

Governor's Committee to End Homelessness

June 1, 2020

I. Welcome and Introductions

GCEH Chair, Liz Hagar-Mace

Attendance:

Liz Hagar-Mace, Chair, Department of Mental Health

Amanda Stadler, Vice-Chair, Community Partnership of the Ozarks

Natalie Allen, Secretary, Department of Social Services, Children's Division

Anthony Smith, BoS CoC, FCC Behavioral Health

Cassie Sipos-Haas, Missouri Housing Development Commission

Dottie Kastigar, St. Charles CoC

Edwin Cooper, Department of Mental Health

Heather Hoffman, Greater Kansas City Coalition to End Homelessness

Lateacha Tigue, Teacha's Kids

Randy Sharp, St. Joseph CoC

Sandy Wilson, ICA

Tammy Walker, Joplin CoC

Kathy Henderson, Sts. Joaquim and Ann Care Services

Jennifer Carter-Dochler, Missouri Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence

Jessica Hoey, Missouri Community Action Network

Jessie Dryden, Common Sense for an Uncommon Ground

Ken Chapman, Department of Corrections

Natalie Roark, Department of Transportation

Ken Westerman, Department of Transportation

Tim Wilson, Department of Transportation

Tom Epling, Department of Social Services, Workforce Development

Angela Webb, Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri

Kelli Kemna, Department of Mental Health

Becky Poitras, BoS CoC, Metropolitan Luthren Ministries

Ashley , Truman V.A. Medical Center

Tim Wilson, Iowa

Sonya Campbell

II. Department of Social Services, Workforce Development Unit – Presenter Tom Epling

Cross function team with the purpose of partnering with other agencies to assist Missourians get on a pathway to family sustaining employment options. Administer \$45 Million employment and training funds through Foodstamp and TANF programs. Key to success is giving people access to training so they can obtain and maintain employment over the long term. Trying to be more proactive in offering training programs free training, job coaching, resume preparation, training costs, work costs such as books, transportation, clothing etc. Tom can share PPT presentations for committee members. Tom is available to share in person meetings when they resume and in virtual settings as well. Programs and partnerships are as follows:

- Skill Up – Tied to Foodstamp eligibility. Client meets with employment and training specialist to determine goals, experience to design a plan that helps client become successful in meeting goals. Can include cash assistance for job related expenses.
- Missouri Work Assistance Program (MWA) – Tied to TANF. Client meets with specialist, it is mandatory if you are receiving TANF, available in every county.
- Health Industry Training and Education Program (HITE) – 19 HC fields considered to be in demand. Available in St. Louis metro, KC metro, Central Missouri swath. Individuals selected by lottery.
- Excel Centers – MERS Goodwill – Polar Bluff, St. Louis, Springfield, Columbia – 21+ without HS Diploma, support to obtain diploma and connect to skills training, and includes free daycare onsite.
- Jobs for America’s Graduates (JAG) - Available at 59 Middle and HS, counselors who work for JAG ID at risk youth to overcome challenges, graduate, skills training.
- Jobs League – Paid internship for students who are 14-24 who meet income criteria. Available at all MO job centers.
- Working on developing a web interface to refer and self-refer.
- Relationship with DOC – Partnering with community supports centers to help individuals in custody in the community get access to what they need to be successful. Governor Parson expects Departments to work together to serve citizens and DOC depends on these partnerships to serve their population and is very pleased with that DSS is doing to partner.
- Private Partnerships – Economic Development agencies in Laclede Co. to help people get to job fairs. On hold due to COVID 19.

III. Agency and CoC COVID-19 Response, Announcements, and Updates

- DMH - Working to ensure people can still be served in a timely manner, protecting tenant rights to remain housed, educating tenants on how to handle eviction notices, rescheduling unit inspections etc. with
- Springfield CoC – Initial response to crisis and meeting basic health, hunger and hygiene needs. TO date no COVID cases in homeless community. Health Dept. will be doing some targeted testing in next few weeks. Placed 150 high risk individuals into hotels. Many shelters decreased capacity to maintain social distancing. Shifting to long term planning piece now with individuals in hotels, engaging community in planning ahead for possible resurgence of cases in the Fall. Talking about how to handle cold weather shelters when not able to operate in the past.
- St. Charles – Had a handful of positive COVID cases. Working closely with HD to set up protocol and put funding in place to get referrals from HD to CE, complete assessment and place in motels. Working on transportation component for at risk, positive and pending clients. Saints Joachim and Ann has community health nurse and has provided medical support, and food deliveries to people who are quarantined in hotels. Considering longer term shelter and partners. Relationships with county government have been strengthened, concerned about agency capacity of dealing with precautions of COVID, preparing for increase in risks for homelessness dt ongoing unemployment.
- St. Joseph - First positive case in shelter today. Biggest threat COVID presents is indirect – local healthcare system has been funding homeless outreach and emergency shelter. In 30 days this funding is ending because hospital is struggling financially. Concerned about not having a shelter soon, especially going into cold weather seasons. Anticipates COVID cases will continue to increase soon. Noted that some employers in the area have been offered free tests and refused them because they do not want to know. This is an area with major industries such as meat packing, manufacturing etc. Unsure of what is ahead at this time.
- Kansas City – Working to follow along NAEH framework. Immediate emergency response is well underway. Some service providers expanded services as others have had to shut down. Next layer of supports were partnership with City who has provided 20 hotel rooms for those who are systematic, awaiting test results and does not have a safe place to stay. Has an isolated center for anyone who has tested positive and doesn't have anywhere safe to stay. This space is open for any surrounding counties. In person medical support staff visits twice per day and 3 meals are provided each day. To make a referral for this shelter call 816-296-6005. Has advisory committee to plan long term for when evictions begin to come through, looking at created more developed prevention and diversion. Fits round for ESG funds and awards should be announced this week.
- Joplin – Have homeless task force meeting via conference calls was gathered in response to hospital challenge where people did not have a place to go and were hanging out at the hospital. Through May using hotels and shelter. The shelter wants to transition to use for something else so they are planning for another location. COAD group for Jasper Co. having frequent calls to coordinate about what is happening in all agencies. Has funds available that are unspent at this time. Homeless Coalition continues to meet via conference call. Housing

Connect continued to complete assessments over the phone. HA received 20 more housing vouchers.

