

# Meeting Minutes

## Rebuilding Lives Funder Collaborative Meeting

Thursday, February 17, 2011

11:30 am – 2:00 pm

Community Shelter Board

### **Attendees:**

*Rebuilding Lives Funder Collaborative (RLFC) Members Attending:* Antonia Carroll, Michelle Heritage Ward, Amiee Bowie (for Anthony Trotman), Ron Kadylak (for David Royer), Tom Dobies (for Charles Hillman), Douglas Lay, Walter Torain (for Eric Fenner), Erika Clark Jones, Jeff Pattison (for Jed Morison), Matt Kosanovich (for Janet Jackson), Bea Bartram (for John Glacken), Kathy Werkmeister, Kim Stands, Rollin Seward (for Jim Schimmer), Sally Luken, Suzanne Coleman-Tolbert

*RLFC Members Absent:* Charleta Tavares, Emily Savors, Jeffrey Lyttle, Hal Keller, Phil Cass, Teresa Long, Steve Gladman, Terri Donlin Huesman

*Guests:* Susan Weaver, Colleen Bain, Jim Rose, Mike Tynan, Deborah Rambo, Jerry Pierce, Julia Crist, Vincent McDougald, Shadi Traish, Janine White, Don Strasser, Carl Landry, Bob Ater, Sue Villilo, Dave Simmons

*Community Shelter Board (CSB) Staff:* Tiffany Nobles, Dave Davis, Lianna Barbu

### **Welcome, Introductions & Agenda Review**

Michelle Heritage Ward welcomed the group and all gave name and affiliation introductions. Michelle reminded the group that CSB's One Day to End Homelessness campaign occurred on January 31. The goals of the campaign were to (1) raise money, (2) raise awareness about homelessness and (3) build and strengthen our relationship with the faith-based community. As of today, \$146,000 has been raised. Congregational campaigns will run through the end of February. CSB should have the final fundraising numbers by the end of March.

### **Meeting minutes from 11/18/10**

Michelle reminded the group that the minutes from the November 18 meeting were included in the meeting packet. There were no corrections noted. Erika Clark Jones moved and Sally Luken seconded that meeting minutes be approved as written. The motion was unanimously approved.

### **Strategic Issues**

*RLFC Workgroup on RL Strategies Recommendations*

Kim Stands presented the recommendations of the RLFC Workgroup on RL Strategies that met on February 3. Minutes from the meeting were included in the meeting packet. Participants on the workgroup were Kim Stands, Emily Savors, Jeff Pattison, John Glacken, Michelle Heritage Ward, Don Strasser, Lianna Barbu and Tiffany Nobles. Deb Helber served as the facilitator. The group

reviewed the progress of all of the RL strategies, identified those that are stalled and developed recommendations for moving those strategies forward. There were three strategies that were considered stalled – Coordinate Emergency Aid, Employment and Affordable Housing Campaign. The group also discussed lessons learned and developed a plan for accountability of those convening and participating in RL strategy planning and implementation.

Michelle Heritage Ward commented that she would like to see the RLFC become a resource for the conveners for insight, feedback, and a safe place to openly discuss any barriers in moving strategies forward.

It was noted that economy and funding were barriers to the progress of some of the strategies.

Matt Kosanovich noted that he really appreciated the recommendations from the workgroup. He further noted that the Coordinate Emergency Aid strategy was stalled for various reasons. He requested that an ad hoc committee be developed to help the conveners understand the definition of the strategy. Michelle requested that anyone interested in participating on the ad hoc committee should email her.

#### *Collaborative Outreach Strategy*

Michelle commended Erika for her facilitation of the planning group for the Collaborative Outreach Strategy. Erika commended the participants from the planning group, many of whom were in attendance today. A summary of the group's work was included in the meeting packet and a detailed model design was issued as a handout. The objective is "to create a sustainable, collaborative outreach model that utilizes a coordinated approach to rapid response, engagement, assessment, intake, case planning and referral to housing and support services." The design calls for a lead agency to be identified for the implementation of the strategy. A Request for Proposals (RFP) process will be used to assess interest. The lead agency will be responsible for building the structure of the collaborative as well as managing the collective outcomes of the collaborative process.

