

**Rural Oregon Continuum of Care (ROCC)
Monthly Board of Director's meeting
July 22, 2009**

Members Present:	
Dawn Persels - Corrections	Marci McMurphy – CAPECO
Bob More - ORCCA	Cindy Pratt - CSC
Scott Rich – HUD - telephone	Bernadette Ray – Trueman Recovery Project
Ann Brown - OHCS	Capt. Ben Atchley- Albany Police Dept.
Stephen Howard - CSC	Deb Price - OHCS
Chris Evans - OHDC	Karen Clearwater - OHCS
Kathy Redman - YCAP	Victor Fox – DHS/Public Health/HOPWA
Erin Skaar – CARE - Tillamook	Dan Rupe – Veteran's Administration
Corenne Stuart – MCCAC	Peggy Yarbor – Harney County Senior Center
Jeff Putterbaugh – DHS/ AMH	
Yachi lisako – PSU Intern	
Kristin Chatfield – OSU Intern	

Introductions:

Committee Structure: The 3rd draft of the by-laws were discussed. Marci requested that region # 3 be changed to include Umatilla, Morrow, Wheeler, and Gilliam counties. Discussion about the work that was done in June and why the regions were formed. The Steering Committee decided to leave the regions as they were voted on at the June meeting.

Discussion regarding Article III Section 1, and Article V Section 6. Article III Section 1 will be moved to Section 4 and the first line changed to reflect “the monthly Board of Director’s meetings . . .” The other Sections will be moved up. Article V Section 6, first line will be changed to say “Board of Director’s normally meet once a month . . .”

The 4th draft of the by-laws will be changed and sent out with the minutes.

2009 HUD Supportive Housing Program (SHP) Application: Ann advised that the 2009 HUD SHP Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) will not be announced until after August 24th. This is a major change from years past. They used to announce in March, last year they announced in July. This year will be after August 24. The RENEWAL projects will be announced within 30 – 60 days after the competition closing, and NEW projects will be announced after the first of the year. This year the emphasis on housing and leveraging will be on new projects only. This could affect our score if our performance in permanent housing does not show a high enough emphasis on housing. The Samaritan Bonus is now called the Permanent Housing Bonus. Ann advised that Kristin Chatfield from OSU will be working with her beginning August 4th, to begin work on the SHP grant application. Kristin will also be reviewing the McKinney- Vento reauthorization to learn what and when new policies go into effect. Yachi lisako from PSU is already working on the Discharge Planning Policy. We are setting up a meeting with the other Continuum of Care coordinators, and then we will work with Roberto Franco to continue meeting with a group of agencies to work on this issue, including the Governor’s Re-Entry task force. Yachi will also be contacting other states to learn what is going on across the nation in regards to this issue.

Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress: Participation in the AHAR will be part of the scoring this year in the SHP competition. As our score was only .75 over the funding line last year, we need to make sure we are making every effort to participate in the AHAR. This means that we need to try and get the Shelter Transactions into OPUS. Ann will be contacting each of the current project sponsors to work towards meeting this requirement.

Housing Inventory Charts: There are several project sponsors who have not submitted their Housing Inventory Charts for the SHP competition. Please do that now.

Homeless Programs Updates:

Roberto Franco gave an update on the Housing PLUS initiative and the number of projects and units funded. He advised that not much has changed from his report last month, that the projects were getting started, all the funds have been committed. He stated they had allotted \$6500.00 per unit per year for housing needs, which may not be enough. They are encouraging the partners to look for additional ways to provide services, such as working with local Community Action Agencies and other providers.

