregnant women and/or children, a lead inspection must also be performed. The participants must be able to support the housing after the assistance ends.

She has money and needs to spend it, but it is challenging to do it the way HUD requires, all the while not double dipping.

- TRCA is federally mandated to be caught up to within 30 days on Energy Assistance Program (EAP) applications by Monday (1/18/10). As of 1/7/10 and for two weeks, Kelli in the Faribault office is working exclusively with EAP applications. People calling the Faribault office may be asked to call the Zumbrota office for assistance instead; if they are not able to do so, their contact information will be taken down and sent to the Administrative Assistants in Zumbrota, and they will receive a call back within one hour.
- Carol had some updates from Bill Lewis from St. Vincent de Paul: They will have clothing, furniture and toys available. The clothing will be free for those that cannot afford it; however, if people go there to shop they will be asked for a donation. The United Way and Red Cross may go in, and Bill is looking to have the Salvation Army there as well; the Welcome Center has moved in. Burdens to Blessings is a separate entity, they did not go in with Bill. The center has been offered as a meeting space, and Carol will check to see when we can go in and see everything.

Sue

- She is busy with HPRP; she has decided to make financial literacy a part of the program there.

Debbie

- Project Home has a storage unit available for household items.
- The SAMHSA contract has not been signed by the Department of Human Services yet; as they have not received funding, everything is on hold at this time. To qualify for the program, participants must be chronically homeless (have four incidences of homelessness within the past three years or have been homeless for the last 12 consecutive months) and must be homeless upon entering the program. Hospitalization, time in jail or stays in institutions (including nursing homes) does not count, as they are being housed.

Kari

- There is Advocate Training this spring, between March 2nd and April 22nd; most trainings will be held at District One, and there will be one Sunday event at St. Olaf College. She passed out a schedule of speakers and topics. Contact the HOPE Center if you need more info or wish to attend – their phone number is 507-332-0882.
- Despite a possible warning message, all technical issues regarding their website have been fixed.
- Kari will be handling the work load of two people shortly – Sarah is due to have her baby any day now.

- She introduced their new intern, Jamie, who will be working at the center during the month of January.

Jamie

- Her intern, Carol, will most likely be starting next week. She is attending MSU in Mankato working towards her MSW; she will be working with Jamie 30 hours per week for the full semester.

V. Transitional Housing

- a. Community Action Center of Northfield
Sue hopes there will be an opening for a two bedroom unit in April. The shelter is full and there is a waiting list of four families. Since they can stay for up to two weeks, they are about two months out. Families will go in first, so individuals may get bumped.
- b. Three Rivers
Carol has one unit vacant; it just needs to be cleaned. However, there is a waiting list; they will select based on need. Karen knows of a one bedroom unit open in Red Wing, and Carol says we may have another opening or two there, one of which may be a three bedroom
- c. Ruth's House
All units are full. They are taking applications.

VI. Permanent Supportive Housing

- a. Ruth's House
All units are full.
- b. Marilyn's Place
All units are full.

VII. Project Home

No update since last meeting.

VIII. CoC Update

There was not a meeting in December, therefore there are no updates at this time.

IX. Adjournment

Carol Juvland motioned to adjourn the meeting; Sue Warring seconded the motion; motion carried.

X. Next Meeting: February 9th, 2010, 10:00 a.m. at Fourth Avenue United Methodist Church.