Mike Tynan commented that he felt the process for this strategy went very well. He appreciated being a participant because of the need for collaboration between housing operators and outreach specialists.

Erika commented that there was a lot of discussion around whether or not a lead agency was needed to implement this strategy; however everyone agreed that the lead agency needed to have homelessness as one of its core competency.

Clarification was made that the group agreed that a pilot phase was necessary before full 24/7 expansion could be implemented in order to see how the new process would work and make any needed changes.

Don Strasser noted that the process allowed the group to identify and find common understanding around resources available to those who present for assistance.

Erika noted that the faith-based community was also well represented on the collaborative planning group.

Carl Landry commented that the process allowed for open communication and input which enhanced its success.

A question was asked about how RFPs would be reviewed. Michelle commented that an ad hoc committee should be developed to review the submissions and make a selection. She further

commented that RFPs will be received from any organization that submits – there is no requirement to be a current CSB partner agency.

It was noted that the current issue surrounding outreach is the lack of coordination. The lead agency selected will determine how the model is implemented – i.e. how many outreach staff are needed, how many staff are dispatched at a time, etc. Carl further explained that currently there is also a lack of coordination among homeless outreach staff, mental health outreach staff, and health services outreach staff, etc.

A question was asked whether any agency currently doing any type of outreach would see this lead agency as an adversary. Erika noted that Don Strasser and Kent Beittel helped ensure that many of the groups that could possibly be affected were included in the collaborative planning group. She further noted that there may be some agencies that do not want to be a part of the group but that is beyond the group’s control. The goal of the group is to operate in the best interest of the client and the community.

Clarification was made that the opportunity that exists from this strategy is beyond just responding to needs but to also better coordinate services.

Deborah Rambo commented that the model will also provide a way to give clients access to more than just shelter or housing services.

Tom Dobies commented that the relationship between CSB and the lead agency will be different than the lead agency and the staff it employs.

Lianna Barbu commented that the multi-disciplinary teams enable the system to use the resources more appropriately and efficiently.

Michelle stressed the importance of the lead agency having the core competency of providing homeless services. She further noted that CSB is not in a position to coordinate the provision of services and thus stated at the beginning of the process that it would not be the lead agency.

Sally suggested that the RFP include a plan for engaging the communities that will be visited. Erika noted that the Neighborhood Pride Centers were participants on the group and made the same suggestion.

Erika commented that this process was an example of how the various groups can work together.

### **Re-entry Housing Advocacy – Incarcerated Populations**

Sally presented information from the Re-Entry Housing Collaborative report that was issued electronically to RLFC members in early February. Ron Kadylak joined her to discuss the data match with ADAMH completed for the report.

Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH) convened the collaborative group with the intent to “develop recommendations and an implementation plan for the Rebuilding Lives Funder Collaborative’s consideration that will reduce the utilization rates of CSB supported shelters by formerly incarcerated persons.” Representatives from the justice system, mental health system, homeless services system and others participated on the collaborative. A full list of members was included in the final report which can be found on CSH’s website and CSB’s website.

Highlights from the presentation were:

- Over 37,000 people are processed annually in Franklin County’s jail

- 24% of jail inmates are on psychotropic meds
- Over 100 jail inmates daily identify the streets as their home address
- 42% of shelter users or 5,155 people had incarceration histories
- On one day in 2009: over 50% of persons in shelter had served time in the past 3 years
- Frequent users of shelter (3+stays) were more likely to have spent time in jail or prison
- Ohio Department of Rehabilitation & Correction (ODRC) does not usually ask if persons are homeless but they are beginning to ask that question.
- During the collaborative group's meetings ODRC mentioned that there is a credibility issue among clients regarding ODRC staff. It may be better to have outside personnel come in to offer services, etc. to inmates who are approaching discharge.
- The collaborative group's recommendations were:
  - Assessment – use of Ohio Risk Assessment System (ORAS); information sharing across systems; public benefits
  - In Reach –role of outside organizations; stronger discharge planning/connections
  - Housing/Supportive Services – advocacy for less restrictive subsidies; SSI benefit reinstatement
- The 2011 Plan of Action on the strategy is:
  - Develop a Franklin County Frequent Users of Services Enhancement (FUSE) project
  - Develop a Housing/Behavioral Health Subcommittee of the Franklin County Reentry Task Force
  - BJA 2011 grant submitted. ADAMH and Franklin County applied for \$250,000 to provide affordable housing to non-veterans in their system.
  - Veterans Administration committed to developing an Assertive Community Treatment (ACT)/Integrated Dual Disorder Treatment (IDDT) team to engage frequent users who are veterans and move them into housing with VASH vouchers as they are available.
  - CSH will focus on fundraising for short term rental assistance and impact analysis

