

**SUMMARY MEETING MINUTES
CONTINUUM OF CARE WORKING GROUP
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2009 – 8:30 A.M.
MANCHESTER ROOM – TOWN HALL**

Members present: Jennifer Eukers – V.A., John Sullivan – V.A., Sarah Melquist – MACC, Myrian Garcia – EHCHC

Also present: Diane Wicks – Senior Adult & Family Services
Heather Donoghue, Community Development Program Manager

Diane Wicks began the meeting by welcoming the group. Next, everyone was offered the opportunity to provide agency updates.

AGENCY UPDATES

Sarah Melquist - MACC

- MACC will be partnering with the Town to sponsor PAL's Homework Club for kids from Nathan Hale. The sessions will be held at the MACC apartments.
- There will be Life Skills Experience Trainings held at MACC apartments for 18-21 year olds from Manchester High School. The trainings will be for kids who have a high school diploma but need assistance with their transitional skills.
- The Outreach part of the former CPAS program is now run out of MACC. Phil is making contact with Main St. merchants.
- Report on the United Way Day of Caring.

Myrian Garcia - ECHCC

- Myrian discussed her visit to Bev's Corner in Vernon, which is like a day shelter for the homeless. She found the facility to be very clean and nice and it provides valuable services to adults. It is connected to a Vernon church.
- There is a new doctor at the Manchester EHCHC , Dr. Shea
- August 10-14th was National Health Center Week, which was very successful with several events.
- Due to the impending flu season, EHCHC will be offering flu shots at their sites, likely after September 15th. The H1N1 vaccination will likely be offered soon as well.
- EHCHC had a 95% success rate with back-to-school physicals.
- Information for agencies: If there is an emergency situation with a client, call early at 8:00am, there are 4 emergency slots open, if needed. Nurse can see patients if the MD is unavailable. For emergency dental care, come in.

Jennifer Eukers – Veteran’s Administration

- The 24 housing vouchers that the V.A. had are pretty much all accounted for, however, they are still taking names for a wait list. It is planned that the vouchers will be released on September 15th. Chrysalis Center is hiring a case manager.
- Regarding “sober time” in the Housing First model – there is no real set period of time, however, they want participants to be “stable” and linked to VA services.
- They use the HUD definition of homelessness = 4 incidences over the last 3 years or one continuous incident over the period of one year.
- Both the carriage house and the mansion on Ellington Ave in Rockville will be supportive apartments. At this time, there are already 7 supportive units in the carriage house and there are 10 slated for the mansion.
- The STAND DOWN event will take place on September 18th and there will be bus pick-up starting at 6:30am at the Samaritan Shelter. The bus will run back and forth all day until about 3pm. The target is homeless vets and many wonderful services are offered.

John Sullivan – Veteran’s Administration

- The “Challenge Survey” determines the level of services provided to Veterans in your community. The results are forwarded to Congress, where it will impact future legislation. In the past, permanent housing and dental services have frequently been identified as the major concerns for Veterans. John passed around information about the Challenge Survey and asked that we each complete a survey at the meeting. Diane will ask Chet, the volunteer VA rep, and her staff to complete surveys.
- John emphasized the need for collaboration between the V.A. and local communities.
- There were 10,000 HUD VASH vouchers nationwide this year. The focus is on the chronically homeless and the program is similar to Shelter Plus Care except that services are provided by the V.A. The target is 50,000 vouchers nationwide in an attempt to address the entire homeless Vet population. This year, there were 35 vouchers for the Greater Hartford region.

Diane Wicks – Manchester Human Services Dept

- The Renter’s Rebate program ends September 15th
- H1N1 Priority groups: children, people who work with children and pregnant women. The state website is a great resource, check it for more information:
www.ct.gov/ctfluwatch
- There are two upcoming workshops that may be of interest to COC members:
 - CT Coalition to End Homelessness’ 8th Annual Training Institute - 9/17-9/18
 - New Day for Housing – 10/7/09
- Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-housing Program (HPRP) federal funding will provide opportunities for people at-risk of homelessness and the homeless. Diane Wicks and Sarah Melquist will be going to a training in the next few weeks and will be able to provide more information afterwards.

NEXT COC MEETING

The meeting was adjourned around 10:15 a.m.

The next meeting of the Continuum of Care Working Group will take place on *Friday, October 16th, 2009 at 8:30 a.m. in the Manchester Room.*

R:\PLANNING\CONTINUUM OF CARE\2009 MEETINGS\11SEPT09-MEETING MINUTES.DOC