Roberto also gave an update on the Neighborhood Stabilization Programs (NSP1 & NSP2). Discussion regarding current applications and using NSP for permanent housing. Community Services Consortium (CSC) advised that they had applied for NSP I funds for 5 houses. With NSP I, the attempt was made to ensure that some funds were set aside for permanent housing. NSP II, there will be a conscious effort to set aside 5 million for Permanent Housing. Karen added that NSP I is only being granted in some very specific targeted areas in Oregon, and the NSP II program should have a broader geographic area. Karen also added that OHCS is trying to get the NSP I award announcements out by the end of July. OHCS is also partnering with Department of Human Services (DHS) the Addictions and Mental Health (AMH) division to try and bring resources to the local level. Developers interested in NSP funds should try to find foreclosed homes with 2 or more bedrooms. The Oxford House Model would be a good fit for NSP funds. OHCS is committed to providing housing opportunities for homeless persons and expects local partners to look for opportunities.

Other issues: Bob asked about Notice of Funds Available (NOA) from OHCS for the SHP program. Ann advised that she will have the NOA's ready for the 4 projects that OHCS is still the grantee on, by the end of the week. This is the CAPECO – RUSTY's House project, CCNO – Self Sufficiency project, ORCCA – COOLS project, and the UCAN – Casa de Belen project. Scott advised that for all other projects, the grants should be signed, and he is working on the Technical Submissions for some of the projects. They should go out today. Bob also asked about the NOA's for the Emergency Shelter Grants, Emergency Housing Account and the Housing Stabilization Program. Bob is concerned that we are already into the new biennium and they do not have authority to spend funds. Ann will check with Rainy and send out an update.

Stephen Howard requested to make a change in a new project that he (CSC) had applied for, and had been awarded, in partnership with the Linn/Benton Housing Authority (LBHA). LBHA has been in discussion with HUD and are requesting to change their NEW grant from a permanent housing grant to a transitional housing grant as they are ready to sign the grant document. Scott Rich from HUD advised the way the grant is written looks like a Transitional Housing grant, but it was approved as a Permanent Housing grant. HUD does not have a problem making the change, but will not make the change without a letter from the ROCC supporting the change. Discussion ensued about whether or not the ROCC should allow this change.

This is a major policy issue and the following points were discussed:

- 10 Year Plan at the local level was not in place when LBHA made the application, but Linn Counties 10 Year Plan now has an emphasis on developing transitional housing
- LBHA apparently wants to serve a broader population than just disabled individuals
- The transitional housing model works well with the Veteran's housing model
- Is it the role of the Steering Committee to make this kind of decision, or should it be decided at the local level
- HUD clarified that yes, the Steering Committee should address this kind of issue at the state level
- The by-laws state that the Steering Committee does vote on the rating and ranking of projects
- How would changing this project affect the rating and ranking that was voted on by the Steering Committee in 2008
- What precedence would this set if the Steering Committee reversed a decision about rating and ranking that was voted on in 2008
- 2008 was the first year the Steering Committee voted on the rating and ranking process
- In the 2008 rating and ranking process, several projects were cut. When a scoring issue came up, the Steering Committee agreed to go back and "fix" the "obvious" errors, but no further changes were allowed
- This is the first time that LBHA has partnered with the local Community Action Agency – the Steering Committee does not wish to discourage this kind of partnership
- This is a national competition
- How many transitional housing projects do we have in the Continuum, versus permanent housing project
- Following the state's 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness, does the Steering Committee want to put a strategy in place for encouraging permanent housing projects, rather than continue to fund transitional housing projects

Capt. Atchley made a motion to call a special meeting to resolve the issue.

Victor Fox 2nd the motion

Motion passed

Ann will set up a meeting in the near future for the Steering Committee to resolve the issue.

Ann will also request LBHA submit their request for the change along with the original grant application. Ann will also include any statements of policy that were made in 2008 during the rating and ranking process.

Continuing and Future Issues:

OPUS Ann will be contacting project sponsors to get Shelter Transactions into OPUS for the AHAR. We are hoping to continue OPUS training on a quarterly basis.

McKinney-Vento reauthorization update

Discharge Planning Policy update

Video Conferencing sites - Please remember to communicate with your local V-Con site about whether or not you are going to attend the meeting at their location. If you do not let your V-Con site know you will be there for the meeting, they may not schedule it for you.

Next meeting: August 26, 2009 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Please remember to contact your V-Con site so you can participate in the meeting. This needs to be done every month.