Suzanne Coleman Tolbert suggested that COWIC share data about persons from this population that present at their programs.

Clarification made that short-term rental assistance was decided as starting point for persons approaching discharge.

CSH expects to hear response on BJA grant in the summer.

It was noted that there may be opportunity to coordinate with the judicial system.

#### *Unified Supportive Housing System (USHS)*

Lianna provided an update on the USHS. As of January 2011, the YWCA and YMCA supportive housing projects were included under the USHS umbrella and their vacancies are handled in the same manner as the other projects that are part of the USHS, CHN Southpoint Place, NCR Commons at Buckingham, and Southeast Scattered Sites. USHS is working towards bringing all the supportive housing projects under its umbrella. This will provide eligible applicants a broader scope of supportive housing options.

The USHS is working to finalize the evaluation for the Commons at Buckingham project.

CMHA lifted the freeze, effective October 25 2010, on clients who desire to move from their project-based units. All projects part of the Move-Up Pilot, the third and final USHS pilot, are working towards moving their eligible clients into independent housing. All three sites, YMCA, YWCA and Maryhaven agreed to extend their contract for the Move-Up Pilot through 12/31/2011.

The USHS is gearing up for the next two projects that will lease-up, the CHN Leasing project projected for early spring and NCR's Commons at Livingston for the summer of 2011.

#### *Access to Benefits*

Dave Davis provided an update on the strategy's progress. Second quarter numbers for FY 11 indicate that 235 households have been served and 53 applications for SSI/SSDI have been submitted.

#### *Increase Supportive Housing Units*

Dave provided an update on the strategy's progress. In regards to the planned 240 units by new construction or rehab, NCR plans to submit a plan for a Commons at Livingston Phase 2. Preliminary plans are for 50 units; target group and Rebuilding Lives numbers are yet to be determined. In regard to the planned 520 units by master lease, CHN has completed the contract with HUD for 2009 Bonus Award project that will master lease for 25 units.

#### *Centralized Point of Access (CPOA)*

Dave noted the following update on the strategy: For the second quarter of FY11, 1839 people have been served by the CPOA and 73% of those have accessed shelter.

#### *Tier II Family Shelter Conversion*

Dave noted that an evaluation of the "rolling stock" model has been completed which indicates that the model is successful in terms of reducing the stress of families having to move from the YWCA Family Center to their housing and allowing families to have more ownership in their in their environment.

#### *Employment Strategy*

Suzanne Coleman Tolbert reported that she has several one-on-one conversations with CSB, Goodwill Columbus, Columbus Coalition for the Homeless and FCDJFS. Dorian Wingard from FCDJFS will be lead. Next steps include convening a group to review work done to date and identify plan for moving forward. Suzanne also noted that COWIC and CSB have committed funding for the strategy. She will be reaching out to the county to see if they have funding to apply.

#### *Re-entry Housing Advocacy – Mental Health Population (HPRP ADAMH Prevention Program)*

Ron Kadylak provided an update on the strategy. As of December 31, 2010, 86 clients moved into units on a HPRP subsidy. The total amount of funds requested to date is \$199,367. Thirty-one of the 86 clients have moved off of the HPRP subsidy and onto a CMHA voucher. 13 have moved off of the HPRP subsidy without a voucher.

#### **Other**

Tom moved and Kim Stands seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was unanimously approved.