



# *Three Rivers Community Action, Inc.*

Serving people in Goodhue, Rice, and Wabasha Counties

**Goodhue County Homeless Response Team Minutes  
Friendship House, 480 W 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
Red Wing, Minnesota  
March 2, 2010, 10:00 a.m.**

#### Attendance

Facilitator: Shirley Gregory, Three Rivers Community Action, Inc  
Jack Nordgaard, Senior Homework  
Janet Adams, Goodhue County Adult Detention Center  
JoAnn McNamara, HOPE Coalition  
Lucia LaRuffa, Goodhue County Social Services  
Marilyn Olson, Seniors Community Service Employment Program  
Melissa Olson, Workforce Development, Inc.  
Parker Quammen, Goodhue County Habitat for Humanity  
Patti Riebold, The Connecting Connection

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

#### **Welcome and Introductions**

Welcome and introductions were made.

#### **Approval of February 2, 2010 Minutes and March 2, 2010 Agenda**

Marilyn Olson made a motion to approve the February 2, 2010 minutes and the March 2, 2010 agenda. Melissa Olson seconded, the motion was approved.

#### **Tammy Daugherty – City of Red Wing, Public Works**

Tammy explained a little about how their billing system works. She said that the bills go out around the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month and they have until the 15<sup>th</sup> of the next month to pay their bill. If payment is not received by then they send out a disconnect notice with a late fee charge on the 16<sup>th</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup> of the month; just a day or two after the bill was due. At that time they will have until the 1<sup>st</sup> of the following month to pay or they will be disconnected. If people rent they send out a bill to renters as well as their landlord. If someone called in to make arrangements to pay they will work with them and will not shut off or give a disconnect notice. If they do not follow through with the arrangements they will get shut off and also get charged the late fee. It typically takes two guys to do the disconnection and it takes about an hour. On some occurrences they will deliver a blue card to the house and if they still don't hear anything then they will go and disconnect; the blue card is used to contact the residents if they do not have a telephone number with which to contact the customer. They do offer auto-pay for everyone and will also take off a late fee charge if they sign up for auto-pay. She said that if there is anything else that she can do to let her know.

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Equal Opportunity Employer

Reasonable Accommodations Are Available  
ADA

Equal Housing Opportunity

## **Training Opportunities**

Parker Quammen said that he went to Bridges out of Poverty in Golden Valley back in January. It was organized by Habitat for Humanity. There were a lot of Vista workers there as well.

Shirley Gregory went to a training on Ethics. It was facilitated by an attorney. The attorney talked about social workers and how they all need to respect each other.

Shirley talked about a new brochure that Colleen put together. It shows different homelessness prevention programs through Three Rivers and the requirements for the programs.

## **CoC Update**

There was no CoC update.

## **Program Sharing**

Janet Adams shared information about a new program through Workforce Development that's called Fast Track to Hot Careers. There will be three instructors, it's free, and you can sign up through Workforce Development. The program will be ten weeks long and will allow people to brush up on educational skills and then learn about different career choices. It will be on March 15, 2010 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Janet also shared a save the date for the Free Care Clinic. The Care Clinic Open House and Ribbon Cutting will be held on March 26, 2010 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

JoAnn McNamara shared that Kris Kvols is the new director for the HOPE Coalition.

Lucia LaRuffa said that GAMC (General Assistance Medical Care) is scheduled to end April 1, 2010. Single individuals between the ages of 21-65 who are on it will be transitioned to Minnesota Care. They will not have to pay the monthly premium for Minnesota Care until they are given a renewal date and then at that time they will have to pay a premium. The minimum premium is \$4 dollars a month. They have the option to pre-pay if they would like and are able to. There is typically a \$3 co-pay for prescriptions and eye exams/glasses. There is a \$10,000 cap on hospital stays when a person is on Minnesota Care.

Jack Nordgaard said that they are going to do another Christmas in April but do it in May instead. They would like to do one more project besides the ones that they already have lined up if they can raise enough money. If anyone knows of someone who needs their home fixed up let him know. They have been doing a lot of work in trailer parks but they are so hard to work on because they are not built like houses. They are looking at purchasing smoke detectors for the trailers because most of them do not have one in them. Most of the trailers also do not have carbon monoxide detectors which are very expensive to purchase but would like to raise money to purchase those as well.

Patti Reibold said that they were very fortunate to receive new light fixtures and donated them to Jack Nordgaard and Parker Quammen for their programs. She said it was quite an array of light fixtures. Easter baskets are coming up again in April. They will be doing a new basket called the senior basket; this is for a family size of one or two. Last year they made 66 baskets and are hoping to make 80 this year. She would love names submitted of low income families that would be good candidates to receive them.

They get donations from people from all over the county to help make the baskets possible. There is no charge to the people, it is a gift. Patti is also having a sneaker campaign and is working with Green Sneakers. This is to help feed the hungry and she will be doing it for the next couple months.

**Next Meeting Date/Time:** April 6, 2010 10:00 a.m. Friendship House Conference Room.