

Rural Oregon Continuum of Care May 26, 2010

Members Present	
Ann Brown - OHCS	Justina Fyfe – UCAN
Ben Atchley – Capt. Albany Police Dept.	Kelly Wessels - UCAN
Bob Moore	Kenny Lowe – Community Outreach
Carla Velous	Lamar Jeffries – Utopian Development & Consulting
Carolynn Garza - YCAP	Laura Moore – ORCAA
Coleen Trogdon - OHCS	Marci McMurphy – CAPECO
Corene Stewart - MCCAC	Matt Walker-L-BHA
Denise Sitler - DOC	Michele Grimaldo – CinA
Dona Lanterman –OHCS	Patty Gouveia – ORCCA
George Sabol – Clatsop CCA	Peggy Yarbor - CinA
Jeff Putterbaugh - DHS	Rachael Marble – OHOP
Jessica Maclay- Clatsop CCA	Scott Rich – HUD
Joann Zimmer – PSU	

Introductions and Announcements

Video Conferencing tips: Jeff Putterbaugh asked meeting participants to please use the remote control for mute purposes rather than the button on the speaker pod. Remote control costs versus speaker pod cost is huge difference.

Jeff also announced that Marisha Johnson will attend future ROCC meetings in his place as the Addictions and Mental Health Representative.

Housing Inventory Chart and Summary of Projects

Ann reviewed issues with the HIC reporting and HDX reporting.

Clatsop – some of their programs are in HMIS, but issues with the sub recipients not having the capacity or the equipment to have access to the HMIS.

Ben – Stressed the use of the HMIS system now. At some point it could be that everyone will be mandated to use HMIS. There is a possibility that there are grants available to cover the technology and training to become HMIS compliant. Possible to be done at a state level.

Ann – HMIS training June 21 in Pendleton, June 25 in Eugene and June 29 in Salem. Plan to have additional training in July and August. Send out more information soon.

Ben – Funding piece is an issue in rural areas.

Ann – Hopefully we can keep the HMIS portion when the Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing (HPRP) rolls into the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG).

Michele – Beginning to use the HMIS system as electronic reporting will be the way we will all be doing soon.

Scott – Information will be submitted next week to review how expenditures are going to date. A remaining 60 days are left to use up funds. If funds are not spent then those people/families in need will have missed out.

Ben – Expenses are to be drawn down once per quarter.

Lamar Jeffries– Has a new homeless program in Pendleton. He assists the homeless and needy with accommodations that are not met and is looking for more resources for those on the street.

Website ideas – here is the link to the ROCC website:

http://www.ohcs.oregon.gov/OHCS/CRD_Continuum_of_Care.shtml

Use website to keep all informed of events in your community. Send event information to Coleen Trogdon to post on OHCS website.

Review of Chapter 2 of the Rural Continuums of Care HUD document

Page 11 –Discharge Planning.

Joann – Joann is an intern with OHCS and is currently working on two projects. One is the Discharge Planning research for OHCS, which involves discharge plans from health care systems, mental health, foster care and incarceration to try and eliminate discharging people back into homelessness. The Capstone Project is Joann’s research paper for her masters at PSU. This project is about homelessness and the rural areas. Rural communities are suffering in areas that the larger urban communities are not. Resources need to be shared to be more responsive to the homeless. Her research is looking at different services to better cluster funding sources. Joann’s findings will be summarized in report form and will be available for additional input.

Ben – Discharge planning involves probation, parole, coming out of rehab, and kids aging out of foster care to become prey on the streets.

Rachael – Many of the parolees come out of Salem. Referrals from Salem can be a problem for housing, dependant on where they are released.

Joann – The infrastructure in this area is very weak. How can we better facilitate what and who to contact.

Denise – Oregon Dept. of Corrections brings in organizations to assist inmates ready to be released.

Justina – Josephine County – For medical and mental health recipients are referred to UCAN. For parole / probation recipients the infrastructure is very casual. People are told where to call and go but the connectivity is not tight enough.

Joann – We are in need of more intentional and strategic methods rather than giving a phone and address. It is necessary to physically take the person to apply to ensure placement is made.

