

**River Valleys Continuum of Care  
July 15, 2010 Meeting Minutes  
Cabela's, Owatonna, MN**

***It is our mission to prevent, respond to and help end homelessness  
in Southeastern Minnesota by coordinating services and maximizing resources.***

**Attending:**

Angie Peterson, Zumbro Valley Mental Health (ZVMHC)  
Colleen Hansen, Three Rivers Community Action, Inc. (TRCA)  
Corrine Erickson, Olmsted County Social Services  
Deb Barnes , Elder Care  
Don Broadwell, Blue Earth County Human Services  
Gary Lueders, Olmsted County HRA  
Jennifer McNallan, ZVMHC  
JoAnn McNamara, HOPE Coalition  
Julie Anderson, Steele County Transitional Housing  
Maggie Sjoquist, Project Home HRC  
Mary Ulland Evans, TRCA  
Mary Vrieze, Southern MN Regional Legal Services (SMRLS)  
Michele Merxbauer, City of Northfield  
Nancy Bokelmann, Owatonna HRA  
Patrick Arden Wood, Street Talk  
Renee Lorence, Red Wing HRA  
Robin Yaffe-Tschumper, Bluff Country Family Resources  
Ruth Hickey, Ruth's House  
Sue Warring, Community Action Center of Northfield  
Tiffany Piotrowicz, Women's Shelter  
Vicky Helland, Semcac  
Recording Secretary, Kelli McMullen, TRCA

**Welcome, Introductions and Participant Announcements**

Mary V.

- Chuck Brumbaugh, SMRLS Housing Attorney has retired.

Ruth

- Ruth's House will be hiring a weekend supervisor. She will forward the job opening when it is available.

Robyn

- Houston County Women's Resources has changed its name to Bluff Country Family Resources.

Jennifer

- We have moved our offices from a church to closer to downtown Rochester. Since the move, we have almost doubled services provided.

Renee

- We are still smiling about receiving the Shelter Plus Care (S+C) funding.

## **Approval of April minutes and July Agenda**

The program profile was moved down on the agenda due to technical sound difficulties.

Julie Anderson motioned to approve the April 15, 2010 minutes and the July 15, 2010 agenda; Mary Vrieze seconded the motion; motion carried.

## **2010 HUD Application**

### *Update on NOFA/esnaps*

- The NOFA has not been released.
- The new project was funded for four units of S+C in Red Wing.
- Pat said there was one Exhibit 2 in Dakota County that had a lot of mistakes and did not get funding. The project did not take advantage of the state's offer to proofread the Exhibit 2. The rest of MN did well.
- The 2010 CoC Registration Process for Exhibit 1 is complete. The Housing Inventory charts and the Point in Time (PIT) Count charts are also complete. We will start on the rest of Exhibit 1 once the NOFA is released and we are given access to esnaps.
- We did lose, at least temporarily, a considerable number of Hearth Connection's permanent supportive beds in the region. This was due in part to the fact that the subsidies were on hold for a time (coinciding with the count) because of the mismatch of service funding and housing subsidies.
- The PIT Count numbers are consistent. There were 419 homeless counted in the region's shelters, and transitional housing programs, and in unsheltered locations. This is two more than the 2009 count. There were more families than singles this year; there were also more unsheltered found than in past years, notably in Blue Earth County. This year clients served by HPRP who were homeless at intake were also counted, adding another 58 persons.
- Key findings from the 2009 Wilder Research Center's statewide study of Minnesota's homeless were recently released. There was a 25% increase over the 2006 study, with the largest increase (57%) among people ages 18-21. The Wilder data and the PIT data are consistent, lending credibility to our PIT numbers. The CoC still needs more outreach to unsheltered persons, however.
- The region's hold harmless amount (the cost burden of one-year renewals of Supportive Housing Program [SHP] grants) is \$1,088,000. There will be \$126,000 available for a new Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) project.
- Tom Koon sent out the SHP desk guide. This is posted on the CoC page. There were a lot of mistakes in Exhibit Twos. Pat recommends all Exhibit Two writers take advantage of the state's offer to review the applications. Corrine and Angie did theirs at DHS last year and it was completed that day; they will do this again this year. It is important to bring all of your information needed that day. Jane Lawrenz sent out a list of items needed.
- Corrine asked if there will be similar technical assistance for Annual Progress Reports (APR) since they will now be done in esnaps. Colleen said projects that end after June 1<sup>st</sup> will have to submit the APR in esnaps. There are help guides at [www.hudHRE.info](http://www.hudHRE.info).
- The homeless data exchange is available at [www.hudhdx.info](http://www.hudhdx.info). This is where the PIT Count and housing inventory data was entered.

### *New Projects*

- Nancy Cashman  
Center City Housing will submit an application for operating Silver Creek Corner, 40 units of PSH. Units will be dedicated to long-term homeless and chronic inebriates. Center City will partner with Olmsted County for services.
- Nancy Bokelmann

The Youngdahl Living project has received most of its funding. The owners would like funding with a longer term commitment. We would apply for service dollars. The hope is HUD has heard there is a need for service dollars or that there will be money available through the HEARTH Act.

- Deb Barnes , Elder Care, Winnebago, MN  
There is interest in converting a former hospital into housing for homeless Veterans and one of the partners in the initiative would apply for operating funds. The parent company is a for-profit but there are different organizations within. The goal is to be up and running by May 2011. The services piece is in place.
- Since there is interest in the funds from multiple parties, the Planning Committee will convene to discuss the competition and how to handle it. There will be a conference call after the NOFA is published.

