

## **Minutes from September 21, 2006 Metro Supportive Services Advisory Committee Meeting**

**In attendance:** Fawn Marquez (Division of Indian Work), Stephanie Abel (Hennepin County Healthcare for the Homeless), Jan Backlin (ACCAP), Reyne Branchaud-Linsk (Dakota Woodlands), Rachel Callanan (MN Coalition for the Homeless), Karen Hayes (Carver County), Michael Hamberg (DHS), Becky Hicks (Ramsey School District), Mike Manhard (Metro-wide Engagement on Shelter and Housing), Deborah Mitchell (Wilder-Roof), Monica Simpson (Wilder-Roof), Andria Daniel (Youthlink), Sue Watlov-Phillips (Elim Transitional Housing), Barb Wold (Anoka County), Dana Higgins (Anoka County), Jim Anderson (Ramsey County), Kristine Swenson (Hearth Connection), Jill Garcia (Hearth Connection), Thomas P. Fulton (Family Housing Fund), Pat Crosby (Hennepin County), Abby Majeske (Vail Place), John Petroskas (Catholic Charities), Susie Kennelly (Spectrum), Jane Lawrenz (MN Dept. of Human Services), Joan White (People Inc), Dawn Horgan (Lutheran Social Services), Julie Shannon (Wilder), Joan Anderson (Washington County), Tina O'Malley Bayonet (Washington County), Pete Meyers (South Metro), Helene Shear (HBS Consulting), Kristine Madson (MN Housing Resources, Inc.), Patricia H. Pettit (Hart Community Services), Julie Manworren (Simpson Housing Services), Eric Gentry (Carver County), Debbie Jans (Homeless Against Homelessness), Maribeth Lundeen (Dakota County), Bob Fallat (Family Place), L. Peter Bast (HUD), Nancy Webster-Smith (People Inc—Project Sail), Monica Lynhaug (People Inc—Project Sail), Jennifer Rogers (People Inc—Project Sail), Ben VanHunnik (People Inc—Project Sail), Dawn Tikis (People Inc—Project Sail)

### **Review of Purpose and Activities of Committee**

- Facilitate communication
- Address barriers
- Annual evaluation and recommendations

#### Goals and Activities reviewed –

- Tension between advising vs. governing (RMC is responsible and accountable for project).
- Questions –
  - ✓ How are program participants selected?
  - ✓ What happens in the next biennium?

#### The common agreement was reviewed –

- A modification to point 5 – “any conflict of interest including federal grants, advocacy groups represented.
- While it is important to demonstrate courtesy sometimes criticism is interpreted as rudeness. The first paragraph of the Common Agreement discusses this point.
- At the end of each meeting an evaluation of the meeting will be done.
- Include openness and frankness in the document.
- Structure – the metro county community service directors are responsible for the project implementation, they have directed their county staff to implement the project and report regularly on progress, the advisory group is the advocacy arm of the program.

- Point 2 – this does not inhibit advocating but stresses that the issues should first be discussed at the committee meetings.
- Committee members were asked to sign the document with the above changes made.

#### **Definition of long-term homeless –**

- Committee members reviewed the February 2005 memo from Laura Kadwell that describes in detail long-term homelessness.
- Doubled up does count if the doubled up situation is temporary.
- People currently residing in transitional housing are not considered long-term homeless.
- 10% of the overall project enrollees can be at risk of long-term homelessness, this 10% is limited to families.
- Individual counties are responsible for enrollment.

#### **Election of co-chairs-**

Mike Manhard and Reyne Branchaud-Linsk have been co-chairing on a temporary basis. They are willing to continue serving in this capacity. M/S/A to continue to have Mike and Reyne co-chair the meetings.

