

Barrier Busters Network Action Group

February 25, 2009 American Red Cross
1:30pm—3:00pm

Attendees: *(Please excuse any misspellings or any missed names. These are interpretations of individuals' handwritten names actually recorded on the sign-in sheet.)*

Mary Beth Lampe, CSTS
Andrea Plevek, Office of Community Development (Barrier Busters Staff Member)
Stephanie Rakes, UM Social Work
Eric Hendershot, MAP
Ashley Cielinski, American Red Cross
Patrice LaGrand, Neighborhood Senior Services
Patricia Parker-Self, WC Department of Veterans Affairs
Sandy Reeber, ETCS
Colleen Joiner, Hemophilia Foundation of MI
Heather Mooney, Washtenaw County Treasurer's Office
Amber Wells, WC Housing Counselors
Debra Wright, Engagement Center
Paul Sher, Legal Services of Southeast Michigan
Shirley Tarvis, CSTS Youth and Family
Marie Cope, Jewish Family Services
Melissa Doletzy, Child Care Network
Erika Graham, POWER, Inc.
Angela Moore, Women's Center
David Oblak, 15th District Court Probation
Elizabeth MacCormack, Washtenaw Health Plan
Marla Conkin, The Salvation Army
Kelly Martin, Peace Neighborhood Center
Artrella Cohn, MSU Extension – A2
Victoria Smith, POWER, Inc.
Mel Batkins, DHS
Shannon Ellis, Home of New Vision
George Ridenour, AACIL
Walt Atover, AACIL
Margaret Loy, HBS
Helena Prince, Friends in Deed
Measie James, WHP

I. Welcome and Introductions

II. Announcements:

- a. Welcome New Members
- b. Ann Arbor Center for Independent Living (AACIL) has an upcoming workshop. See them for flyers.

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- c. ETCS has plenty of utility money (THAW, etc.) for shut offs, shut off notices, etc. They also have quite a bit of weatherization money from the stimulus packet.
- d. MSU-Extension has HC 101 coming up. See them for flyers and information.
- e. Angie Moore and the Women's Center DO NOT have an emergency fund. Do not refer to them for funds. They have a list of other places that do have funds for emergencies, but the Women's Center is not a fund providing agency.

III. Approval of Agenda/Minutes

Approval of minutes moved and seconded by multiple members. Minutes Approved.

IV. New Business

Speaker: Debra Wright, MSW, Program Manager

Home of New Vision – The Hamilton House Engagement Center

Contact Information:

Debra S. Wright, MSW, Program Manager

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The Hamilton House Engagement Center Purpose and Program:

It opened New Year's Eve through the Home of New Vision as a part of the Blueprint to End Homelessness. It is a '23 hour or less' center for intoxicated people or post-overdose patients from the ER. They provide showers, laundry, temporary shelter, and food. The Engagement Center has 8 beds, both for female and males. They serve as an in between place for clients. The grant for this program is for 3 years and they would like to serve as many community members as possible in that period. The projected numbers to be served are 250 people over the 3 year period with 100 people in the first year and 75 people in the second and third years.

The Engagement Center follows the *Harm Reduction Model* where they seek to provide help to those who want services and to cater to the needs of those that don't need their regular services.

They take referrals from shelters, hospitals, and more. The Engagement Center is operated through an Adult Foster Care license, so it is mandatory that they do health intake. There is not case management through the Engagement Center itself. But there is some through the SAMHSA Grant program (see notes below).

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Notes taken by BB Intern, Chantal R. Cotton

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a. Speaker: Shannon Ellis, Case Manager Supervisor

Home of New Vision – Recovery Oriented Case Management and Peer Support Partners (SAMHSA Grant) Program

hnv_shannon@yahoo.com

Like the Engagement Center, the SAMHSA Grant Program works with community members in need of an in between place to get connected with resources. Unlike the Engagement Center, the SAMHSA Grant Program has active casework with clients.

SAMHSA Grant Program and Purpose:

The program provides case management and has 4 caseworkers. The program connects people with resources. They provide peer support to develop treatment plans and relapse. They look to integrate clients.

Target Population:

- The homeless or precariously housed (in treatment or in danger of losing their home)
- Substance abuse disorder patients

People can be directly referred to Shannon. Thus far, patients have been referred to her from PORT, HARC, and the Engagement Center.

Q & A:

Q: Will more caseworkers be working with the Engagement Center program?

A: Possibly later. For now, the Engagement Center's goal is to provide a safe place for people at the times they need it most.

