

**SUMMARY MEETING MINUTES
CONTINUUM OF CARE WORKING GROUP
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2009 – 8:30 A.M.
MANCHESTER ROOM – TOWN HALL**

Members present: Debra Macht – WorkSource, Andrea Harnois-Cherry – Genesis, Jennifer Eukers – V.A., Phil McNally – MACC, Sarah Melquist – MACC, Anika Maybin - CHR

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

Ms. Wicks began the meeting by welcoming the group and inviting everyone to introduce themselves, as Anika was new to the group.

SUPERNOFA

There was a training held by HUD regarding homeless funding that can be directed through a Continuum of Care. There are three categories within the SUPERNOFA: single room occupancy (SRO), supportive housing and shelter plus care. Our CoC needs to determine how to register with HUD if that is needed for the CHR grant; it seems that we can only register if the CoC is applying for specific funding. This will be pursued further. Jill Benson from CHR attended the training as reported by Andrea.

CT HPRP

Connecticut has received Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP) funding in the amount of about \$17 million. It is a 3 year grant, which went into effect October 1, that has the target goal of serving 400 family/individuals units in the Hartford Region. The primary goal of the program is to keep people in their homes and rapidly re-house newly homeless individuals and families. This program is **not** designed to address chronic homelessness and it is for people who have used up all other available options.

The process involves the individual or family calling 211 and explaining their situation. The caller will then be transferred to a trained screener for the program. Please note that the call to 211 is a **pre-screen only** – it does not mean that the person is enrolled.

HPRP is not a “one-shot deal” type of program. For example, recipients can receive up to 18 months of assistance. The program will not help with mortgage payments or foreclosure prevention but if a family has been foreclosed upon, they could apply to be rapidly re-housed.

Diane and Sarah attended training this week and have written material, which was distributed to the group.

Financial Literacy Classes

In collaboration with the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) program, the Town's Human Services Department will be offering financial literacy classes together with Chris silver of the Office of Neighborhood and Families, starting in February 2010. The classes will allow for a maximum of 15 people and will be a 10-week program that will meet once a week. A wide variety of topics will be taught – anything from basic banking to purchasing a home to pensions. The target audience is young lower-income families from Manchester. The classes will use the FDIC program and be taught by 3 trained graduate students.

MISH

A representative from MISH contacted Heather regarding the development of a ten year plan to end homelessness in Manchester. The group discussed the need for a close connection to the MISH organization.

Point-in-Time Homeless Count

Sarah or Phil will be participating in a training for the upcoming point-in-time (PIT) homeless count. The upcoming count is for sheltered individuals only. Therefore, the COC will not have the HUD-sponsored unsheltered PIT count next year. There may, however, be a state-sponsored count held next summer.

Food Pantry

Sarah discussed criteria for the Food Pantry and MACC's recent review of participants. All people accessing the pantry must get food stamps SNAP. MACC went through people's budgets with them and the end result is a smoother process, more appropriate use of the pantry and more families are being served.

NEXT COC MEETING

It was decided there were no pressing reasons to hold meetings during the next few months. Therefore, the next meeting has been scheduled for Friday, January 8th.

The meeting was adjourned around 9:30 a.m.

The next meeting of the Continuum of Care Working Group will take place on ***Friday, January 8, 2010 at 8:30 a.m. in the Manchester Room.***