

**March Regional Housing Team Meeting  
West Central Region Ten  
March 5, 2009**

(Handouts: HUD announcements, Poverty Summit, and Resource Sheet)

**In Attendance:**

Tom Crouse, FAITH, [tcrouse@embarqmail.com](mailto:tcrouse@embarqmail.com)

Mary Tucker, Johnson County HELP

Tom Johnson, Cass County Children of Drug Affected Families, [tomcoi@fairpoint.net](mailto:tomcoi@fairpoint.net)

Linda Kirk, Workforce Development Board, [wdblk@iland.net](mailto:wdblk@iland.net)

Markie Hart, USDA Rural Development, [markie.hart@mo.usda.gov](mailto:markie.hart@mo.usda.gov)

Patty Thompson, West Central Missouri Community Action, [pthompson@wmcaa.org](mailto:pthompson@wmcaa.org)

Michela Allen, West Central Missouri Community Action, [mallen@wmcaa.org](mailto:mallen@wmcaa.org)

Mary Cupp, West Central Missouri Community Action, [mcupp@wmcaa.org](mailto:mcupp@wmcaa.org)

Kristina Klass, West Central Missouri Community Action, [kklass@wmcaa.org](mailto:kklass@wmcaa.org)

Brian Martin, Pathways Community Behavioral Health, [bmartin@pbhc.org](mailto:bmartin@pbhc.org)

Ronda Wickham, Missouri Valley Community Action, [wickhamr@mvcaa.net](mailto:wickhamr@mvcaa.net)

Bob Vickers, Pettis County Community Partnership, [pccp3@iland.net](mailto:pccp3@iland.net)

Cynthia Hopper, Salvation Army, [hopperc-2000@yahoo.com](mailto:hopperc-2000@yahoo.com)

Sandy Wilson, Missouri Association for Social Welfare, [Wilson@masw.org](mailto:Wilson@masw.org)

Heather Bradley-Geary, Missouri Housing Development Commission, [hgeary@mhdc.com](mailto:hgeary@mhdc.com)

**1. Brief Introductions after the meeting came to order**

Heather Bradley-Geary announced that Nathan Stock was no longer with Missouri Housing Development Commission.

**2. Governor's Committee to End Homelessness Update**

Annual Report: Heather Bradley-Geary announced that the annual report has been sent to the Governor.

SOAR Committee: Heather Bradley-Geary gave a brief overview of what SOAR stands for, SSI/SSDI Outreach Access Recovery. SOAR is a federal program that trains providers on how to access SSI and SSDI for clients. SOAR is holding training on April 1<sup>st</sup> and April 2<sup>nd</sup> in Fulton. Please contact Brooke Dawson at [Brooke.Dawson@dmh.mo.gov](mailto:Brooke.Dawson@dmh.mo.gov) for more information.

Re-Entry Committee: Heather Bradley-Geary stated that this committee is led by Vevia Sturm at Department of Corrections. The committee meets monthly and is addressing issues with the housing authority and Point In Time Count. The committee is working with housing authorities on federal mandates for ex-offenders and in receiving housing vouchers. The committee is working on getting a question on the Point In Time Count surveys to address ex-offenders. In addition, the committee is working with HMIS leaders to allow an intake question to be formed around incarceration. For more information please contact Vevia Sturm at

[Vevia.Sturm@doc.mo.gov](mailto:Vevia.Sturm@doc.mo.gov).

Awareness Committee: Sandy Wilson reported that the Governor's Committee will be holding a homeless awareness day event again in November of 2009. In 2010 it is the goal of the Governor's Committee to hold a mini-conference in conjunction with homeless awareness day. To volunteer for the awareness committee, please contact Sandy Wilson at [Wilson@masw.org](mailto:Wilson@masw.org).

Project Homeless Connect Committee: Heather Bradley-Geary gave a brief overview of Project Homeless Connect, a day set aside to provide results to people who are homeless. This is an event that provides results rather than referrals. Balance of State will be holding the first Project Homeless Connect on August 7, 2009 in Columbia. Heather announced that the committee needs more volunteers and the event needs volunteers. To volunteer for Project Homeless Connect, please contact Mandy Fangmann at [mfangmann@mhdc.com](mailto:mfangmann@mhdc.com) or Jenni Miller at [jmiller@mhdc.com](mailto:jmiller@mhdc.com).