#### **Outreach to communities of color –**

- Committee doesn't represent the people who are experiencing homelessness (people of color are disproportionately represented amongst those experiencing homelessness).
- How do we get input from communities of color?
- Deborah Mitchell discussed this advisory committee with some different groups representing communities of color. She has invited some people to attend the meetings and some are interested. At a minimum, minutes from the meetings could be shared with different groups.
- There is a need for open communication with communities of color to understand barriers to housing.
- Deborah and others listed some different groups to consider contacting –
  - MN Black Social Workers – conference in late October
  - African American Leadership group meets every 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday at the Martin Luther King Center in St. Paul
  - LISC – careership program
  - Habitat for Humanity
  - African American Family Services
  - Homeless against Homelessness – most members can't make meetings due to work schedule or transportation
  - CLUES
  - American Indian OIC
  - American Indian Family and Children's Services
  - Southeast Asian agencies
  - Placing an ad in the Circle

- Mike Manhard reminded the group that there is money for stipends and transportation.
- The Regional Metro Committee will put together a one-page description of the project. This description could be used to recruit other members for the advisory committee.

**Regional Metro Committee response to questions –**

- RFP for next biennium – this is still under discussion
- HMIS – admin costs -the providers in the metro project are using Co-Pilot, which is integrated into case managers work. Co-Pilot will be “dumping” data into HMIS.
- Budget for metro project was shared at the first meeting. As far as admin costs, the regional metro committee will bring a breakdown of these costs to the next meeting.
- Rental assistance – it was explained that there is a timing gap between availability of service funding and rental assistance. Hearth Connection applied for rental subsidies through all six, metro Continuums of Care and through the MHFA funding process. HUD announcements won’t be until late December or early January, MHFA makes their announcements the end of October. The gap is believed to be short-term because of the rental assistance applications pending. Some service funding could be used to fill this gap if necessary. When Hearth Connection submitted their original proposal to the Regional Metro Committee they estimated rental assistance for a “worst case” scenario. Fortunately that hasn’t been the case, for example Kristine from Hearth Connection stated that she has enough subsidies through Shelter + Care in Ramsey County to house single adults in that county.

**Overview of Mobile Support Teams –**

- 5 mobile support teams
- 2 adult teams, 2 family teams, 1 team for youth
- Teams are enrolling people or will be starting to enroll within weeks, some delay due to contracts and hiring. Teams advertised in a variety of ways to attract employees and particularly people of color.
- Multi-disciplinary teams and teams can provide back up for each other. Teams will continue to work with participant once housed or if participant chooses a site based program services will be transitioned to the site-based provider. Team is available if the participant needs or wants to move.
- Participants must meet long-term homeless criteria
- Participants will be served where they are at and client choice is critical
- No time limit on services as long as there is funding, it is assumed that need for services will ebb and flow.
- Landlords are given assurance of support and paid rent
- Referrals - the donut counties (Anoka, Washington, Dakota, Scott, Carver) have a county staff person assigned to make referrals, in Hennepin and Ramsey counties referral sources have been identified that serve people meeting the long-term homeless definition, e.g. shelters, outreach workers.

- Teams are working together so that client choice is honored and there is service continuity when people move across county lines.
  - Teams –
    - Youthlink and Lutheran Social Services - youth
    - Simpson Housing and Lutheran Social Services – families
    - COHR (Collaboration of Housing Resources) team – Spectrum, St. Stephen’s, Simpson Housing and American Indian CDC – single adults
    - Project SAIL (Support and Advocacy for Independent Living) – People, Inc – single adults
    - Project Quest – Wilder Foundation – families
  - There was a question about if all disability groups are able to access or refer to this program. The Regional Metro Committee is striving to make the referral process as inclusive as possible. There are a limited number of slots.
- Future issues –
- ✓ Emergency Assistance program rules. Inter- county agreements around EA.
  - ✓ Admin costs
  - ✓ Pending rental assistance

**SUMMARY.** The Following Questions/Requests/Recommendations were forwarded on to the Regional Metro Committee:

**Questions:**

- How will the RMC include people “at risk” of becoming long-term homeless?
- How will the MSSAC provide input into the selection/eligibility process?
- Will there be a new RFP with the next biennium funding?
- What are the actual Admin costs?
- How much is being spent on Rental Assistance?
- How will the RMC describe to the legislature what is happening with the \$5 million?

**Requests:**

- Regular attendance/updates from the mobile teams.
- Contact information for key referral and mobile team leaders in each county.

**Recommendations:**

- Add schools, Domestic Violence, and other disabilities to referral sources.

**Next meeting – November 16, 2006 from 2 – 4 pm at St. Stephen’s Church 2211 Clinton Ave in Minneapolis.**