### **Program Profile**

*Nancy Cashman, Center City Housing and San Marco*

*Corrine Erickson, Silver Creek Corner*

Video presentation: *No Losers*

Handouts: DVD *No Losers*; *Silver Creek Apartments*

Nancy played a 26-minute video about the San Marco in Duluth, a housing first harm reduction model of permanent supportive housing for chronic inebriates. The San Marco has been in operation for three years and is the model for the new Silver Creek Apartments in Rochester. Everyone in the movie who was a resident of the San Marco is still in the building three years later. Before moving in, the residents had an average seven years of being homeless; some up to 15 years. There was some turnover in the beginning due to mental health being their primary issue rather than alcohol. Center City is looking at designing a different building type for those with mental health issues that will help them to be more successful.

Participants move in slowly and the San Marco accepts people where they are at rather than requiring them to change their alcohol use first. Services are 100% voluntary but as people stabilize they often take advantage of them. There is a nurse on staff. The housing is Group Residential Housing (GRH); those with Social Security or General Assistance (GA) have their rent vendor paid to GRH and they receive \$89 monthly for personal needs.

Nancy has extra copies of the video if requested. [Mary U: A powerful tool to combat NIMBY.]

### **Committee Reports**

*Executive*

The SWOT Analysis information was processed. We will meet soon to determine the next steps in the Heading Home process and to put together a layout to present to the Homeless Response Teams (HRTs).

*Planning*

The group will meet after the NOFA is published.

*Data & TA*

No report.

### *Southern Regional Project*

Don:

There will be ten individuals served in each hub with the new initiative to serve chronic substance users and high-end users of public resources. In the western end, there are some clients being served while they are still on the streets. A challenge for staff is to meet with them early enough in the day before they have started using. A “sober” bowling activity was held. The project serves all of Region 10 and most of Region 9 (it does not cover Faribault, Martin and Brown counties).

### *Homeless Advisory*

Both Regions 9 and 10 Family Homeless Prevention and Assistance Programs (FHPAP) had site visits from MN Housing. All went fine.

HPRP is going well. Mary V. said SMRLS is having a hard time with the HPRP funds. If someone is going to be homeless, they contact SMRLS first, not Community Action, and are in court before a CAC can assess them. The way it is set up, the CAC must do the paperwork to determine if they are eligible. With the process as it is, we are not meeting the referral requirements of the program. It would help if SMRLS could do the paperwork and the CAC could review to determine eligibility.

### *HMIS*

Cindy is currently at the HMIS meeting. There are a lot of changes as of June 1<sup>st</sup>. If a disability is reported with RHASP, you will need to provide documentation of the disability with a doctor’s letter, Social Security check, etc. If you use HMIS, check the website: [www.hmismn.org](http://www.hmismn.org) for updates.

### **Goal Setting**

Handouts: *River Valleys CoC Strategic Planning Objectives; Heading Home MN – Regional and County Plans, Opening Doors – Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness: 2010- Objectives; SWOT Analysis results*

The goal is to develop a Region-wide Heading Home Plan using the Northeast MN plan as a template and to facilitate each county to create a plan with action steps if they have not already done so. The region’s old Heading Home plan was about PSH for LTH. The State now has a new vision of preventing and ending homelessness. The Federal “Opening Doors” plan was released. The regional plan should be representative of what we do and what we can do as a region. We can help to share best practices, advocacy, trainings, etc. Direct services are provided at the county/agency level.

We plan to give each HRT a framework of what is needed and will ask them to fill in the blanks.

- What are the goals to end homelessness?
- What gaps do they see?
- What are the barriers?
- What can the CoC do to help?
- What would they ask for?
- How would they engage their community for help?

We will provide them a list of goals and strategies with no activities listed, asking them to brainstorm.

We want them to provide the ideas. The Executive/Heading Home committee will meet to put together direction for the HRTs before the August meeting.

## **Adjourn**

Robin Yaffe-Tschumper motioned to adjourn; Mary Vrieze seconded the motion; motion carried.

**Next meeting:** 8:30 – 12:30, Wednesday, August 18, 2010, at RPU in Rochester

Overviews of CoC and Heading Home; training on motivational interviewing as a de-escalation tool

## **Acronyms used in this document:**

APR – Annual Progress Report

CAC – Community Action Center

CoC – Continuum of Care

DHS – MN Department of Human Services

esnaps – not an acronym per se but the database HUD has established for Continuum of Care programs (or Special Needs Assistance Programs) to apply, report etc.

FHPAP – Family Homeless Prevention and Assistance Program

GA – General Assistance

GRH - Group Residential Housing

HEARTH – Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing

HMIS – Homeless Management and Information System

HPRP – Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-housing, a HUD program

HRA – Housing and Redevelopment Authority

HRC – Human Resource Center

HUD – US Department of Housing and Urban Development

HPRP – Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-housing, a HUD program

HRT – Homeless Response Team

LTH – Long-Term Homeless

NIMBY – Not in My Backyard

NOFA – Notice of Funding Availability

PIT – Point-in-Time

PSH – Permanent Supportive Housing

RHASP – Rural Housing Assistance and Stability Program

S+C – Shelter Plus Care

SHP – Supportive Housing Program

SMRLS – Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services

SWOT – Strength, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats

TA – Technical Assistance

TRCA – Three Rivers Community Action

Z VMH – Zumbro Valley Mental Health Center

***It is our goal to identify, determine and implement solutions  
that meet the needs of the homeless in our communities***