***March 6, 2017***

**Office of USDA Rural Development, Suite 232**

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Introductions

In person: Anthony Smith, Donna Cash, Dottie Kastigar, Ivy Doxley, Jennifer Carter Dochler, Randy Sharp, Sandy Wilson, Sarah Parsons, Vickie Riddle, Alyssa Murphy, Joselyn Pfliegier, Paul Dribin, Christy Collins

On the phone: Tammy Walker, Donna Cash, Pamela Neal, Edwin Cooper, Cassandra Kaufman, Irene Agustin, Jack Lipin, John Rich

Guest speakers: Patti Preston, Bob Rorah, Vikki Pauley

Sarah Parsons introduced our guest speakers from Housing and Urban Development and [MO NAHRO](http://www.monahro.com/) (MO NAHRO stands for Missouri National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials)

BoB Rorah – incoming MO NAHRO President; Booneville Housing Authority

Patti Preston – incoming MO NAHRO Vice President; Kirksville Housing Authority

Vikki Pauley – HUD, Greater St. Louis area

Public Housing Authority Engagement around housing persons experiencing homelessness:

* Engaging PHA’s
* Reducing housing barriers
* Best forum for feedback and open discussion between homeless service providers and PHA administrators

Patti – most local housing authorities have ability to set their local preferences

Bob – discussion about establishing preferences, HUD is issued the funds and they have to decide how to prioritize. Talked about preferences for elderly, working, etc. Tend to prioritize helping those families who are helping themselves, are employed, etc. when the earned income from the family goes up, the subsidy from HUD goes down. Some housing authorities have preferences, some of them don’t. Some just use time and date. HUD does not mandate that housing authorities have a preference.

Vikki – has a slightly different perspective, understands this is a group to end homelessness. HUD did have a directive on how to do so. HUD issues guidance via a PIH notice – it is dated 2013-15 and it addresses issues about homelessness and applies to housing authorities who administer Section 8 and public housing. Used to be such a thing as federally mandated preferences for public housing, in 1998/99 they revamped and no longer made it mandatory. No preferences are currently mandated. In place housing authorities can choose what are called local preferences.

Will SEND OUT PIH 2013-15 w/ meeting minutes

Policy comes from board of commissioners and then housing authority executive directors carry out the policies.

Randy from a CoC perspective they have a NOFA and one section has to do with housing authority preferences and reach out to the largest 5 housing authorities in their region and ask if they have preference and then note it on the application. Communication can be difficult with local PHA.

Vickie Riddle supports this, they have 4 PHA on Missouri side and 1 on the Kansas side and response from PHA is difficult. They are dinged on the NOFA and lose points if there is a lack of cooperation from any of their PHA.

MONHARO has a state wide conference next week, would encourage a session to be held on this topic in the future. Jennifer asked if it would be helpful to educate on why a CoC would be contacting them to ask these questions and how their answers impact other funds that are brought into the area.

Discussion about Coordinated Entry and how they see that will impact

Kirksville is a processing center for Shelter Plus Care and fell out with the Coordinated Entry process, it dwindled and no one has reached out to engage in the process if it is still going forward.

What is the best way to engage PHA directors? Email? Phone call? In person? How can we communicate better? Who is most appropriate person to engage with?

Vikki – hears a lot about Shelter Plus Care is separate from Public Housing and Section 8 w/ HUD and PHA. Increasing communication between staff who work with vouchers may be key.

Vikki asked are group a question: From the PHA perspective, “what’s in it for them”?

Discussion about Coordinated Entry

-Katie Burnham Wilkins talked about how community partners like shared accountability w/ community partners, shared responsibility

-Vickie Riddle shared the perspective from the Kansas City housing authority says: Identify who is appropriate to move on from public housing – bc it was always meant to be temporary

* Attend landlord outreach meetings
* Attend coordinated entry
* Integrated partner
* They see it as getting people out who may
* More engaged in the community, able to meet HUD guidelines

-Discussion about reducing economic costs in the community – chronically homeless clients disproportionally use ER, law enforcement – housing people gets at the bottom line

-Anthony is aware of PHA’s in small rural communities who have vacancies and are passing on clients with legal issues, chronic homeless, etc.

Bob says HUD wants PHA to float around 90% occupancy rate; discussion about difficulty moving clients from their community to a community that has vouchers available. Discussion about different kinds of homelessness, are families displaced? Are they street homeless? Katie discussed that some communities are using a common assessment tool called the VISPDAT to prioritize clients and help communities make decisions about how to best use our scarce resources.

