

**Governor's Committee to End Homelessness**

**November 5, 2018**

**I. Welcome and Introductions**

**GCEH Chair, Jennifer Carter Dochler**

Attendance:

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

Anthony Smith, FCC Behavioral Health

Shauna Nieweg (Proxy) for Cassandra Kaufman, St. Louis City Mental Health Board

Chiquita Small, Department of Health and Senior Services

Dottie Kastigar, Community Council of St. Charles County/St. Charles Continuum of Care

Jeanette Mott Oxford, Empower Missouri

Jessica Dryden, Common Sense

Katie Burnham Wilkins, Veteran's Administration

Annie Hermon (Proxy) for Ken Chapman, Department of Corrections

Liz Hagar-Mace, Missouri Department of Mental Health/Shelter Plus Care Lead Agency

Randy Sharp, Interfaith Community Services dba InterServ/St. Joseph Continuum of Care

Sandy Wilson, Institute of Community Alliances/HMIS Lead Agency

Jayna Gray, Institute for Community Alliances

Tammy Dreyer, Mexico Housing Authority

Gina Graham, VISN15/Network Homeless Coordinator

Ivy Doxley (Proxy) for Natalie Allen, Missouri Dept. of Social Services

Phone:

Bob Pulster, USICH

Carolyn Stemmons, MO Head Start State Collaboration Office

Edwin Cooper, Department of Mental Health

Gary Busiek, The Salvation Army – Midland Division

Jack Lipton, Sts. Joachim and Care Service

Jessica Hoey, Missouri CAN

LaTeacha Tigue, Philanthropist, Vice Chair

Amanda Stadler (Proxy) for Michelle Garand, Community Partnership of the Ozarks/Springfield Continuum of Care

Tammy Walker, Economic Security Corporation of the Southwest Area/Joplin Continuum of Care:

**II. Home, Together – New federal plan to end homelessness USICH, Bob Pulster**

- [Home Together Program Description](#)
- Discussion: Presenter walked the committee through the presentation and emphasized the importance of Missouri customizing and creating timelines and identifying priorities that make the most sense considering the state’s current needs and resources. Jenifer asked presenter to describe the goals that have been agreed upon by federal partners. The primary goals listed were making sure that homelessness is a rare and not chronic experience, focusing on expanding the supply of affordable rental homes, decreasing administrative barriers, increasing access to career/vocational training, increasing access to behavioral health treatment, increase in early childhood programs, targeting making connections for transitions from DOJ and foster care. Presenter also mentioned the Family First legislation and highlighted that our federal child welfare partners have a piece in this as well. The definition of homelessness used for the purposed of this program include both the HUD and Department of Education to inform strategy and both were considered in creating criteria and benchmarks. Next steps: 1. committee to read full report. 2. COC or this Committee to create timelines, and implementation plan. 3. Determine how state plan aligns with work of the federal plan and decide if this framework will be used in Missouri. 4. Identify state goals based on what the data shows. It was suggested that Missouri prioritizes veterans and chronic homelessness as there may be additional resources for these. This will be included on the December agenda to discuss whether the federal plan will be adopted and scaled to Missouri. Presenter acknowledged the good work coming from Missouri.

**III. National Alliance for Safe Housing (NASH) MCADSV, Jennifer Carter Dochler**

- The report can be found at [nationalallianceforsafehousing.org](http://nationalallianceforsafehousing.org) under TA and Training, Resource Library. The Safe Housing Needs Overview 2018. The assessment was conducted in 2017 and just released. It gathered input from a lot of partners, primarily service

providers. Limitations of study are noted on page 5. The key items discussed were: 1. Improved communication channels are needed. 2. Shared staffing across agencies is very useful but not common, co-located staff, example; DV staff member located within a homeless provider's agency. KC applied for dedicated staff to BOS to handle victim's services at coordinated entry. 3. Recommendation to establish a coalition or task force for DV and Homelessness provider collaboration. 4. Training topics, noted that there is a discrepancy between what H/H organizations want to be trained on versus the topics DV/SA survivors/clients say these organizations need training on. 5. Recommendation to work on survivor confidentiality in database, HMIS. 6. Rapid rehousing timeframes vary all over the state. Themes: 1. Challenge with narrow use of funding. Need private funding to help meet needs like tattoo removal, dental issues and other things that are barriers to employment, and overall well-being. 2. Disconnect between providers and clients about what safety planning means. 3. Challenges to access housing and shelters for boys over age 12. Housing is more difficult when the survivor is a boy or man. 4. Financial difficulties caused by the need to break a lease for safety and landlord issues. There are two ordinances in Columbia and KC which have some protections for survivors and one proposal in STL.

#### **IV. Missouri Continua Subcommittee Updates**

#### **COC**

- State created a policy to prevent Dept. of Corrections population transitioning into homelessness in 2011. It was updated in 2012 and 2013. COC is developing new language for an update and will share in Dec. meeting. Motion to create workgroup for implementation passed.
- PHA engagement shows increase integration into COC. Sarah is working with them on VASH vouchers and Veteran's Affairs.
- Motion to approve Prevention Written Standards passed. Will be placed on website under policies.
- Next standards to be created are Street Outreach and Case Management. COC will lead and email the group for recommendations for workgroup members. Noted Columbia and KC have coordinated street outreach strategies and contacts will be emailed to Sarah. Noted importance of examining which strategies are working well in both urban and rural areas, and the standards should be broad enough to include many strategies. Noted that Case Management should define the difference between case management and intensive services, include difference requirements of difference types of providers. Workgroup for this will include COC, DHSS, and Veteran's Administration among others.
- Mo. Housing Development Commission – Applications feedback – Not a consistent process, COC's defining criteria differently, need more consistency in the future.

#### **V. Old Business**

- Motion to approve prior meeting minutes – Passed with corrections
- Rescheduling mental health first aid – will be in December

- Annual report submitted to the Governor's Office on October 31<sup>st</sup> by Jennifer. There is a shorter version linked on the website. They will review for recommended changes and get back with this committee.

## **VI. New Business**

- Warming/Cooling Shelters – Criteria varies between State Emergency Management system and Faith Based Partnership. Sarah will share these requirements with the group. The Partnership took this to a subcommittee of the Mass Care Committee to see if they would take this on and hit a wall because weather is not considered a natural disaster. Sarah is continuing to pursue partnerships. Goals include clarifying standards, helping connect “pop ups’ to COC, and increase effectiveness. Research needed on ‘code blue’ used by eastern states who have a more coordinated response. This committee noted limited knowledge of what churches are doing. Jessie has info to share for next meeting about coordinated response. Noted NE region may have an app that can work offline to address the needs of this population during extreme weather. This committee determined a workgroup would be helpful. Dottie Kastigar volunteered to chair and develop a toolkit. LaTeacha Teague volunteered to co-chair. Dottie noted using the terms ‘death prevention or hypothermia prevention’ can help garner attention and increase engagement of community partners. Motion to create a workgroup passed.
- Statewide HMIS Committee – Discussed MHDC data needs and barriers to meeting them. It was noted that data needs go beyond HMIS data and suggested workgroup be developed among the GCEH. Sarah and Jessie volunteered to chair and motion to create workgroup was passed.

## **VII. Announcements**

- No Meeting in April 2019 due to Missouri Homeless Symposium on April 2-3 at Lake of the Ozarks
- Ongoing Homelessness Housing Coalition meets January 10<sup>th</sup>, 9:30am-3:30pm, Jefferson City
- Family First Prevention Services Act, CD hosting webinar, November 20<sup>th</sup>.
- Housing Empowers Conference November 17<sup>th</sup>, Columbia.