Q: Are you working with people that are already in treatment?

A: Yes. They will work with the clients at the place that they are currently getting treatment from. Although the program works with current treatment program clients, they also work with those not currently in treatment programs as well.

In one of their special programs, the case manager goes with the client wherever they go and work with them in peer support groups.

Q: Health Intakes are expensive. How do you afford to do this for each client?

A: PORT and hospitals provide these services. The intake process itself consists of health basics: blood pressure assessment and basic physical examination criterion. The intake process is mandatory so that Home of New Vision can know where the clients are coming from.

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Q: The Home of New Vision brochure mentions self referrals. Is this true that clients can self refer?

A: Yes. But Home of New Vision prefers agency referrals because the self referrals are more random and less predictive.

Q: Is this a recurring program? You have established a limit to how long people can stay in the program. But can people use your service more than once?

A: Yes. Clients can come back.

Q: Is there a waiting list?

A: No. They are trying to handle the clients that they get as they get them.

Q: Is there food there?

A: Yes. The Center provides 3 meals a day.

Q: Do people claim you to be a permanent adult foster care home?

A: No.

Q: How is your program funded?

A: Through Washtenaw County and the SAMHSA

Q: Do you connect people to Medicaid?

A: Yes. Shannon is SOAR trained. So that helps. You will get more SOAR information at our BB meeting next month.

V. Old Business: None

VI. BB Emergency Unmet Needs Fund Update

- BB funds are good.
- Evaluation Pilot Program is going well. BB will be more stringent on the front end when funding requests are made because our preliminary findings show that many requests are not filled out correctly.
- We are trying to assess the unmet need still in the community after all of the services that are offered county wide. Please try to record this for your specific agency. It is a challenge for us to assess this and your help will be very helpful.
- We are also interested in knowing the costs to nonprofits for providing the services you provide. If you have data on any of these things, contact Andrea Plevek at pleveka@ewashtenaw.org.
- There has been a \$24 million decrease in funding in the county's general fund. This decrease will affect our matching funds.

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VII. Case Consultation

1. Mortgage help: Forbearance? Is it still in place currently?
 - a. Forbearance cannot happen if the person is still current on payments. They must have had a payment missed in order to be eligible for forbearance. Cathy Grant could help with this. Heather Mooney and the Treasurer's Office can put you in touch with Cathy. A housing counselor can help the client to strategically plan payments.
2. Each agency should check with 211 to see what their agency is listed as (in terms of what type of agency you are and what type of services you provide).
3. Suboxin Case: WHP can do up to 10 people for suboxin assistance at one point for up to 5 months (equivalent to Medicare).
4. Car Repairs: Who can help with this?
 - a. Jewish Family Services with some criterion.
 - b. Thrift Shop
 - c. Salvation Army
 - d. Auto Department at Washtenaw Community College when it is related to their coursework at the time.
 - e. Some auto repair shops that accept check from nonprofits (they need the money before or when the car is done being repaired). Friends in Deed works closely with one repair shop that is really particular about timely payments.
 - f. Mary Beth Lampe (she has done research on this issue).
5. Who else provides budget counseling besides MSU – Extension?
 - a. Delinquent Tax issues are referred to UM – Credit Union
 - b. UM – Credit Union also handles budget counseling for all UM-Credit Union members
 - c. Greenpaths Debt Solution is smaller and narrower. Very beneficial in certain cases. Depends on the client's needs.
 - d. The Women's Center has counseling for a sliding scale fee for up to \$10 for 1-on-1 counseling.
 - e. POWER, Inc does classes (group classes) sliding fee (3 sessions total in a year).
6. For furniture needs, where should we go, especially with people that have nothing)?
 - a. Kiwanis has furniture until the end of March. They won't have any more after that until the next funding season
 - b. EID
 - c. Reuse Center on Industrial
 - d. Jewish Family Services (just call)
 - e. Craigslist.com
 - f. Freecycle in Ann Arbor (an online listserv)
 - g. Thrift Shop
 - h. Thrift shop items through Huron High School

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7. Do any of the housing shelters around the county have space right now?

We think so, but we are not sure. Other things people can do if they shelters do not have space is:

- a. Stay in "The Chair"
- b. The first floor of the shelter (where there are no beds) is also open if the shelter overfills.
- c. Blood Alcohol Content (BAC) Level matters in these cases
- d. Families should for sure get on the waitlist.
- e. Alpha House and the Shelter all have check-ins by phone for the people on the waitlist.

Meeting Adjourned at 3PM

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