

# **Continuum of Care Action Group Minutes**

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**March 27, 2006, LLRC**

**3:00 – 5:00 pm**

**Attendees:** John Schippers, Dina Cooke, Diane Davidson, Mary Beth Lampe, Efrion Smith, Michael Appel, Barbara Niess, Gary Bell, Becky Donegan, Julie Steiner, Ellen Schulmeister, Charles Coleman, Jimena Loveluck, Mitch Steils, Betsy Lindsley, Kate Warner, Rebecca Lee, Susan Hornfeld

**Staff Present:** Mark Roby, Regina Keskes, Stacy Ebron

## **I. Welcome/Introductions**

## **II. Announcements**

1. Tuscan Creek relocation – John Schippers
  - CSTS collaborates to provide services to residents of Tuscan Creek apartments. An applicant process and rent standards have been defined. Currently there are two vacant beds (in a single apartment).
  - Working with the City on this project has been a very positive experience.
  - Diane Davidson noted that residents with cognitive impairments may have trouble finding their homes.
2. Project – Susan Hornfeld
  - MAP is looking at Section 811 rent subsidies to be used in four three-bedroom units at a property on Platt Road.
  - Possible populations to be served include veterans, developmentally disabled, homeless, WISH participants, etc.
  - Support service dollars are needed for the project; another relevant issue is the prisoner re-entry initiative.
  - The project works to coordinate employment options. This includes a week of cognitive-behavioral therapy and a week of empowerment training and job placement.
  - The project is doing well with placement but poorly with retention.
  - MAP is working on developing two long-term career plans.
  - Julie Steiner asked what the mission of the project is.
  - Ellen Schulmeister noted that the deadline for Section 811 applications is May 26.
  - Susan will submit an outline of the project and will find out if a letter of support is needed.

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3. Renewal applicant agencies
  - Agencies are submitting documentation for review including an audit, the most recent APR, and a project narrative.

### **III. MSHDA DV RFP**

- MSHDA has released an RFP for permanent supportive housing projects to serve domestic violence populations. Applications are due April 10.
- The RFP needs support from the CoC, HSCC, Legal Services, WAHC, and the City/County.
- The project will fund 5-6 units leased by WAHC and rehabilitation of a six-unit building.
- A motion was made to support the RFP; the motion passed unanimously.

### **IV. SuperNOFA Released**

- The data response rate is low for information included in the application. Because HMIS sections are data-driven, data must be entered 3-5 days after it is obtained. Data is also being reported for a Point in Time Count.
- Numbers get hurt when beds are not dedicated for the homeless.
- Dawn Farm has been removed since it has not been upheld for the homeless.
- After the application is submitted, a form will be sent to CoC members in order to verify numbers. The relevant data will need to be updated by June.
- Barbara Niess questioned whether or not SAFE House can participate in HMIS.
- The workgroup to address systems integration will be resuming operation.
- Ellen Schulmeister noted that chronic homelessness is linked to the workgroups. Julie Steiner added that a note on chronically homeless with families should be added to the feedback section of the application.

### **V. State-Wide Continuum of Care Leadership Conference, Campaign to End Homelessness in Michigan**

- Six-month grants of \$10,000 are available for the Ten Year Plan.
- A handout was provided on the Campaign to End Homelessness in Michigan.

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### **VI. Blueprint Update**

- Some workgroups are in the process of integrating. As communication continues and priorities are identified, some workgroups will be eliminated.
- The 6-month report is expected to be released in May. This will contain raw data regarding workgroup progress.
- The Housing Alliance Board of Directors recommends 500 units of affordable housing.
- The Housing Alliance website contains workgroup plans, meeting minutes, etc. ([www.whalliance.org](http://www.whalliance.org)).

### **VII. HMIS Update**

- Data needs to be updated earlier. Also, agencies should update information to 2-1-1.
- IHN now has full participation in HMIS.
- SAWC is now entering data live in real time.
- HMIS staff have a new report writer. They are currently reviewing a document to release HMIS data.

### **VIII. Other Updates**

- SAMHSA has grants available for homelessness. Marci Scalera is pursuing a grant for ongoing case management to help address the goals of Workgroups 6 and 7.
- This is Dina Cooke's last CoC meeting.
- Diane Davidson noted that Workgroup 5 is pursuing funding for supportive services.

### **IX. Adjournment and Final Comments**

**Adjourned 5:00 pm**

***Next Continuum of Care Action Group meeting is  
April 24 from 3:00-5:00 PM at the LLRC***