### **3. Continuum of Care updates**

HUD Announcements: Heather Bradley-Geary referred everyone to the handouts, a list of agencies funded under the 2008 HUD announcements and a listing of funding awards over the last several years. Heather was excited to announce that the Balance of State Continuum of Care was fully funded with the exception of one grant for rapid re-housing. This is the most funding that has ever come into the Balance of State under the continuum of care.

Technical Submission Training: Heather Bradley-Geary announced that the Governor's Committee will be holding technical submission training on April 1, 2009 in Jefferson City, Truman Building, room 400. The technical submission is paperwork that is due to HUD after initial approval of the grant. Any agency that is being funded is strongly encouraged to attend. Any agency that is thinking about applying for funds in the future is also invited to attend.

2009 NOFA: Heather Bradley-Geary announced that the HUD NOFA for Continuum of Care funds will probably be released in May/June. Once the NOFA posts, the Governor's Committee will hold be holding NOFA training.

FMR Update: Heather Bradley-Geary announced that the Governor's Committee is working with HUD to determine if agencies can increase their FMR rates at renewal.

### **4. Point In Time Count (sheltered and unsheltered)**

Winter Count Update (Unsheltered): Heather Bradley-Geary announced that Missouri Housing Development Commission is still working on the final report. Due to the winter storm that occurred on January 28, 2009 the process has been delayed.

Winter Court Update (Sheltered): Sandy Wilson announced that MASW is continuing to work on the sheltered count; at this point the preliminary number is 1300 people that were sheltered on January 28, 2009.

Summer Count: Heather Bradley-Geary stated that the next count will occur on July 29, 2009. At the June regional meetings, volunteers will be asked to cover counties. The whole state will be counting on the same day.

### **5. Poverty Summit**

Heather Bradley-Geary announced that a poverty summit will be held on June 9, 2009. There was a handout given to meeting participants. For more information or to register the link is [www.moaction.org](http://www.moaction.org).

### **6. MASW updates**

Sandy Wilson stated that the Coalition for the Missouri Housing Trust Fund continues to work on SB268 to increase the Trust Fund. The bill received a hearing on March 4, 2009, but the

committee did not vote it out on the floor. If you are not receiving information regarding the increase, please let Sandy know by contacting her at [wilson@masw.org](mailto:wilson@masw.org).

Sandy Wilson discussed the HMIS steering committee and stated that she will be appointing HMIS users from each region of the state. If this is something that your agency would be interested in being a part of, please let Sandy know by contacting her at [Wilson@masw.org](mailto:Wilson@masw.org). The steering committee meets four times per year. The next meeting will be held on May 29, 2009.

## **7. DMH update**

Heather Bradley-Geary explained the RAP program, rent assistance, bridge subsidy program for participants waiting to get on Shelter Plus Care. If you need more information about the RAP program, please contact Liz Hagar-Mace at (573) 522-6519 or [Liz.Hagar-Mace@dmh.mo.gov](mailto:Liz.Hagar-Mace@dmh.mo.gov).

## **8. Resource Sheet**

Heather Bradley-Geary referred meeting participants to their handouts. Heather pointed out that Missouri Housing Trust Fund grant applications will be due on September 11, 2009. The application will be posted in early June. Public hearings will be held in May. For more information please go to the following link [www.mhdc.com](http://www.mhdc.com).

## **9. Agency reports/announcements**

Missouri Housing Development Commission: Heather Bradley-Geary stated that the homeless study is almost complete and will be released in April of 2009.

Division of Workforce Development: Linda Kirk announced that they are holding resource fairs in April and May. Linda also handed out information regarding the CAP program. Linda stated that Workforce Development will be receiving stimulus funds that will be focused on short-term training.

West Central Missouri Community Action Agency: Patty Thompson stated that they have some transition in their office.

Missouri Valley Community Action Agency: Ronda Wickham stated that they are gearing up for weatherization due to stimulus. The poverty level has been raised 200% for people needing weatherization assistance. The current funds will be ten times more than they currently receive. In addition to weatherization funds, Community Action Agencies will also receive more funding for CSBG and Headstart.

Pettis County Community Partnership: Bob Vickers announced that they are looking for a case manager.