

Metro Supportive Services Advisory Committee

11/16/06 Minutes

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), Josephine Pufpaff (Youthlink), Sue Watlov-Phillips (Elim Transitional Housing), Barb Wold (Anoka County), Dana Higgins (Anoka County), Kristine Swenson (Hearth Connection), Jill Garcia (Hearth Connection), Pat Crosby (Hennepin County), Jane Lawrenz (MN Dept. of Human Services), Dawn Horgan (Lutheran Social Services), Bret Byfield (South Metro), Sandy Delos (Salvation Army), Richard Amos (St Stephen's), Jason Anderson (Washington ISP), Chad Bacon (Carver County Social Services), Maribeth Lundeen (Dakota County), Bob Fallat (Family Place), L. Peter Bast (HUD), Stephanie Battle (YWCA), Teri Funk (Safehaven), Elizabeth Hinz (Minneapolis Schools), Jennifer Ho (Hearth Connection), Markus Klimenko (Hennepin County), Margaret Lovejoy (The Family Place), Cherie Shoquist (MHFA), Kim Vohs (Interfaith Outreach & Community Partners), Denise Warren (CSH)

Announcements:

- We ask everyone to sign the 'Common Agreement' form. Please sign and try to get those back to Mike soon as possible if you have not already done so.

RMC response to questions from last meeting:

- Maribeth responded to questions raised by advisory board last meeting. Please see attached: *MSSAC follow-up questions from September 2006 meeting*
- Additional discussion around how folks who are at-risk of homelessness but who do not fit state's definition are getting housed if the money is not intended for them and ensuring that those individuals and families are still connecting to other services.
- Should people have additional questions, suggestions or thoughts for the RMC, they can be referred through Mike at MESH. (612.278.1165)

Overview of Metro Supportive Services Budget:

- Jennifer Ho went over the Hearth Connection budget and expenses. MHFA has awarded \$1.1 million toward rental assistance over 18 months which will support 110 households. This way, DHS money can be used more for supportive services as intended and the amount spent on rental assistance is greatly diminished. Please see attached sheets.

Small Group Discussions:

The committee broke up into small groups to discuss four different issues related to the metro project.

- **Enrollment**
 - **Summary:** Outreach workers/mobile teams are being asked to take too much on when "county of origin" is disputed. As such conflicts arise, county staff should be responsible to resolve this.
- Questions
 - Which county is responsible?

- What is the impact to the client?
- How to make it most accessible to client/outreach worker?
- What would be a better way?
- Suggestions
 - Counties take responsibility, not outreach worker.
 - Shifting the burden
 - Central intake
- More Questions
 - Can a client choose to live in a county but stay connected in the original county?
 - How do families/clients keep benefits if they transfer counties?
- Pilot Project – come over to identify certain people within county.
- Want to be client driven
 - More than one way for clients to get in.

• *Transfers*

- **Summary:** Once a person is in the program, the supportive services (slot) stays with their “county of origin” and once they’ve left the program, a space in the originating county opens up, despite where they might have been living when they left.
- Discussion
 - How to make smooth transition if people choose to move to another metro county.
 - Residency – shelter is excluded time of keeping numbers balanced – especially as programs fills. OK we’re serving the right families. Keep program full.
 - ID barriers – serve those with the most – no one else will
 - Site-based numbers not included in county “slots”.
 - Need to develop transition to new team or site-based provider.
 - ?? Waivers- original county maintain?
 - Have to address county of financial assistance – more residency.

• *State Legislature*

- Shift in power- will the DFL majority be excited to work on “the Governor’s Plan”?
- Opportunity to bring both sides together around the issue of housing and homelessness
- Policy Question: will unspent money go into the future biennium?
- Selling Points:
 - Asked for 17 million which shows the need
 - Will have the Wilder Survey report
 - Will have Hearth Connection’s reported numbers
 - This is a statewide initiative
 - ID champions
 - MCH questions: RMC, DHS

House Restructure

- Will it mirror Senate?
- Committee Chair?
- Leadership?
- Gridlock?

SSF will be under human services

- Positive: Half the dollars went to greater Minnesota. Assuming Commissioner Marx stays, no indication he will change activities.
- **Homelessness can be the common ground between governor and legislators.**

- Negative: LTN is governor's political initiative, disingenuous.
- How does SS fit in line with Hennepin/Ramsey plans?
- Will advocates speak with one voice?
- Coalition meeting 10-12 tomorrow.

- ***Participant input/ Community Outreach***

- **Summary:** Discussed the purpose of getting participant involvement. Looking at strong models like HAH or X committee
- Committees (St. Paul)
 - Active, outreach, participant input
 - Advocacy
 - Skill training
 - All have experienced homelessness
- HAH – homeless Against Homelessness – Minneapolis and West Metro
- Easy to get lost
 - Language and jargon
 - Experience
 - Why to be here
 - Barriers
 - Am I needed/heard
- Outreach for what purpose?
- Where do I fit?
 - Why to come to a meeting?
 - What was the purpose?
 - What were the conclusions?
- What is it?
- Committee
 - Empowerment in being active
 - I want action
 - What I know some people might want to know
- Tutorial
 - What to know
 - Why to know
- While experiencing homelessness it's the only focus.
- Focus Groups/Discussion groups – up to the people
- Outreach involves reliable and consistent networking
- Representatives of this group go there to listen
 - Dorothy Day
 - Outreach specs
 - Family shelters
- Youth outreach – Teen parent/pregnant school programs
- Direct Caseworkers (If not person themselves)

Project Updates:

- Jennifer handed out enrollment snapshots team by team
- Youth team reported having problems connecting youth with counties but still have 15 slots filled

New Questions/ recommendations:

- What benchmarks are we using to establish if we're meeting our goals? (the goals are the same as the State business plan)
 - RMC and Hearth Connection will put together a response that clarifies their benchmarks for review and input from advisory committee.

Next Meeting:

Thursday, January 18, 2007
2:00pm-4:00pm
Blaine Human Service Center
1201 89th Avenue NE
Room 300