

Barrier Busters—A Project of the HSCC Adults Action Group

January 26, 2005 Washtenaw County LLRC, Ann Arbor
1:30pm—3:00pm

BB Attendees: Patricia Parker Self, Jody Ebert, Dawn Vogel, Lynda Marion, Peggy Johnson, Jennifer Renkema, Emily Preston, Paul Sher, Beth Manuel, Dick Deighton, Ellen Rabinowitz, Hannele Waissi, Carolyn Hastings, Mary Beth Lampe, Diane Davidson, Monica Tijerina

Public: Jennifer Fick, Bethany Morton-Jerome, Peter Girz

Meeting Convened: 1:30pm

I. Welcome/Introductions:

- Meeting begins with a brief welcome and introductions.
- Agenda and minutes approved as presented.

II. Public Comment

- No Public comment at this time

III. New Business:

A. Co-Chair elections

- The nominating committee presents a slate which includes Lynda Marion of Center for Independent Living and Paul Sher of Legal Services to serve as co-chairs for the full Barrier Buster group. Ellen Rabinowitz moves to accept the slate. Beth Manuel seconds. The slate is accepted unanimously. Paul Sher and Lynda Marion are the new Barrier Buster co-chairs.

B. Call Logs

- Monica shares a scenario with the group involving potential Barrier Buster fund use for laundry hook up. The group shares other resources that should be explored before the Barrier Buster fund. BB fund use may not be appropriate.
- The group identifies the FIA 10 day waiting period as a barrier to effective service.
- The group defines a need to create a community wide movement to negotiate with landlords to have rent payments due on the 3rd of each month to better accommodate checks.
- The group decides to have two subcommittees meet before the next full group meeting to discuss two important issues. Each group should come to the March meeting with a report on their findings and recommendations.
 1. Subcommittee to develop a plan to best deal with the number of other emergency fund sources that continue to exist (for example, Friends in Deed, Salvation Army etc). How do we best work these agencies to help people in a coordinated, time efficient way? Could these agencies be offered another way to work with the Barrier Buster effort if they are not interested in membership? This subgroup includes:
 - a. Diane Davidson
 - b. Emily Preston
 - c. Dick Deighton/Mary Beth Lampe
 - d. Paul Sher (or other legal services rep TBD by Paul)
 2. Subcommittee to decide whether the Barrier Buster Fund should have more strict guidelines? If so, this group should develop a draft. If not, this group should define what guidelines DO exist. The group should be very explicit and be sure to reference information on how the fund has been used so far. This subgroup includes:
 - a. Paul Sher
 - b. Lynda Marion
 - c. Mary Beth Lampe
 - d. Carolyn Hastings

C. Landlord Eviction Reduction Fund agreement

- Paul shares a draft of the Barrier Busters Landlord Assistance Agreement. The group provides some feedback. Paul will bring a final version to the next meeting for a vote.

IV. Old Business:

A. Eviction Reduction process

- Monica shares that the effort to raise the \$100,000 matching funds for the Washtenaw Board of Commissioners challenge grant has begun. Frank Cambria and Martha Bloom presented to the Landlords Association with a proposed eviction reduction process and a pitch for funds. Frank is also working with Bob Malek of National City bank to raise matching funds.
- The group shares that the leadership should evaluate the capacity of agencies to provide the services we are promising through the Eviction Reduction process. Specifically, the Housing Bureau for Seniors.

V. Announcements and Updates:

None at this time.

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VI. Wrap Up and Next Steps

- Our next meeting will be on March 23rd from 1:30-3:30 at the Washtenaw County LLRC.
- At this meeting we will get subgroup report outs and discuss BB Fund outcome tracking mechanisms (perhaps this can be done through Encompass)

Adjourned 3:00 pm