

An Updated Strategy to House Homeless Families and Adults

QUARTERLY REPORT

Issue 4
April 2007

This report keeps the community posted on the Rebuilding Lives Updated Strategy. Each issue, posted at csb.org and distributed to interested parties, covers significant progress since last quarter and previews the upcoming months.

..... REBUILDING LIVES UPDATED STRATEGY

The Community Shelter Board's original Rebuilding Lives initiative has meant a new home and a new start for hundreds of people throughout Franklin County. The Rebuilding Lives Updated Strategy (RLUS) is undertaking a comprehensive research and resources inventory of the current Rebuilding Lives plan as well as the family system. Results of this assessment will be used to develop an updated strategy to address the needs of homeless families, children and adults as one comprehensive plan. This plan will help our community to connect homeless adults and families to housing and services they need to break the cycle of homelessness.

Modeled after the successful Scioto Peninsula Task Force (which created the Rebuilding Lives plan), the Updated Strategy consists of a Steering Committee composed of community leaders, CSB staff providing primary project support, along with external consultants working on research and strategy development. These three components attest to the important private and public partnership that holds this project together, with funding as well as leadership coming from private, non-profit and public sectors.



Steering Committee



The Rebuilding Lives Updated Strategy (RLUS) Steering Committee convened its fourth meeting on Tuesday, February 13, 2007. The purpose of the meeting was to lay the footprint for the foundation of the RLUS and to begin to define the criteria to be used to evaluate the ideas that emerge from the work of the steering committee and the research consultants. Art of Hosting techniques created an interactive process to gain understanding and consensus from all perspectives.

Elfi Di Bella, RLUS Steering Committee Chair and CSB trustee, asked participants to answer the check-in question "What are the desired characteristics of the RLUS?" The themes that emerged were:

- Easily Accessible *
- Cost Efficient*
- Client-Centered*
- Inclusive
- Collaborative*
- Balancing Needs with Resources
- Flexible
- Transitional *
- Transparent
- Humble
- Accountable
- Empowerment
- Leading
- Funder
- Advocate

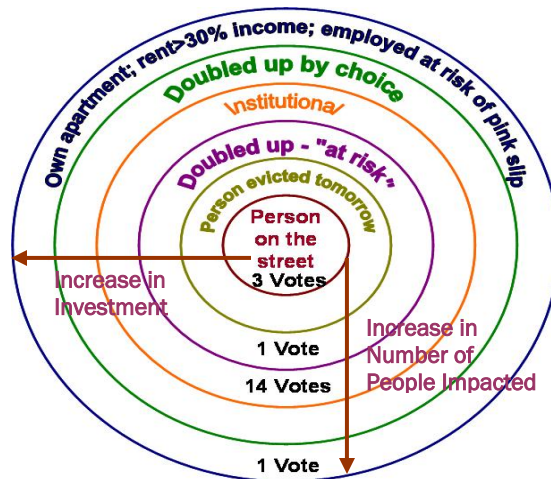
* Denotes Top Ranked Characteristics

Steering Committee members and guests worked in small groups to discuss the footprint for the RLUS. RLUS Steering Committee member and CSB trustee Mary Lou Langenhop hosted the café by asking the group "Using this diagram, what should the footprint of the RLUS be? Who should it serve and why?" A footprint covers the

Steering Committee

- Elfi Di Bella, CSB trustee, chair
- Owen Bair, CSB Citizens Advisory Council
- Jack Brown, U S Department of HUD
- Patricia Cash, National City, CSB trustee
- Ruben Castilla Herrera, Herrera & Associates
- Denise Cornett, CSB Citizens Advisory Council
- Lisa Courtice, The Columbus Foundation
- Columbus Mayor's Office
- Mark Rutkus, Columbus City Council
- Terri Donlin Huesman, Osteopathic Heritage Foundation
- Cynthia Flaherty, Affordable Housing Trust
- Doug Garver, Ohio Housing Finance Agency/Interagency Council on Homelessness & Housing (ICHH)
- Dennis Guest, Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority
- Susan Lewis Kaylor, ADAMH
- Mary Lou Langenhop, CSB trustee
- Douglas Lumpkin, Franklin County Board of Commissioners
- Joe McKinley, United Way of Central Ohio
- Edward Menge, Columbus State Community College, Southeast, Inc.
- Timothy Miller, Crane Plastics Company, CSB trustee
- Regina Mitchell, Africentric Personal Development Shop, Huckleberry House
- E. Hiba Nasser, Muslim Family Services
- Lisa Patt-McDaniel, Ohio Department of Development/ICHH
- Debra Plousha Moore, Ohio Health, CSB trustee
- Alicia D. Smith, Health Management Associates, Inc., Community Housing Network
- Donald Strasser, Columbus Coalition for the Homeless
- Melinda Swan, Member at Large
- Jim Sweeney, Franklinton Development Association
- Jan Wagner, CSCC, Homeless Families Foundation
- Tiffany White, St. Mary's neighborhood resident
- Kalpana Yalamanchili, Ohio State Bar Association, YWCA Columbus

