

**River Valleys Continuum of Care Meeting
Thursday, November 17, 2011
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:

Caitlin Hozeny, Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless
Caitlin Powers, Minneapolis VA Healthcare Center
Colleen Hansen, Three Rivers Community Action, Inc. (TRCA)
Corrine Erickson, Olmsted County Social Services
Cynthia Wolterding, Clare Housing
Desirae Dyke, Workforce Development, Inc.
Gary Lueders, Olmsted County HRA
Greggory Hoiseth, Zumbro Valley Mental Health
Jack Nordgaard, Red Wing, HRA
Jennifer McNallan, ZVMHC
Julie Anderson, Steele County Transitional Housing
Justin Vorbach, Southwest MN Housing Partnership
Karen Kroll, TRCA
Kolloh Nimley, Health Discharge Planning Resources
Kris Kvols, HOPE Coalition
Lori Remick, Bluff Country Family Resources
Marcie Dabelstein, ZVMHC
Mary Ulland Evans, TRCA
Mary Vrieze, Southern MN Regional Legal Services
Maureen Buss, VA Healthcare Center
Melissa Brandt, Rochester Public Schools
Melissa Schroeder, Women's Shelter
Nancy Cashman, Center City Housing
Pat Leary, Department of Human Services
Patrick Arden Wood, Community Member
Robin Yaffe-Tschumper, Bluff Country Family Resources
Ruth Hickey, Ruth's House
Ruth Larson, Health Discharge Planning Resources
Sheila Alba, Project Home HRC
Sheryl Block, ZVMHC
Sue Warring, Community Action Center of Northfield
Sue Worlds, Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans (MACV)
Tammy Wiesenberger, Lutheran Social Services
Vicky Helland, Semcac
Warren Duncan, Hearth Connection
Recording Secretary, Kelli McMullen, TRCA

Welcome and Introductions

Everyone was welcomed to the meeting and introductions were made.

Training

Debbie Carter-Barth, MSW, LICSW, Healthy Minds Counseling Services, LLC

Debbie provided training on Dialectical Behavioral Therapy.

There was a post test for those with Social Work licensure. There was one CEU available with the training.

Approval of September Minutes and November Agenda

Nancy Cashman motioned to approve the September 15, 2011 minutes; Patrick Arden Wood seconded the motion; motion carried.

Robyn Yaffe-Tschumper motioned to approve the November 17, 2011 agenda with the addition of a Fair Market Rate discussion after the announcements; Mary Vrieze seconded the motion; motion carried.

Announcements

Warren

- Hearth Connection provides quarterly trainings as part of the Regional Projects. The next training topic is Engagement and will be held on 12/16/11 at the Steele County Government Center, 9:00 – 3:00. Russ Turner is the presenter. There is a \$10 fee to cover the cost of lunch. Contact Warren if you are interested.

Corrine

- The *Homeless Is My Name, Not My Address* display will be in Rochester at the Rochester Community and Technical College (RCTC) for the open house November 30th. Parts of the exhibit will be displayed in the skyway by the library and in the Government Center. The display will move to the Bethel Church for the Homeless Services Team reception 12/2/11 at 10:00.
- Silver Creek Corner is taking pre-applications right now. They must be chronically homeless with chemical dependency. Corrine will email information to the group.

Patrick A.

- Patrick's contract with Elim Transitional Housing has ended. He will continue to participate as a community member.

Caitlyn H.

- The Coalition is trying to collect names for the homeless memorial march on 12/15/11. If you have had a homeless or formerly homeless client who has passed away this year, please submit name, age and city to Simpson Housing or at http://www.simpsonhousing.org/memorial_names.html .

Mary UE

- Mary is now a member of the MN Coalitions Board of Directors. Mary's goal is to keep the CoC involved in the legislative process.

Desirae

- There will be an open house December 6, 2011, 3:00 – 6:00 for the new Youth Resource Center.

Justin

- There will be a training on how to assist Sex Offenders with finding housing on December 9, 2011, 10:00 – 12:00 by Kate Erickson, Housing Coordinator for Department of Corrections. The training is in St. Paul but there are also multiple ITV locations. To inquire about ITV locations, contact Jane Lawrenz.

