

Goodhue County Homeless Response Team Minutes
Friendship House, 480 West 8th Street
Red Wing, Minnesota
January 8, 2008

Attendance:

Facilitator: Shirley Gregory, Three Rivers Community Action, Inc.
Carl Evans, Hope Coalition
Emily Nelson, Hope Coalition
Tim Sletten, Red Wing Police Department
Joanne McNamara, Hope Coalition
Kris Kvols, Goodhue/Wabasha Sexual Assault
Parker Quammen, Goodhue County Habitat for Humanity
Staci Schmotter, Hope Coalition
Recording Secretary: Shirley Gregory, Three Rivers Community Action, Inc.

Welcome and Introductions: Welcome was made.

Approval of January 8, 2007 Agenda and December 4, 2007 Minutes

Tim Sletten made a motion to approve December 4, 2007 Minutes and January 8, 2007 Agenda. Emily Nelson seconded. The motion was approved.

CoC Update

The Community of Care met on December 20, 2007 in Rochester, Minnesota. Pat Leary and Isaac Wingard discussed best practices for transitional housing programs. There will be a Youth Provider Needs Assessment conducted from February 1 through 15, 2008, to ascertain current youth services and the needs of youth who are homeless or at risk for homelessness. Also in February the CoC will be adopting a grievance procedure for CoC members who have issues with their providers either. This procedure will help direct members through the proper channels to resolve their issues.

Training Opportunities

Shirley shared information about a conference scheduled in Brooklyn Park, Minnesota on "Dig Deeper into the results from the Minnesota Student survey Results at the Safe and Healthy Youth conference on Tuesday and Wednesday, January 15 and 16. Also there is a Landlord-tenant Law Training in St. Paul on January 26.

Program Sharing

Shirley brought several articles with her from the local newspaper, The Red Wing Eagle. One was about the Red Wing Area Transitional Housing name change to Hope Coalition. One was about Susan Albarado-Grand's Abused Children's program and how the children cope during the Holidays.

Joanne has a two bedroom transitional housing unit available. She is teaching Easy Money Management classes at the Women's Shelter in Red Wing.

Staci Schmotter encountered a first this past month. She was asked by the court to do a domestic violence evaluation on a client Staci has been assisting. Her client's abuser has accused the client of abusing him, and while the court believes that Staci's client is the real victim, they have to investigate the claim by the victim's abuse.

Kris Kvols brought with her a new flier announcing the need for volunteers. This 40-hour training as a victim advocate will begin in January. Registration can be completed by calling Emily Baldwin at 651-565-0189. Kris is also beginning a new victim support group for 10 weeks beginning Monday, January 28, 2008, at 7 p.m. The purpose of the group is to connect with others who understand and learn skills for coping with the aftermath of unwanted sexual contact. Space is limited. The group is free and can be accessed by calling 651-388-9360 x13 or email info@gwsas.com

Kris' hotline is not working. It went down almost three weeks ago when at the request of Altell she was told she had to get rid of her analog phone. The representative misrepresented what they could do and as a result they have lost the GWSA hotline. For right now law enforcement and the hospital have Kris' cell phone and calls are being directed that way. Kris also reported on the progress of the SMART Team. Right now they are divided into three committees. One group is doing an inventory of existing services; one group is surveying victims to see how services are currently being presented; and the third group is doing a community needs assessment. The State of Minnesota estimates that in 2005, sexual assault cost the State about \$8 million. Some of this cost factors in the loss of quality of life to victims. This amounts to \$1540 per victim. Kris reported that by comparison, the State spends \$130.5 million on perps, \$95 million on victims, and \$823,000 on prevention services. Upon completion of gathering and compiling data, the SMART team will be writing protocols for "best practices" for professionals who work with sexual assault issues. Goodhue County is one of 10 counties in the State of Minnesota to be given this grant.

Parker Quammen is looking for qualified people to participate in the Habitat for Humanity projects. They are currently building three homes.

Tim Sletten says home burglaries have been dwindling in the City of Red Wing since the arrest of several people on South Park and also the east end of town. Two or three youths were arrested. These young robbers were entering occupied homes which made it a particularly hazardous situation for everyone involved. There was a bomb threat last week at the school again. The high school was evacuated the students housed at Bergwell arena. The school was cleaned by 10 a.m. with the dogs and an arrest made by 1 p.m. and a second arrest made by 3:30 p.m. Both arrests were youth. Tim also mentioned that Jack Nordgaard, a member of the Red Wing Human Rights Commission, had expressed concern about a report of homeless people hanging out in hallways in Red Wing. It was decided to ask Mr. Nordgaard to attend our meeting next month so we could hear his concerns and hopefully address them with the information we have about homeless people in Red Wing and how our various organizations address these issues.

Emily Nelson reported that she has been researching a ribbon color to draw attention to the issue of homeless people. She contacted the National Coalition for the Homeless and was told there is no designated color and that she could pick her own color. She will research color descriptions and bring a suggestion to our next meeting.

Housing Assistance requests: Three Rivers received 10 requests from people seeking assistance with rent or security deposit during the month of December. Nine of those people did not meet the qualifications for assistance. Shirley has been working with one person who has not yet met her co-payment requirement.