Marci – It might be good to take a step back – referrals given for hospital and mental health is much easier when working with landlords. A referral for an ex-offender is more difficult with landlords.

Rachael - Has experienced same issue as Marci with credit rating being another issue.

Ben – Landlords accepting 2nd Chance Program?

Rachael – Rent Guarantee does not work unless the agency trains for certification.

Lamar – Outreach – Oregon Dept. of Correction’s hub for Umatilla go to Pendleton with twelve beds and funnel to Oxford houses with eight beds. There is a lack of housing and landlords to work with ex-offenders. There is free transit provided by the reservation to transport people to destinations for resources (food, meals etc).

Ben – They have had some success with a sub-leasing program with mental health. However, they must stay within the program to stay in the housing unit. People previously homeless who are in the program frequently get “crashed” on by other homeless acquaintances. The program provides volunteers to “police’ and help get the crashers out of the unit. Community church guarantees landlord fees for ex-inmates. Love, Inc. of Linn Co. (<http://lovelinn.org/>) has 600 volunteers to help repair / renovate ex-tenant’s damaged dwelling.

Kenny – Also has casual communications for age out foster children, hospitals and mental health. Programs still have loop-holes.

Rachael – With her program, the hospitals do provide assistance by assisting with completing social security applications and submitting to DHS. The County Health Department will send people to a motel if they have no home.

Ben asked Cindy and Matt if Corvallis looking at a Respite program. They responded that yes, it is in the works.

Ben – The second paragraph out of the HUD CoC Guidance Manual states that **Discharge planning is a required component of the CoC application and an important prevention strategy.**

Bob – Foster kids aging out – CASA programs are excellent link to find resources.

Some discussion around discharge rate concerning parents kicking kids out at 18 and working with the school homeless liaisons to assist in these situations.

Joann – Good program for kids but what about the 14 year old children. Has to be community based.

Ben – Next meeting - Chapter 3 of the HUD Continuum of Care document - “How we provide services”.

June 23, 2010 in-person meeting in Bend

Meeting will be held at State County (near DHS building), 1300 Wall Street, Bend, OR

Denise – Any carpooling available? – Yes we can car pool.

Marci – Motels with government rates? Ann to send information.

HUD’s proposed Definition of Homelessness

Rachael – Chris Evans found some information from the National Policy and Advocacy Program – and the National Alliance to End Homelessness. They have reviewed the documents and talked about possible comments.

Ben – It’s ok for both the local CoC’s and the ROCC to submit comments on the proposed definition, both are fine. Stories within communities should be added in and put out as ROCC.

Take copy, add your own story.

Ann - Submit definition in draft form to Michele and Chris and Rachael to submit to all.

Subcommittee Reports –

HMIS

Justina – Housing Inventory Chart (HIC) and Homeless Data Exchanges (HDX) very huge issue. Other states are further along, something we need to shoot for.

Ben – Who funds OPUS?

Ann – The state, not funded by HUD.

Ben – Can we advocate for a system that works?

Ann – HUD will pay for licensing fee of off the shelf products. Ann spoke of the OPUS development, data reports, etc.

Bob – It has been 10 years in the making of OPUS. Issue not enough resources using OPUS. The possibility of user fees to fund OPUS? Sliding fee scale to pay.

Ann – Questions about being able to charge fees because other federal funds were used to develop OPUS.

Bob – CSBG rules should be investigated to find out if fees can be charged.

Marci – Political will to help funding?

Ann – Cost high to transfer from OPUS to another system. Providing training on a regular basis should help with some of the standardization issues.

Ben - Lane County to train ROCC workers? Can you hire one person to go from county to county to train? HMIS information important.

Corenne – Get everyone on board. Need audits to ensure input is correct (Robert Hunt).

Training sub committee

The only training right now is the HMIS training – Pendleton on June 21, Eugene on June 25 and Salem on June 29.

Permanent Housing sub committee

Ben – A phone conference was held on May 18 – we will have a discussion at the June meeting on how our programs are strategically planned; are plans working (required by HUD).

The majority of our HUD funds go towards transitional housing: Strategic plan says we are moving a percentage of transitional housing to permanent housing. Shift to what part of the state really needs this assistance. How do we move twenty transitional housing to five permanent housing spaces? Capacity issues – need a balance.

