

Barrier Busters Network Action Group

March 23, 2011

1:30-3:00, Pittsfield Township Admin Building

I. Welcome and Introductions

II. Agenda & Minutes:

Motion to revised agenda with the Housing Task Force Presentation going first was approved.
Minutes were approved.

III. Member Agency Announcements:

- a. Friends in Deed: Fundraiser at Noodles & Company in Arborland mall. For more information, contact Helena Prince.
- b. ETCS: Unfortunately, ETCS utility assistance was reduced and expected allocations will not be disbursed to agencies. After a few more interviews, ETCS utility assistance will be depleted. Financial assistance for deliverable fuels (propane and fuel oil) is still available.
- c. AADL: Computer classes are available. No library card is required, and they're free for anyone.
- d. CSTS-CCRT (734-994-8048): Staff reduced to day hours. Case managers can call CCRT when clients are in psychiatric distress or saying that they will harm themselves or others. CCRT is relying on case managers to work with client. CSTS-Towner is currently in the process of improving efficiency, so clients may find themselves being switched to different workers. If anyone has any success with MEI Staffing, accounting and healthcare services, please contact Mary Beth Lampe.
- e. CSTS: Tara Truax. CSTS if holding focus groups for people in the 48197-48198 area. People are encouraged to attend them.

IV. New Business:

- a. **Hoarding Task Force (Harriet Bakalar, HBS; Patricie Lagrand, Carpenter Place Apt.):**
Harriet and Patrice presented a PowerPoint that included characteristics of hoarding and information on the Hoarding Task Force. Due to the multi-faceted layers that result in hoarding (e.g., stressors, OCD, capacity issues, etc.), the Hoarding Task Force is made up of fourteen multi-disciplinary agencies, with Harriet as its current chair. The taskforce is not about going in and cleaning everything out; rather, it is about providing support and creating a safe and healthy environment. Patrice laid out the various pitfalls of congregate housing (e.g., bulk newspaper delivery, weekly food distribution,

shopping buses, friendly neighbors, freebies, dumpster diving, etc.) and included ideas on how to prevent situations (e.g., two to four inspections a year, shared walls and hallways, smaller mailboxes, www.donotcall.gov and www.dmachoice.org to reduce junk mail, etc.). Other facts: eviction costs due to hoarding can be roughly \$3,000; CPS rubric is used to keep child safe; the task force is recruiting volunteers; and currently there are no counterparts in other counties.

b. Payee Services:

- i. MAP (Jan Little):** MAP currently services roughly 400 clients who primarily receive entitlements due to a disability and need support covering rent and utilities. The process is fairly easy to become a payee client, even family members can enroll clients. MAP offers walk-in hours and works cooperatively with clients to adjust budgets when needed. There is no waitlist. And fees are predetermined by the Social Security Administration. For a complete list of eligibilities and rules, request a brochure from Misty Hendershot. As a disclaimer, being a payee client does not result in preferential treatment for other MAP services. MAP also has monthly budgeting questions, which are open and free to the public.
- ii. B & B Payee Services (Bobby Johnson):** The program is roughly similar to MAPS's in terms of fees schedules being dictated by the entitlement agency (e.g., VA fees dictated by VA. Clients will need to contact VA in Detroit - MiCAM. VA payees have separate accounts, separate fee weights.).

Ann Arbor SSA office initiates process, with a needed capacity to support form online to turn into SSA. Most PCPs are willing to fill out form. It was noted that when a client determines to move or terminate payee relationship, benefits can be jeopardized without another payee identified.

V. BB Unmet Needs Funds:

Andrea Plevak presented data covering a range of 14 months and gave an update on the current status of funds. Handouts were disseminated and are available upon request.

VI. Public Comment:

Helena Prince: Emanuel Lutheran Church, First Presbyterian Church, and Salvation Army all reported lower numbers for their free meal programs. Helena asked if folks new of any new food pantries that would have caused the reduced attendance. Greater Grace Fellowship church (formerly the location of St. Ursula) opened a new food program, but it does not account for the large reduction. ETCS, however, reported that requests for food pantries were steady.

VII. Adjourn