

**Rural Oregon Continuum of Care (ROCC)
Monthly Board of Director's meeting
September 23, 2009**

Members Present:	
Dawn Persels - Corrections	Cindy Pratt - CSC
Scott Rich – HUD	Victor Fox – DHS/Public Health/HOPWA
Ann Brown - OHCS	Jeff Hensley - CCN
Jeff Putterbaugh – DHS/ AMH	Jessica Maclay- Clatsop CAA
Kristin Chatfield – OSU Intern	Irisha Niles-Flamez – Community Outreach
Matt Walker – VISTA member - LBHA	Justina Fyfe - UCAN
Hundley Bergstad	Kathy Redman - YCAP
Ramona Mitchell - USDA	Dan Rupe – Veteran's
Leslie Sampson – Oregon Food Bank	Deb Price - OHCS
Anne Williams – Lane County St. Vincent DePaul	Captain Ben Atchley –Albany Police Dept.

Introductions: Introductions were made. Welcome to Leslie Sampson, Director of Agency Relations, Oregon Food Bank, and Ramona Mitchell, USDA Multifamily Housing Specialist.

2009 HUD Supportive Housing Program (SHP) Application: Ann gave an update on the SHP application. The Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) has not been published yet. We are waiting. Make sure APR's have been completed and sent to HUD, and ready to submit with applications.

Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress: Ann is working on the HMIS issues that will allow us to participate in the AHAR. There are concerns that even if we are able to participate this year, HUD may not accept it in the 2009 competition, which means we may not score very high on the SHP application. Ann has learned that in order to participate, OPUS users will need to do some work to clean up the data. She is working on how to begin this work. The first deadline is November 15, 2009.

McKinney-Vento reauthorization - OSU Intern, Kristin Chatfield gave an overview of what she has been learning about the reauthorization. She talked about how 10 year plans to end homelessness and community planning are highlighted in the reauthorization. She advised that the definition for Chronically Homelessness will be expanded to include families with children. The definition of disability will also be expanded to include brain injury and Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome. She talked about how there will be incentives for “high performance” communities. There is also new language about “the mean average” of homelessness. Kristin then talked about the definition of “rural” in relation to the ROCC and advised that she is seeking more clarification on this issue. Scott Rich advised that HUD will eventually have a clarification of this issue.

Individual Member/Program Update: We heard from a number of the participants about their programs:
Hundley Bergstad from Corvallis talked about the projects he is involved with. The Bus Pass Program is a cooperative effort with the local bus system to provide bus passes at a low cost. Individuals can work 1 hour doing community work in exchange for a bus pass. Project Action works to assist homeless individuals clear up and obtain I.D's such as drivers licenses, etc.

Dawn Persels, Department of Corrections advised that her agency is piloting a program working with DMV to help inmates get their I.D.

Ann suggested that this be something the continuum work on. She reminded that last month Scott had suggested that we put together a subcommittee to identify issues around barriers to establishing housing for the homeless. Ann suggested that a second subcommittee could work with Legal Aid and the legal system to identify ways to prevent homelessness. Jeff Puterbaugh will forward to Ann a link to a nationwide conference call that was held recently to discuss this very issue. Ann will send the link with the minutes. There may be some written materials that were included with this call. Further discussion was held about how important it is to assist homeless individuals in establishing their I.D. including post incarcerated individuals and encouraging these folks to register to vote as that helps to establish I.D.

Irisha Niles-Flamez from Community Outreach advised that her agency provides a free document storage service for homeless individuals. Irisha also gave a brief overview of other services her agency provides. They provide emergency shelter and transitional housing for men, women and children. They provide case management and have just started a HUD-VASH program for veterans. They are also working with Linn/Benton Housing Authority to link into permanent housing. Their web site is: www.communityoutreachinc.org

Cindy Pratt gave an overview of her agency, Community Services Consortium. She advised that some of the programs they provide are Housing, Housing Rehab, the RSVP program, Oregon Food Share, Weatherization, workforce education, a youth program that includes the youth community garden, Tenant Based Assistance (TBA) and Supportive Housing Program (SHP.)

Leslie Sampson, Director of Public Relations from the Oregon Food Bank gave an overview of the increase in food boxes during the recession. Food box requests have gone from 5 million to 10 million. Each regional food bank is being funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). They are seeing more for larger families now. They are working on resource guides and outreach.

Ramona Mitchell, Housing Specialist for USDA advised that her agency provides funds for rehabilitation and reconstruction of low to moderate affordable housing. Their web site is: www.rurdev.usda.gov

Dan Rupe, Veterans Administration gave an over view of the HUD-VASH program. They have 35 Section 8 vouchers for Linn/Benton and 35 vouchers for Lane County. They are still working on putting case managers in place, but are going ahead with the program. They have 10 transitional housing beds in Corvallis.

Ann talked about the importance of the ROCC looking at these kinds of issues to put a strategic plan in place for funding.

Captain Ben Atchley, Albany Police Department talked about the Homeless Enrichment And Rehabilitation Team (HEART) program he is involved with. He gave an overview of the new model they are implementing to assist individuals to move from homelessness into permanent housing. He advised they will have 9 agencies represented, such as Parole and Probation, Drug and Alcohol, Mental Health, a medical person, emergency shelter and housing, disabled and senior services, etc. who will meet with each homeless individual as a group to set up services and housing. They will develop individual actions plans, and have a lay advocate to work one on one with the individual as they maneuver through the systems in gaining housing and services. They hope to see 2 people per session.

Jessica Maclay from Clatsop Community Action Agency gave an overview of their agency. They provide transitional housing, housing education, Tenant Based Assistance (TBA,) they have a new Housing Plus program, which is the state's permanent housing funds for homeless individuals and families. They provide referrals, and also a mail service for their clients. Jessica talked about the Homeless Services Event they are going to be doing during the one night count in January. Discussion about Project Connects and the Veteran's Stand Down events.

Deb Price, Regional Advisor for Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) advised that Klamath and Lake Counties just recently did a small Project Connect. Deb also talked about the Project Connect that was held in Bend in conjunction with Deschutes, Crook and Jefferson Counties last weekend. They served 2200 people and had 600 volunteers.

Corvallis is holding a Project Connect on October 23, 2009.

Homeless Programs Updates:

Dan had talked about the HUD-VASH program

No other reports

Continuing and Future Issues:

Advertising for nominations for Oct. board meeting. Ann will send out a notice for nominations for the Oct. 28 in-person meeting here in Salem.

Members need to fill out their membership form and return to Ann as soon as possible in order to vote in the election at the Oct. meeting.

Next meeting: October 28, 2009 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Please remember to contact your V-Con site to let them you will not be there in October.