Bob suggested that GCEH members start to attend MONARHO conference to present on this information and talk about creating preferences for homeless.

Discussion about when PHA used to have homeless preference everyone would just “say they were homeless”, Alyssa shared that the Coordinated Entry process and assessment tool includes verification of homelessness. Katie shared example from the Columbia task force last week about

Discussion about HUD guidelines on criminal background checks – only criteria are around sex offenders and people who have made meth on PHA property.

Sandy acknowledged a disconnect between attendees who are familiar with Coordinated Entry and those who are not. How can we teach and educate with their group? Can we get PHA Executive Directors together?

Ivy discussion about homeless youth and kids coming out of foster care? Alyssa spoke about new screening tool for youth called Tay Triage Tool (through Org Code, Community Solutions and Corporation for Supportive Housing @ <http://www.csh.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/TAY-Triage-Tool-Training-Template.pdf>). Vickie and Katie talked about how the national conversation is that we are starting to really look at youth and what needs to happen. Nationally, we started with looking at ending veteran homelessness bc there was good funding from the VA, we are now nationally using those strategies to see how they can be applied to chronic, family, and youth.

Bob asked Patti and Vickie if they thought having us at MONARHO – consensus is yes!

Patti talked about how different urban Kansas City is versus rural Missouri. What are strategies for rural Missouri that work?

Discussion about the term “homelessness” and how it means different things to different people – chronic, displaced families, fleeing domestic violence

Donna Cash said with the new access legislation, they keep local school liaison contact info on their website

Alyssa asked if MONARHO had a list serve that we could send out some information through, Bob will work with Alyssa/Sarah but feels like presenting this to the group will be the most helpful. They have a spring and fall conference, more ED attend these meetings. Usually in St. Louis/Kansas or Columbia/Jeff City. Spring one is in Independence, MO and the fall is in St. Charles in September.

Old Business

Executive Committee and MHDC updates

* Survey results/meeting logistics moving forward
* GCEH communications & website

Sarah reviewed ranking of the topic priority list

Agreement was to move forward with talking about Coordinated Entry at the next meeting

Discussion about ways to continue conversation about PHA engagement between now and fall – Jennifer Carter Dochler is doing a domestic violence presentation at their MONHARO conference next week and will add in some information into her presentation.

Sarah shared that MHDC is working on communication for the committee, they will be able to send notices, agendas, minutes, etc. from the website if you self-register and can then update your contact info if you change jobs or your contact info changes (new email, etc.)

Follow-up

* Send out Corporation for Supportive Housing Toolkit for engaging public housing
* Agencies determine what performance data they currently collect around housing/homelessness
* Identify what data MOCAN collects (Kurt Brewer)
* Follow up needed from today’s meeting

Discussion about different agencies and entities who collect data. Ivy spoke about National Youth in Transition Database, every state has to collect this data and they are now analyzing the data. University of Chicago put out a study in 2010 and have really good statistics on former foster youth and rates of trauma and PTSD. DSS is looking for more information and data – who collects it? Suggestions for Family Support Division or FSD’s data. Every Student Succeeds Act or ESSA is now requiring more tracking of homeless youth in the school system and will be great data, but just starting. McKinney Vento data is not there. Donna said that even more data will be collected going forward. Sarah shared that MHDC is working on shared data with FSD and some other state partners and works Patrick Lubbering; will be sharing w/ GCEH in the future.

Follow up on MOCAN data, Jennifer spoke with Kurt who shared that they are going through some staff changes and that a staff person will be attending once hired.

New Business

* Decide topic for March GECH – Coordinated Entry
* Other new business/meeting format evaluation

General updates/announcements

Desired meeting outcomes:

* Opportunity to dialogue with state PHA leaders around collaboration in ending homelessness
* Understanding & tools to best to engage local PHAs in conversations that could result in policy change regarding reducing housing barriers, setting preferences for homeless individuals and families, and appropriate forum(s) for feedback and open discussion between homeless service providers and local PHA administrators
* Update/evaluation of meeting logistics to improved GCEH effectiveness
* Identification/collection of data sources to help measure state progress
* Sign up for email communications on [www.EndHomelessnessMO.org](http://www.EndHomelessnessMO.org)