

Barrier Busters Network Action Group

April 27, 2011

1:30-3:00, Red Cross

I. Welcome and Introductions

II. Review of Agenda & Minutes:

Agenda/Minutes: Moved by Mary Beth Lampe, seconded by Measie James, and approved unanimously.

III. Member Agency Announcements:

- a. Ann Arbor District Library: The May brochure was passed around. Special events included Sebastian Junger and Ben Franklin's Birthday, opening May 5th – July 7th. Both activities are for adults and kids.
- b. Ypsilanti Pride: The Ypsilanti Jaycees and the Ann Arbor-Ypsilanti Chamber of Commerce are holding an Ypsilanti Pride event to clean up various areas of Ypsilanti. For more information, contact Tara Truax or visit the site at Ypsilantipride.org.
- c. Friends In Deed: Helena Prince is officially retiring, and today is her last BB meeting. Sarah Thornburg was present with her and was introduced as the new executive director.
- d. Jewish Family Services: JFS reported that no assistance funding was available until the end of June.

IV. New Business:

- a. **Catholic Social Services Housing Supportive Services Program (Kevin Bell):** The HSS program primarily serves existing CSS clients within MPRI and Avalon housing units; however, an increased number of "referral" calls from people not currently in these or other CSS programs have increased. Kevin produced a handout and copies are available upon request.
 - i. BB discussed increasing requests for utility assistance: Utility assistance continues to be discussed at the WHA and SPOE. ETCS and DHS are the largest sources for utility assistance but do not do case management. It'd be nice to have a single point of access for utility problems.

DHS: cap has been increased to \$850. Clients who have previously maxed out can reapply for remaining funds.

- b. BB Planning: What Can Barrier Busters Do For You? (BB Chairs):** BBs shared that the listserv still remains a highly helpful tool for case management. It would be great to figure out a way to collect questions and the answers given.

Requests: Client ID numbers are not on BB requests, can it be added? Staff have been working to improve the request form; however, Encompass is offered to BB for free and it may be a long time before it is implemented. What are the BB request criteria? It was mentioned that the BB senior funds for unmet needs morphed into emergency funds requiring a review of housing and utilities as part of the request. BB funds still remain open to any type of request; however, BB funds are meant to stabilize emergency needs. To that end, BB requests are required to include affordability and sustainability narratives, which often include aspects of housing and utilities. BB Chairs and staff have recently met and are working on a BB request template to be used as a checklist for BB requests.

- c. Special appreciation to Helena Prince:** As announced at the beginning, today is Helena's last BB meeting. BBers have collected and will make a gift to Friends in Deed in honor of Helena's long service to the community. A card signed by BBers was also given to Helena.

V. BB Unmet Needs Funds: No update.

VI. Public Comment: No comments.

VII. Adjourn