



# *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  
June 1, 2010, 10:00 a.m.**

#### Attendance

Facilitator: Colleen Hansen, Three Rivers Community Action, Inc  
Bonnie Jablonske, Red Wing Housing Redevelopment Authority  
Jack Nordgaard, Senior Homework  
Janet Adams, Goodhue County Adult Detention Center  
JoAnn McNamara, HOPE Coalition  
Kris Kvols, HOPE Coalition  
Lucia LaRuffa, Goodhue County Social Services  
Melissa Olson, Workforce Development, Inc.  
Patti Riebold, The Connecting Connection  
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 May 4, 2010 Minutes and June 1, 2010 Agenda**

Janet Adams made a motion to approve the May 4, 2010 minutes and the June 1, 2010 agenda.  
Jack Nordgaard seconded, the motion was approved.

#### **Review New Legislative Changes to Tenant Bill of Rights and Other Housing Legislation**

Colleen Hansen said that the Tenant Bill of Rights has been approved. The final budget ratified the \$52 million unallotment cut to the renter's credit. As a result, about 300,000 low and moderate-income renters will see a tax increase of \$129 on average. She said that the renter's credit is very helpful because they get it right before school starts which will help a lot of families out with school supplies. She also said that Governor Pawlenty proposed to increase the MFIP penalty, but the final bill did not include any changes to the penalty for MFIP recipients.

#### **Training Opportunities**

Colleen shared that NAMI (National Alliance of Mental Illness) Minnesota Invites everyone to a DVD Premiere on Jail Discharge Planning: Ending the Cycle of Recidivism. The documentary-style DVD explains how two Minnesota counties have dramatically reduced recidivism by connecting inmates to resources before their release from jail. This will be on Monday, June 14, 2010 at 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. at Northwest Area Foundation in St. Paul. Jack said that he is getting a copy of the DVD sent to him and we could watch it during next month's meeting.

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](http://www.threeriverscap.org)

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

Colleen also shared that Heading Home Minnesota is preparing to draft a statewide plan to prevent and end homelessness in Minnesota. They invite anyone to participate in developing the plan by attending a meeting on June 16, 2010 or a video conference on June 22, 2010.

JoAnn McNamara said that the HOPE Coalition is doing a training on Elder Abuse.

### **CoC Update**

Colleen shared that all of the renewals have been funded. The grant inventory for HUD renewals went from 10 one bedroom units to 16 one bedroom units. They have funding of \$126,000 in the 20 county regions for permanent supportive housing. The next meeting is on August 18, 2010 in Rochester from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

### **Program Sharing**

Colleen talked about GAMC (General Assistance Medical Care) and how it has changed. This program is only for people ages 21-65 with no dependants. There are only four locations that people can receive medical care covered under GAMC. These locations are now all located in the Twin Cities Metro area. People who are on GAMC can still go to their local emergency room only if it is an emergency, unless they want to pay full price. GAMC used to cover everything the same as MA, but not anymore. They can still get their drug prescriptions locally though. Lucia LaRuffa said that it would be nice if the Free Clinic would accept these people even though they technically have insurance. Lucia said that people on this program are on it for a reason because they can't afford anything else. They will not have the money to get themselves to the cities for a doctor's appointment. There is no dental or vision coverage anymore. Everyone does have the option to switch over to Minnesota Care but in the time that it takes to get approved they wouldn't have any coverage during that period. The other thing with Minnesota Care is that there is a monthly premium of \$4. Again these people don't have the funds to make that monthly payment, Lucia said. Jack thinks that someone who really knows what is going on should write something up in the newspaper so people are aware.

Tim asked Jack how the Free Clinic is going. Jack said that it is going good.

Bonnie Jablonske said that the Section 8 waiting list is open but they are not giving out vouchers. It appears they won't be giving out vouchers anytime soon. There is a waiting list for public housing as well. They go through ten applications to find at least one qualified person. She said that landlord references are the biggest thing they look at.

JoAnn McNamara said that within the last week it has slowed down a lot. She said that they are still giving out diapers and even formula. She said that it is not limited to receiving them just once, you can get diapers once a month if need be. They receive funds from St. Joe's for the diapers and formula.

Jack Nordgaard said that if anyone knows of someone who wants a garden tilled to let him know.

Melissa Olson passed out the June calendar showing the different workshops scheduled for the month. On the back of the calendar it also describes each workshop. See attachment.

Patti Riebold said that since she hasn't been here for a couple months she is going to share a few older pieces. She said that the Easter baskets went really well. They started a Senior Easter baskets this year and she received a written thank you from every single person/couple that received one. She also helps out with furniture. Patti said that she is now helping people plant gardens. JoAnn said that they are doing a garden at their Transitional Housing unit. She also

said that Patti is really a master gardener and does a wonderful job. She is still out of kids clothes so if anyone has any to donate please let her know. She doesn't have any air conditioners but she does have a few fans.

Tim Sletten said that he has some bicycles to give away. They will have another batch to get rid of in August or September. He said it would be nice to have someone look at the bikes to make sure they are working properly before they give them away. They are running into a fair amount of domestic violence right now. Domestic assault has been really bad the last couple months he said. He doesn't know what is all going on in the Hispanic communities with domestic abuse because they never report anything, but he feels that there is stuff occurring there. Kris said that they are going to be having their brochures done in Spanish as well so that might help out the Hispanic community. Jack said that the brochure can be handed out at the Free Clinic as well. Kris said that both SARA and Kids Count go to schools and talk about domestic violence to the children hoping that maybe it will make a difference for them when they grow up or they can report any violence occurring in their own home now. Tim said that they took a whole year worth of statistics on several different categories of domestic violence and he just needs to put it all together.

Colleen said that the Energy Assistance Program has ended as of today. Three Rivers is also taking applications for Head Start for next year (2010-2011). Colleen also shared that Three Rivers has a model Green home that they rehabbed in Northfield. They are doing a series of rehabs in all three counties. RHASP funding will start again in July and HPRP funds are still available.

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