Sue

- The first Rochester Standdown was held October 4th. We had 99 Veterans in attendance. There were several District Judges and they were able to resolve some cases that day. We fed 140 people so not all were registered.
- The Mankato Standdown was November 8th. We fed 450 and there were over 350 registered.
- Gretchen Blaise had a baby boy and will be out until mid January.

Karen

- There will be a Project Community Connect tomorrow in Red Wing, 11:00 – 2:00 at St. Joseph's Church. We will have the *Homeless Is My Address, Not My Name* display. We would like to pull in the entire community more. It is a small community and we rely on the community to be involved.
- We recently had a long-term homeless person die in their car. We also had a family living in a tent up until a couple of weeks ago.

Section 8 Program

Gary said the Section 8 Voucher program is financially in trouble. Fair Market Rates (FMR's) were reduced by \$100 - \$150. The biggest problem is admin which is down \$38,000 this year; 2012 will be worse. We are trying to plan. HUD is aware of the issue but is not reacting. We have met with Senators and Representatives but there is not a good feeling with the FMR's.

Mary said this is a big enough issue for the CoC to take a stand. Warren said the FMR's are a big issue throughout MN and will affect homeless assistance programs.

Discharge Planning,

Kolloh Nimley & Ruth Larson, Healthcare Discharge Planning Resources

Healthcare Discharge Planning Resources is a live search engine data base at www.hdprs.com. Our goal is to reduce the time spent on the phone tracking resources. To be included in the search engine it must be related to health care services. (Health Care Serves = the things to make a person healthy. The definition of health care could include a clothes closet since to be healthy a person needs clothing).

The Healthcare Discharge Planning Resources site is looking to expand and we want to determine what other areas to include which help a person gain/keep good health. Please check out the site and give Kolloh feedback.

Committee Reports

Executive/Exhibit 1

- The application was submitted on time. There were two new projects and \$1.8 million in total requests. Clare Housing, providing housing for homeless persons with HIV/AIDS, is in the pipeline for next year's new project funding.

Youth

- We will conduct a youth needs assessment survey during the last week of November and the first week of December. We will administer around 600 surveys in the 20 county region. Participating youth will receive a hygiene kit or a \$5 stipend as an incentive to complete the survey. There was training for the volunteers who will administer the survey. The goal of the survey is to better understand the needs of homeless youth.
- Melissa attended the National Association for Homeless Youth Conference in Arizona. There were eight liaisons from Minnesota at the conference. Each state was represented.
- There is a push to separate and remove Foster Care language from the homeless language. The current McKinney-Vento states “awaiting Foster Care”. There are many interpretations of this language.
- Melissa organized and hosted a Homeless Liaison conference in Rochester on September 30th. The conference, “Young Faces, No Places”, was for school district homeless liaisons and providers that coordinate efforts with them to identify and end homelessness for students who are experiencing it. Melissa also created a tool kit for liaisons to help them outreach to and connect with at-risk youth. [The tool kit is available online at www.threeriverscap.org; click on Continuum of Care, scroll down.]

Project Review & Rating/ Data Committee & TA

The Data Committee will meet the afternoon of December 8th in Rochester. Mary will let everyone know when the time is finalized. [Please note the date has changed and the meeting will be held from 1-3 on December 12 at SMRLS, 903 West Center Street, in Rochester.]

Southern Regional Project

No Report.

Homeless Advisory

No Report.

HMIS

No Report.

Exhibit One: Goal I

Tabled

We will review a CoC objective at each meeting to get up to date information throughout the year.

CoC Check –up

This is a way for HUD to see if the CoC needs assistance to meet the new regulations. There will be up to 20 individuals invited to participate in the survey. There are four separate surveys, each geared towards the audience (HMIS, CoC Lead, HPRP/ESG grantee, CoC Provider and CoC Consumer). Mary will enter the names of those who will take the survey. They will then receive an invitation by email to complete the survey. Once the surveys are submitted, we will receive an aggregated report for the CoC. We will use the report to determine needed changes. Results of the check-up will be used for CoC planning and for identifying need and supporting access to technical assistance from HUD to get the CoC ready for implementing the HEARTH Act, the reauthorized McKinney-Vento homeless assistance

2011-2012 Plenary Schedule

There will be no December 2011 meeting. The Executive Committee will meet to set the 2012 Plenary Schedule.

Next Meeting

TBD

Adjournment

Meeting unanimously adjourned.

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