

## **Barrier Busters Network Action Group**

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**May 3, 2006, LLRC  
1:30pm—3:00pm**

**BBN Attendees:** Beth Manuel, Child Care Network  
Mitch Steils, WHA  
Mary Beth Lampe, CSTS  
Cheri Nalepa, NSS  
Shirley Tarvis, CSTS  
Mel Batkins, DHS  
Cindy Maritato, DHS  
Helena Prince, FID  
Harriett Bakalar, Housing Bureau for Seniors  
Efrion Smith, Power Incorporated  
Dale Wanty, Salvation Army  
Rosemary Mety, Housing Bureau for Seniors  
Joan Doughty, CAN  
Sandy Reeber, ETCS  
Barbara Neiss, Safehouse  
Vickie Frederick-Toure  
Martha McGeorge  
Wanda Washington Jones  
Christina Oliver  
Angela Edmonds, TWCA  
Nidya Price Reed, Shelter Association  
Efrion Smith, Power Inc  
Michael Appel, Avalon  
Rebecca Lee, MAP  
Patricia Love, HARC  
Laurence Simmons, HARC  
Shannon Richards, Public Health  
Sue Gialanella, Public Health

**Staff Present:** Mike Scholl, Staff Coordinator HSCC

**Guests:** Frank Cambria, Chair, HSCC  
Diana Kern, McKinley Properties  
Lanette Kent, McKinley Properties  
Tracy Guisbert-Cooley, Evergreen – McKinley  
Mark McDonald, Wilson White  
Alice Ehn, Washtenaw Area Apartment Association  
Bob Miler, 211  
Alisa Anderson, 211

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## **I. Welcome/Introductions**

- Mary Beth Lampe and Beth Manuel opened the meeting

## **II. Public Comment**

- None

## **III. County Eviction Prevention Fund Kick Off**

- Mary Beth Lampe introduced the discussion on behalf of the Barrier Busters Action Group.
- The county Board of Commissioners issued a \$100,000 challenge grant for eviction prevention.
- The match was achieved with the assistance of area landlords and donors that matched the county money.
- There is about \$155,000 that will be made available over the course of the next 12 – 24 months.
- We have used the fund and challenge grant as an opportunity to work with area landlords and to develop a strategic relationship.
- We are pleased to welcome the landlords and the apartment association has agreed to attend.
- Frank Cambria indicated that it is critical that we develop a strategic partnership with landlords.
- It is important to note that the fund is not redistribution of existing funds but expanding the pool of funds available.
- The landlords have housing units available, work with tenants and the purpose of the fund is to keep people from being evicted.
- We should seek to develop a mutually beneficial relationship.
- A question related to the availability of the fund was offered.
- The fund will be available in the same manner that all other funds are available.
- It is our goal to develop a relationship with the landlords so that we may access their information.
- We have worked with 211 Regional Call center to use there resources to aid in the development of the new system.
- The new system will not diminish the existing systems or funds.
- Tracey Guisbert-Cooley from Evergreen Apartments indicated that they currently use 211 as a point of referral.
- This is a really ground breaking.
- Dale Wanty indicated that he thinks that we need to target those folks that suffer in silence.
- Those folks that are in the low-income range and are on the edge of bankruptcy and eviction.

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- Mark McDonald of Wilson White Company was surprised that he had never heard of Barrier Busters but was interested in learning more.
- He believed it was a good program and wanted to follow up and work to assist in the development of the fund.
- Elina of JFS indicated that they have a long standing relationship with McKinley through their Refugee relocation program.
- Diana Kern of McKinley indicated that they would consider putting a hold on evictions, if they knew that we were working with their tenants and if it would help prevent the eviction.
- Since we are working with 211 it is clear that we need a workable Protocol to address some of our needs.
- Bob Miller and Alisa Anderson at 211 indicated that it would be helpful to get input from members of the group.
- Mark McDonald agreed to review protocols.
- Barbara Neiss of Safehouse and N. Price from the Shelter Association volunteered as well.
- Have a need to capture outcomes from the new fund.
- Need to be as systemic as possible.
- Paul Sher indicated a need to ensure consistency with the Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness.
- The next meeting of the Barrier Busters on May 24 will be used to discuss the protocols for 211.

### **IV. Fund Update**

- We are about to receive our DHS reimbursement check and can make payment on the existing requests.
- We have money in the account for Ann Arbor residents.
- When you submit a request, please double check the address, some residents have an Ann Arbor mailing address but live in one of the adjacent townships.

Adjourned 3:00 pm

***The Next Meeting is scheduled for  
Wednesday, May 24, 2006 - 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm @ LLRC***