

Barrier Busters Network Action Group

January 28, 2009 LLRC

1:30pm—3:00pm

Attendees: *(Please excuse any misspellings. These are interpretations of individuals' handwritten names)*

Mary Beth Lampe, CSTS

Andrea Plevak, Office of Community Development (Barrier Busters Staff Member)

Stephanie Rakes, UM Social Work

Eric Hendershot, MAP

Ashley Cielinski, American Red Cross

Daniel Lau You, Community Crisis Response Team

Patrice LaGrand, Neighborhood Senior Services

George Ridenour, AACIL

Kelly Stupple, Success by 6, WC Public Health

Patricia Parker-Self, WC Department of Veterans Affairs

Sandy Reeber, ETCS

Colleen Gaines, Hemophilia Foundation of MI

Heather Mooney, Washtenaw County Treasurer's Office

Amanda Briggs, CSTS/CCRT

Amber Wells, WC Housing Counselors

Debra Wright, Engagement Center

Paul Sher, Legal Services of Southeast Michigan

Shirley Tarvis, CSTS Youth and Family

Janette Ghedotte, CCRT

Karyn Boyce, Ozone House

Maja Reed, Ozone House

Measie James, WHP

Aaron Pressel, CAN

Evan Deering, CAN

Ann Savickas, 15th District Probation

Sandra Andrade, American Red Cross

Allison Pollock, Jewish Family Services

Helena Prince, Friends in Deed

Lillie Pinder, MPRF (Hope Clinic)

Shannon Duffany, Child Care Network

Melissa Doletzy, Child Care Network

Erika Graham, POWER, Inc.

Angela Moore, Women's Center

I. Welcome and Introductions

II. Announcements:

a. Welcome New Member Organizations

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III. Approval of Agenda/Minutes

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

IV. New Business

a. Speaker: Ann M. Savickas, BSW, JD, Street Outreach Court

15th Judicial District Probation Supervisor

www.15thdistrictcourt.org

Contact Information:

(734) 994-2753

(734) 994-2616

AMSavickas@a2gov.org

For appointments:

206 E. Huron St.

Ann Arbor, MI 48104

(734) 994-2751x0

What is the history of the Street Outreach Court and what does it do?

- It is a part of the Blueprint to End Homelessness Plan. It is an attempt to clear legal barriers to housing and jobs. Types of issues the SOC can help to clear are:
 - i. **Misdemeanors and small crimes**
 - ii. **Bench warrants**
- The SOC does a criminal check on the client
- The SOC gathers every open misdemeanor for the client in Washtenaw County if the client completes the program and their action plan. The SOC cannot erase misdemeanors in other counties. They do not look up other county misdemeanors.
- **The SOC's Mission is to get people to a clean slate**

What is the application process for clients to get into the SOC:

- The client **MUST** work through an agency provider or agency referral
- License definition
- Action Plans must be made/agreed upon between the agency and the client with information about what the client is going to do to address their issues.

The Court:

- Judge Hines is in charge. She waves the client's fines and costs if the client has not been charged with any new charges and has kept with

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their action plan. The client makes it through court for being in progress of work on the action plan.

- The court is held in the first floor conference room of the County Annex Building on 4th Street.
- Court hearings are held every 2nd Wednesday of every month at noon (12PM). There are a total of six (6) SOC court hearings held each year.

Your responsibility as an agency provider:

- Accept people as your clients to work with them on their action plans.
- Give the SOC updates on the clients that you are working with on action plans. You should also come to court with the client on their hearing date.

Q & A:

Q: Do issues come up from other counties when you do your background check?

A: The SOC does not look up the client's history in other counties. They chose not to look in other counties because the SOC is responsible for honoring the other county sentences. They deal strictly with Washtenaw County.

Q: What happens to felonies?

A: The person has to deal with those.

Q: How long does this process take?

A: The action plan takes maybe six weeks and then the dockets happen every two months.

Q: Do clients need to have their action plan completed by the docket date?

A: No. Clients simply have to be working on it and they cannot have any new charges. If they get a new charge, they get kicked out of the program and the misdemeanors stay on their records.

Q: Have there been any repeats yet?

A: Only a few in the SOC's 3 years of work.

Q: What happens if a client stops doing the action plan and says "forget you?"

A: You call the SOC and report out about the client; the issues and misdemeanors go back onto the client's record; and the person will eventually end up in jail for all of the issues.

Q: Is this like Jcourt?

A: Jcourt is a jail diversion group. They work to keep people out of jail. But the SOC program is more like a pre Jcourt group.

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Q: How does the court benefit?

A: They were not going to get paid by the clients anyway. The SOC is a way for the court to clear out some files and to clean up someone's background at the same time. The clients are clear of legal issues for once in their lives. It is very rewarding and inspiring to see.

