

Barrier Busters Network Action Group

June 22, 2005, LLRC

1:30pm—3:00pm

BBN Attendees: Lynda Marion, Patricia Parker-Self, Mitche Steils, Jodi Trisdale, Julie Steiner, Paul Sher, Peggy Johnson, Mel Batkins, Susan Reynolds-Bunton, Helena Prince, Rebecca Lee, N. Price-Reed, Mary Beth Lampe, Carolyn Hastings, Dick Deighton, Shirley Tarvis, Beth Manuel, Cindy Maritato, Stephanie Hartshorn, Anna Danzinger, Jenny Bivins, Harriet Bakalar, July Rydbrandt, Susan Gialanella

Co-Chairs: Paul Sher, Lynda Marion, Cynthia Maritato

Staff Present: Mike Scholl, Staff Coordinator HSCC

I. Welcome/Introductions

- Lynda Marion opening the meeting.
- Agenda and minutes approved as presented.

II. Public Comment

- No public comment.

III. Eviction Reduction Guidelines

- Paul Sher presented the first draft of the eviction reduction guidelines on behalf of the guidelines workgroup.
- There were a few grammatical errors in point #1 that needed correction.
- Point #2, the residency guideline was reviewed closely by the group without resolution.
- The question was whether the intent to live in Washtenaw County was appropriate or whether full residency should be a requirement.
- It was pointed out that for some public benefits county residency is required.
- Also, many individuals cannot afford to live in Washtenaw County, but work in the county.
- No resolution was agreed upon. *Motion to table the discussion on point #2 until the end of the review was agreed upon unanimously.*
- The discussion moved to point #3.
- There was a reference to the State Emergency Relief (SER) designation letter and the need to amend the online application to include a reference to the SER designation letter.

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- With regard to the question of affordability #3c, there was discussion as to how affordability is defined.
- There was a suggestion that the online application include a narrative box as to how the housing is "affordable."
- No consensus was achieved and the part was left for further research.
- *Motion to review the impact of the guidelines after six months.*
Motion carried unanimously.
- With regard to #3f, there is a sense that you have to be prepared to review your requests and have trust that each other has the judgment to access the fund appropriately.
- #3g, we require that barrier busters maintain their files and collect documentation and may be subject to periodic review.
- #6, a three month email will be sent requesting that the barrier buster follow up with the consumer to see if they are still housed.
- All of the agreed upon revisions were sent to the Barrier Buster listserv.
- *Paul Sher offered a motion to tentatively approve the revised guidelines pending final approval at the next Barrier Buster Network Action Group meeting.* **Motion carried unanimously.**
- A second workgroup will be created to address the question of emergency needs.
- Lynda Marion will chair this workgroup.

IV. Barrier Buster Network Work Plan

- Paul Sher is working on a revised draft of the Action Group workplan.
- Expect a revision at the next Action group meeting and discussion.

V. Fund Update

- All funds are currently expended.
- We received funds from the County's Housing and Homelessness Contingency Fund (\$15,000) and the City of Ann Arbor's CDBG funds (\$20,000).
- Those funds should come online in the next month.
- We received final approval for the DHS's Emergency services fund.
- Jenny Bivens of ETCS indicated that ETCS still has emergency service funding available. She can be reached at bivensj@ewashtenaw.org.

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VI. Announcements

- After the discussion on the Blueprint to End Homelessness from May, Mitch Steils and possibly Fran Alexander may present on the Blueprint at the next Barrier Buster Network Action Group meeting.

Adjourned 3:30 pm

***The Next Meeting is scheduled for
Wednesday, July 27 - 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm @ LLRC Room A***