Corenne – More complex – HUD dollars for certain qualifying people. Section 8 no money right now. The wait list for Section 8 went from 6 months to 8, 8 to 12 and now up to 24 month waiting list, others counties five years.

Lamar – Umatilla co. waiting list is less, they need long term transitional housing to build track record , permanent housing too strict on assistance. Need more landlords to take Section 8 vouchers.

Rachael – The housing authority is trying to get people off Section 8 and into regular housing.

Lamar – Spoke of it being a congress decision to limit the qualification for housing both long and short term.

Bob – All Public Housing Authorities are governed by citizens in the community who set the policies. Change could happen by politically leveraging the commissioners though education.

Reports from Regions

Corenne – They had a meeting in their community about Veteran’s – called Partners in Crisis – It brought together very diverse groups – Participating Vets, Social Service agencies, commissioners , law enforcement, medical. They saw how a dialog can work effectively. Things looking up for veterans.

Region #1 N/A	Coos/Curry/Josephine/Douglas	Justina Fyfe
Region #2 N/A	Klamath/Lake/Harney/Malheur	Chris Evans
Region #3 N/A	Baker/Union/Wallowa/Grant	Vacant

Region #4 Hood River/Wasco/Sherman/Gilliam/ Marci McMurphy
Wheeler/Morrow/Umatilla

Marci was very excited that on May 5th the Umatilla Commissioners signed a resolution to implement their Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness – They are setting up a meeting with stakeholders as the next step. This is a great accomplishment! Good work Marci!

Region #5 Columbia/Clatsop/Tillamook/Yamhill Martha Olmstead
N/A

Region #6 Lincoln/Benton/Linn Cindy Pratt

Ben is participating as a trainer in a 4 day training session at a Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST) put on by Police Chiefs and Sheriffs. On June 29th, during this training, Ben will hold a two hour session on Law Enforcement and working with the homeless.

Individual Member/Program Update

Homeless programs updates

Homeless Prevention & Rapid Re-Housing (HPRP)

Housing Plus (HPLUS)

Neighborhood Stabilization (NSP I & NSP II)

Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG)

Emergency Housing Account (EHA)

State Housing Assistance Program (SHAP)

Housing Stabilization Program (HSP)

Veteran's Administration programs (Grant & Per diem & VASH)

Oregon Housing Opportunities in Partnership (OHOP) Program

Local Programs – Ben Atchley – Homeless Enrichment and Rehabilitation Team
(HEART)

Resource Fair

Continuing and Future Issues:

Next meeting will be an In-Person meeting in Bend June 23, 2010 - Please remember to contact your V-Con coordinator to cancel your site if reserved for this date.

ROCC Board of Directors as of 10/28/2009

1.	Oregon Housing Opportunities in Partnership- DHS	Victor Fox
2.	Corrections	Denise Sitler
3.	Oregon Housing and Community Services	Karen Clearwater Deb Price
4.	Oregon Food Bank	Vacant
5.	Addictions & Mental Health – DHS	Jeff Puterbaugh
6.	CAPO	Rocky Johnson
7.	Housing Authorities	Diana Otero
8.	Veteran's	Dan Rupe
9.	Education	Vacant
10.	Law Enforcement	Capt. Ben Atchley – Chair
11.	Employment	Vacant
12.	Fair Housing Council of Oregon	Vacant
13.	Homeless person or formerly Homeless person	Hundley Bergstad – Vice Chair
14.	Member at large	Corenne Stewart
15.	Member at large	Julie Manning
Region #1	Coos/Curry/Josephine/Douglas	Justina Fyfe
Region #2	Klamath/Lake/Harney/Malheur	Chris Evans
Region #3	Baker/Union/Wallowa/Grant	Vacant
Region #4	Hood River/Wasco/Sherman/Gilliam/ Wheeler/Morrow/Umatilla	- Marci McMurphy
Region #5	Columbia/Clatsop/Tillamook/Yamhill	Martha Olmstead
Region #6	Lincoln/Benton/Linn	Cindy Pratt