Q: What if our agency does not do long term client case consultation?

A: Please refer them to an agency that does so that they can develop and work towards an action plan. For example, MAP, MPRI, POWER Inc, Treatment centers, CSS, and Ozone house, are all agencies that do long term casework that short term casework agencies can refer people to.

SOC Accomplishments:

- Served about 200 in the three years. Saved lots of jail space. Cleared about 1000 issues/cases.
- The application is available online and you can access it through their website or through the Barrier Busters January 28, 2009 Meeting Materials webpage.

V. Old Business

- a. Barrier Busters Funders Meeting: Was canceled. Does anyone have any funding issues that they would like us to take to the funders? Anything about the type of need necessary would be important for us to know. Please email Andrea with specific information (and any evidence you have) about issues you'd like for us to mention at the rescheduled funders meeting. We will bring up the co-pay issue to them for sure. Please send us any information you have about this and other issues and we will present them to the funders.

VI. Future Meeting Topics/Barrier Buster Meeting Speakers: Any ideas?? We already have a Social Security Topic set for the March meeting. Please email other ideas to Andrea, Mary Beth, Paul, or Chantal.

- a. The Crisis Response Team with John A. would be interesting for February since that is the launch month. Mary Beth L. will follow up on this.
- b. The SAMSA Grant Program (a 3-year grant helping 250 people through the homing division). Debra S. Wright of Home of New Vision could bring someone from the program for our February meeting and she can also talk to us about the Engagement Center.

VII. BB Emergency Unmet Needs Fund Update

BB has been running into administrative roadblocks because our B & B Services contract ended and had to be renewed. It should be done by the end of this week. Andrea will send out an email when this happens. In terms of funds that are available, we have money available. Our huge delay should be over. For further questions or specific

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amounts, please contact Anita Mure (murea@ewashtenaw.org) or Andrea Plevak (pleveka@ewashtenaw.org).

VIII. Case Consultation

1. Angela Moore (Women's Center) Inquiry: Agency got a call from a family that has nothing and lives in an abandoned trailer. They are illegal immigrants. The roof is leaking and it is not known whether they are paying rent to live there or not. The mother has multiple kids and is pregnant again. Who can help them? They were referred to Jewish Family Services, but is there anyone else who could possibly help?
 - a. The First Methodist Church in Ypsi that has a large Spanish speaking population and they are very active with immigrant issues.
 - b. Marie Cope may be able to help.
 - c. Maternal and infant health program with the county may be helpful (especially if she is pregnant).
 - d. What about food and health care? Some programs simply require residency in the county and not citizenry. The soon-to-be-born baby will be a citizen, so she may be eligible to get more stuff.
 - e. MOMS and WHP can help with the children because the children will be eligible for some of the Medicaid-type of programs.
 - f. Make sure one of the parents are connected with Peri-Stone who is connected with the Education for Homeless Kids program (which may not be related to residency status). The parents simply have to prove that they are homeless.
 - g. The Delonis Center has a list of other information services too.
 - h. Child Care Network can help them with child care services probably if the kids are really young.
2. Helena's inquiry: She is working with a man who is in a substance abuse program through St. Joseph's Hospital and it was paid for through someone with the county or his insurance. He is in compliance with the program. Part of the program requires him to take a medication called Subboxin for some months and his insurance does not cover it. Friends In Deed has already talked to the therapist and other medical people and discovered that the medication is indeed necessary. The client is still in the program and he is also bipolar. Is this a necessary part of this program and what else can be done to help him meet the payments?
 - a. The cheapest place to get the medication is Meijer.
 - b. ACCESS may cover the treatment through very specific doctors.
 - c. Pharmaceutical companies only work with specific doctors too, but in some cases, they are viable options.
 - d. Although the therapists all see this as a necessary part of his program, you should suggest that the client also looks into using holistic medicine too.
3. HOPE Clinic Case: They have an MPRI participant who is a sex offender (CSC offense). HOPE Clinic's housing program pays for the person to have shelter for 6 months and his time is almost up. He has to have a new place to stay in by this Sunday, January 31, 2009 and he is

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trying to get help with the move-in costs. He is 55 years of age and has been approved for state disability (although he is not completely sure when the checks will start to come). His state disability will be ~\$275/month. He has found a 2 bedroom apartment and has to stay in Washtenaw County. He has said “no” to multiple job offers and is not open to getting a 1-bedroom apt. because he was recently married. Is there anything anyone can do to help him?

- a. See if he can stay longer in transitional housing
- b. Let him know that he has to listen to the counselors and take the smaller apt. and other accommodations (like the job) in order to actually be helped.

Meeting Adjourned at 2.45PM

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