



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
May 4, 2010, 10:00 a.m.**

Attendance

Facilitator: Shirley Gregory, Three Rivers Community Action, Inc
Bonnie Jablonske, Red Wing Housing Redevelopment Authority
Doug Foster, Common Bond
Jack Nordgaard, Senior Homework
Jane Whiteside
Janet Adams, Goodhue County Adult Detention Center
JoAnn McNamara, HOPE Coalition
Melissa Olson, Workforce Development, Inc.
Wendy Ahren, Goodhue County Education District

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

Welcome and Introductions

Welcome and introductions were made.

Approval of April 6, 2010 Minutes and May 4, 2010 Agenda

Jack Nordgaard made a motion to approve the April 6, 2010 minutes and the May 4, 2010 agenda. Doug Foster seconded, the motion was approved.

Review Letter to City Council Regarding Shut Off Fees

The letter is not ready yet. Item tabled until next month.

Training Opportunities

Janet Adams went to the CIT training. She said that it was a great training to be involved in. There was a lot of education on mental illness and they did a lot of role playing. They trained officers to be prepared in situations that involve people who have mental illnesses. She also attended the Annual Jail Programs training in Mankato. She said the research they have done about online learning is incredible. Janet said that everyone needs to pay attention to the whole technology piece of life that is happening because otherwise it will pass us all by. Jack Nordgaard said that you can buy DVD courses on certain subjects or topics to keep up with things instead of going back to school. Janet said they could use them in the jail classrooms instead of having people come in to teach.

Shirley Gregory shared that she went to two day training on Budgeting for retirement. The speaker talked about how people can build wealth, and how to invest money. She said he had different types of ideas for people to try in order to save money.

201 South Lyndale Avenue
Faribo Town Square
Faribault, MN 55021
Phone: 507-333-6450 Voice/TTY
Fax: 507-333-6462

1414 North Star Drive, Zumbrota, MN 55992
Phone: 507-732-7391
TTY: MN Relay Service: 1-800-627-3529
Fax: 507-732-8547
www.threeriverscap.org

611 Broadway Avenue
Wabasha, MN 55981
Phone: 507-732-7391
Fax: 651-565-2754

Equal Opportunity Employer

Reasonable Accommodations Are Available
ADA

Equal Housing Opportunity

The trainer emphasized starting with a budget and sticking to it. Jack said that is hard for people to budget when they don't have enough money to make it through the month or even a day, he said that people sometimes think that it's pointless.

CoC Update

There was no CoC update.

Program Sharing

Bonnie Jablonske introduced herself as a new member to our Homeless Response team. She is the Housing Manager with HRA. Their units are currently full, and have a waiting list of 17 for the three or four bedroom units. She personally has 250 tenants of both low and market rate incomes. She has to go by HUD guidelines when filling a unit which sometimes makes it difficult to let certain people in. She said that if people don't start taking care of their felons/misdemeanors from the past, there will not be a lot of available services for them now with all of the stipulations.

JoAnn McNamara said that she has been very busy. She said that such a weight is lifted as the warmer weather comes around. Shirley asked her if she keeps track of how many homeless people they help out. JoAnn said she takes notes if there is a homeless person or a soon to be homeless person that they help. JoAnne said that they are able to help most people that call them for assistance.

Doug Foster said that the main issue going on right now at Maple Hills is that two of the two bedroom homeless units were open and they were able to fill one of them but they could not get any referrals to fill the other. They ended up doing an exception for the one unit and it is now filled. He said that there was some confusion with Social Services regarding whether or not transitional housing clients are considered homeless. Some say that since they are in housing they don't qualify for the homeless units, however, clients in transitional housing are considered homeless

Wendy Ahren explained their Special Education Programs through the District and Deer View is one of them. She primarily works at Deer View which is for kids who can't make it in the regular school system. They take grades 6-12 from all of the schools in Goodhue County. They are getting ready for their Habitat for Humanity project in Florida. Each kid has to earn their way to Florida. United Way has also provided funding for the past ten years. They have found that when you take students out of their normal surroundings, it enables them open up and you are right there able to help or listen.

Melissa Olson talked about a couple different programs going on now through the Workforce Center. One is Come Grow with Us Hot Careers Conference 2010. It is on May 18-19, 2010 from 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. each day and is located at SE Technical College in Red Wing. They will present job seekers with hands-on opportunities to "try on" and learn more about a variety of math and technology-based careers, the education and skill requirements for those careers, and the process of enrolling into college. Another is the Veterans Career Fair on May 5, 2010 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Jack Nordgaard said if we know of anyone who wants some planting done to call him. The first planting job has been done at the correctional facility. Eventually they want to turn it into a nursery.

Janet Adams said that they have 50 people in jail now. This is very low, because they have 173 beds. She said that they have cut four positions already with the budget cuts. She also mentioned that the Lake City Country Club has a golf tournament this Saturday and St. James is having a Cinco de Mayo celebration.

Three Rivers still has funds available for camp. Kids ages from 8-15 are eligible for these funds. Three Rivers also has funding available for the Energy Assistance Program and you can apply through May 31, 2010. The Reach Out For Warmth program will most likely have funds available after May 31, 2010 for people still in need of crisis assistance. Shirley added four new people to her HPRP program.

Next Meeting Date/Time: June 1, 2010 10:00 a.m. Friendship House Conference Room.