- BoS – Conversations recently about a number of agencies who have applied for HUD COVID waivers, working with hotels and motels to assist with placement where shelters are unavailable. Shelters who are taking individuals are pre-screening for COVID which can slow down the process. Agencies have applied for ESG funding for ST assistance, focus on documentation and reporting with CE And HMIS to capture clients served and presumptive COVID cases. Exec. committee working to implement phone line for CE for rural areas that do not have an access point and for those who may have COOVID.
- St. Louis Co – No one present.
- MO Community Action Networks – Mo CAN website has information about agency operation. <https://www.communityaction.org/caa-covid19-updates/>. Many agencies are planning to return to normal operation with social distancing in June.
- MHDC – Cassie – No in person meeting for ESG 2020 Focus Group this year due to Covid. Will send out survey funded agencies. ESG 2021 applications coming out this month. Waiting on HUD for CARES guidance. Encourage to submit letter of intent now for ESG – CARES funds. Once have guidance will give instructions CARES act funding; will be a 15-18 month grant period. If applying for prevention, also apply for rapid rehousing as well. Info is on website. For shelter dollars, can request more than normally would to maintain non congregate shelters longer. Expect second allocation of ESG -CARES sometime this month. HUD webinars called office hours very good information and recordings are available. Will send link to the group. Created MOHousing Resources.com for increased access to resources. Disaster relief funds awarded 18 CAA with 45K. MOHIP and Trust Fund - meeting July 22. Moved to online grant service for all applications.

IV. Subcommittee Updates

A. Missouri Continua or “MC2” 4-27-2020 & 6-1-2020

CoC’s reported out on COVID response. Talked about HUD CoC grants. Several communities had increases in their scores. Most communities experiencing improvements in partner relationships.

B. Warming/Cooling Shelters

Committee completed the preliminary work of collecting a series of documents and information on warming and cooling shelters. All of this work was completed before COVID so a lot of it will need to be revisited to reflect changes in service delivery. Centers across the state look very different depending on the community with many operated by grassroots groups. Developed basic toolkit for communities who want to start a warming/cooling center, emergency weather response program. Toolkit includes considerations, planning guide, case studies, marketing considerations, program templates, policy examples, job descriptions, staffing, and other elements. Noted that it will be an ongoing struggle to keep list of existing programs up to date. The goal is to give communities a starting point. The next step is to discuss how we can share this widely and help communities start this conversation.

V. Old Business

A. Motion to approve prior meeting minutes – Motion to approved as submitted by Jessica Missouri CAN Second by Ken Chapman. Passed unanimously.

B. Engaging New GCEH Partners – Assignment for all members to identify one potential new member and share with Liz by August 3rd. Noted theme in increased partnerships with COVID and may be a good opportunity to invite to commit to longer term service as partners become more aware of the importance of their role.

VI. New Business

A. MODOT Right of Way Policies for Homeless Encampments – CoC Strategies

Natalie Roark - MODOT challenge with homeless encampments state right of way, and clean up responsibility has fallen to MODOT whose employees are not well prepared for. Have developed a map of various encampments, next step is hearing from employees what they need to address this issue. Some of the impacts are shown in pictures shared including large litter piles, fires, human waste, bio waste, vermin, needles, safety to traveling public, structural safety risks, MODOT employee safety risks. The structural damage in addition to clean up costs are very high. Looking to partner to care for this population to ensure they are provided for while protecting travelers, state right of way and preventing damages and risks. Local law enforcement responds to concerns. Wants to work together to find solutions and seek funding. One idea they are pursuing is contracting a biohazard clean up company to address this. Delayed clean ups since March 1 due to COVID. MODOT receiving daily calls from citizens and elected officials with concerns about encampments. Prepared a brief for Governor about this issue. One idea for partnership is to create local protocol for notifying CoC if encampment needs to be moved or cleaned up to assist in client services. Joplin homeless coalition was contacted to help move encampment that was on a development area. HC went out with LE to offer services and help people connect to what they need. The property owner was responsible for clean-up. St. Joe had this issue 2019 and need a city ordinance to prohibit camping within city limits after encampment in highly traveled area. Had a large encampment a few years ago along the river front, owned by RR, partnership with RR, city, HC to move it. RR brought in front loaders and dumpsters to clean it up. Will pursue developing local protocols and will keep us updated on any developments. St. Charles has worked successfully with partners to address this. Having photos of fires and other things that bring risks which are local to the area helps tell the story and increase engagement. Will add some talking points that demonstrate the impact for local partnerships. In KC there are 13, and just under 100 known sites across the state. When camps are moved, are there any agencies collecting and storing personal items for individuals? It varies depending on capacity of CoC.

B. 2021 PITC Date

Proposing January 27th for CoC's to consider.

VII. Additional Member Announcements/Updates

- Missouri CAN – MissouriPovertyReport.org
- CD – completed 3 MOUs for FYI spanning about 20 counties and actively working with 5 additional HA's to secure FYI vouchers. If anyone else is seeing a trend of former foster youth in need please contact Natalie Allen to partner for this program.
- Next Meeting August 3rd.