

Governor's Committee to End Homelessness

July 2, 2018

I. Welcome and Introductions

GCEH Chair, Jennifer Carter Dochler

Phone:

Gary Busiek, Salvation Army

Jack Lipton

LaTeacha Tigue, Philanthropist

Travis Rash, Missouri Housing Development Commission

Robin Smith, Joplin COC, proxy for Tammy Walker

Annie Herman, Department of Corrections, proxy for Ken Chapman

In person:

Jennifer Carter Dochler, MO Coalition against Domestic and Sexual Violence, Chair

Ivy Doxley, Missouri Department of Social Services Children's Division, Secretary

Amanda Stadler, proxy for Michelle Garand, phone, Springfield/Greene, Christian, Webster COC

Liz Hagar-Mace, Missouri Department of Mental Health

Edwin Cooper, Missouri Department of Mental Health

Melissa Wilding, Veterans Administration

Katie Burnham Wilkins, Veterans Administration

Jill Richardson, Missouri Department of Mental Health, SOAR program

Brooke Dawson, Missouri Department of Mental Health, SOAR program

Anthony Smith, South Region Representative - Family Counseling Center

Dottie Kastigar, St. Charles, Lincoln, Warren Counties Continuum of Care

Sarah Parsons, Missouri Housing Development Commission

Sandy Wilson Institute for Community Alliances

Chiquita Small – Department of Health and Human Services

Carolyn Stemmons, Head start

Jessi Dryden, Common Sense

What is SOAR? SSI/SSDI Outreach Access and Recovery

Individuals who qualify for SOAR:

If a person is experiencing homelessness or are at imminent risk of homelessness AND have a qualifying mental health disorder that impairs them from work called SGA (substantial gainful activity).

More information can be found at www.Soarworks.prainc.com

How to become SOAR trained:

The SOAR website provides an online course worth 20 hours of CEU's informing you of the entire social security application process. The training was created by Social Security, SAMHSA, and the SOAR Technical assistance center (Policy Research Associates). You learn about social security law and how to fill out the forms, how to navigate appeals and denials etc.... The forms are uploaded and reviewed by staff in New York. Then the SOAR case manager learns to write a comprehensive medical summary report to submit with the application showing why the individual's impairment prevents them from working. Medical records often lack the daily functioning assessment required for the application and the medical summary report supports the application by providing this information. There are examples of successful medical summaries on the website. SOAR training is a cohort type model. Everyone in the cohort participates in phone calls and WebEx weekly for about an hour going over 2 chapters of work. Contact Jill Richardson for more information on becoming SOAR trained.

Benefits of SOAR:

The SOAR trained Case Manager is the focal point for Social Security application, which is a complex process. Went from 58% to 65% increase in approved social security applications.

SOAR shortens time frame to the decision, it normally takes 98-108 days. Have had several Social Security application decisions within 15 days.

SOAR staff are working directly with the applicant, sometimes daily unlike Social Security, so they have quick access to information through this relationship

The 1696 Form (Representative form) – identifies the SOAR case manager as the contact person on behalf of the applicant, this person is the point of contact for social security, because some clients are transient and not easy to track down. If questions need to be answered, this person will be contacted. All mail from Social Security Admin also goes to this SOAR contact person.

Who is SOAR trained in your community?

Community Mental Health Centers thru DMH, Salvation Army, Catholic Charities, Path (Projects to Assist in Transitions in Homelessness) programs, and several other organizations have staff who are SOAR trained.

Call Jill Richardson for information to be connected with someone trained in SOAR in your area.

SOAR training challenges:

Turnover of SOAR trained staff

Time commitment in the beginning- 20-40 hours initially to make a typically application, but with experience can get that down to 10 hours per case.

Jill believes the training pays off. There was a study of 17 SOAR individuals; they brought \$365,000 back into their agency by being able to bill Medicaid and getting the clients connected to income and housing. Without SOAR, the hospitals would not have gotten paid. This is about \$16,000 per person served. So the time commitment pays off.

Jill Richardson is willing to travel to speak about SOAR if anyone is interested, please contact her if you are interested at Jill.Richardson@dmh.mo.gov

III. Missouri Continua Subcommittee updates

COC representatives

Recent NOFA released, new this year is inclusion of DV Bonus dollars. Question, how are you engaging with your PHA (Public Housing Authority) to collaborate around these funding opportunities so that Missouri does not miss potential dollars?

PIT (Point in Time Count)

Date for 2019: Group voted for January 30/31 for the next PIT date. Point in time count (PIT) is a count of sheltered and unsheltered homeless persons on a single night that occurs within the last 10 days of January. HUD requires an annual count; COC's count annually and Joplin counts twice a year.

Raid Rehousing Standard Vote

Steve Whitson

– The standards are updated and finalized; it was reviewed by an individual from all 8 COC's. The standards are for the emergency solutions grant program (ESG), it describes best practice while following HUD regulations. A hand out was given of the final product during GCEH meeting today. Homelessness prevention committee established and will start making calls. MHDC will implement these standards, which are the minimum requirement of what should be happening through Rapid Rehousing program. COC's still must tailor standards to their COC's needs. Vote taken to approve these standards; they were approved and they will be posted on the GCEH website.

Next step: Sandy Wilson would like this group to start looking at data on the percentages of people who return to homelessness within 2 years after using Rapid Rehousing program.

IV. Old Business

- Action plans working document handout given during this meeting. Group discussed pushing some of the dates out and changing wording in a couple of places. Vote held that this will be our working document for the next two years; document was approved with some minor amendments. The GCEH Chair will track and evaluate goal progress on the action plan strategies and report out to the Governor's office in the annual report.

- June and July minutes will be reviewed next month. June minutes had to be transcribed from an audio recording.
- Last month GCEH voted to draft a Letter to ST. Louis HUD (Housing and Urban Development) on behalf of GCEH because programs contracted with the HUD St. Louis Field office have not received renewal contracts yet. This letter is a GCEH document, not a COC approved document. A draft of the letter was provided at this meeting for review and discussion.
- Next steps: GCEH Chair will contact James Heard at ST. Louis HUD first before sending a letter due to contracts being delayed by as much as 5-6 months because this affects the NOFA and could result in loss of funding. When program funds are 6 months late, you cannot spend the money needed to house people because you cannot re-rent vacant units without a funding commitment, and you cannot evaluate project performance. People are getting eviction notices because COC's cannot pay; they do not have a contract number. Must do quarterly draws per HUD and funds are re-allocated so this could lead to a loss of funding.
- Chair will revise the letter per GCEH committee request, after 7 business days this letter will be sent if no response from STL HUD via phone or email

V. **New Business** – HB 1288 signed by governor. Donated Food tax credit for homeless shelters

VI. **Member Updates/Announcements** –

School house connections is leading a state policy project in MO, in October (tentatively on the 24th?) in Columbia MO. SHC wants to hold a “State advisory institute inviting state agencies

Please complete the anonymous survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MOpPolicy> and share this survey with community partners.

Special anonymous survey for youth ages 12-25 who have experienced homelessness:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MOYouth>

Please contact Patricia Julianelle with any questions or concerns at 202-436-9087

No GCEH meeting in September due to Labor Day