area over which something occurs or is effective, such as the area where a house will be built or the area where a communications satellite can be received. The picture below depicts the possibilities for the RLUS footprint. At the center is the person who is on the street today – or would be but for the emergency shelter – the person who is at greatest risk. The people who are literally homeless are at the center of our design for the RLUS. As we move out the circle, the risk of homelessness changes, as do the number of people reached and the investment needed. The numbers notated on the diagram reflect the vote of the Steering Committee on how far out the footprint of RLUS should extend.



During the second café round, RLUS Planning Team member Tom Albanese hosted the group through a discussion of “What are the criteria we will use to evaluate ideas that emerge from our work?” This exercise was to identify the screens that will be used to determine which ideas become strategies. Themes that developed were:

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|
| √ Research/Best Practice | √ Sustainable | √ Resource Needs |
| √ Support Purpose/
Mission/Values | √ Meets Footprint | √ Political Support |
| √ Flexibility | √ Collaborative/Integrated | √ Community Benefit |
| | √ Feasibility | √ Outcomes |

RLUS Next Steps – April through June

April

- Researchers continue to gather and analyze client data and shelter inventory
- Steering Committee members discuss ideas from February meeting with colleagues to gain external input.

May

- May 8 meeting
 - Our history
 - Assessing our SWOT
- Outreach to other key stakeholders

June

- “Hot Topic” Discussions to promote open conversation around important issues affecting our clients and the system as a whole
- June 25 meeting
 - Exploration of current and new strategies
 - Generate ideas for potential strategy recommendations

Research Update: Research Consultants to Analyze Community Data

Drs. Dennis Culhane of the University of Pennsylvania and Steve Metraux of the University of Sciences in Pennsylvania, with CSB as a liaison, are working with several entities to obtain data external to the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). Agencies that have made a commitment to participate in the data sharing process to date and the significance of their data are listed below. Once the analysis is complete, findings will be presented to the Steering Committee for strategy recommendations and considerations, and then incorporated into the final Rebuilding Lives Update Strategy report.

Data Source	Data Purpose
Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Board of Franklin County (ADAMH)	Data will be matched to HMIS Shelter & Supportive Housing (SH) data and comparison between those persons utilizing these services and ADAMH services
Franklin County Children Services (FCCS)	Data will be matched to HMIS Shelter & SH data to determine extent of overlap between systems
Franklin County Department of Jobs & Family Services (FCDJFS)	Data will be matched to HMIS Shelter & SH data to determine extent of overlap between systems
CHOICES Domestic Violence Shelter	Domestic Violence Shelter client data to supplement shelter client profiles and analysis
Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority (CMHA) Shelter Plus Care	CMHA Shelter Plus Care program to supplement SH client profiles and analysis
Huckleberry House Youth Shelter	Youth shelter & transitional housing data and develop profile of homeless youth and analysis
Southeast, Inc.	Homeless outreach data will be matched to HMIS Shelter & SH data and develop profile of non-sheltered homeless
Maryhaven Outreach	Homeless outreach data will be matched to HMIS Shelter & SH data and develop profile of non-sheltered homeless

UPCOMING STEERING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

In order to gain insight from agencies and individuals providing shelter, housing and supportive services to homeless adults and families, we encourage persons representing these entities to participate in the next Rebuilding Lives Updated Strategy (RLUS) Steering Committee meetings scheduled for **Tuesday, May 8, 2007 and Monday, June 25, 2007 from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm.**

The May Steering Committee meeting will be dedicated to further refinement of the footprint (who we will serve) and the characteristics (how we will serve) of RLUS, to continuing to build our foundation for developing recommendations by exploring our SWOT – through our own experiences and through the experiences of others, and to clarifying how we will bring other voices into this process.

The June meeting will focus the exploration of current and new strategies as well as the generation of ideas for potential strategy recommendations.

In addition, a “Hot Topic” Discussion will consider questions such as “What is the optimal allocation of resources between shelter and longer term solutions?” Does everyone, regardless of their actions, have a right to shelter? Please join us as we explore these and other questions. Conversations on these topics will be expected on two different occasions, **June 12 from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm and June 18 from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm**, to ensure diversified attendance. We encourage participation by Steering Committee members, agencies, and members of the community.

Rebuilding Lives Updated Strategy Steering Committee Meetings are open to the public.

The next meetings will be **Tues., May 8, 2007 and Monday, June 25, 2007** from 10:00 AM- 2:00 P.M. Please RSVP to tjackson@csb.org. All meetings will be held at the SERS Building, 300 East Broad Street, O’Keefe Conference Center, 1st floor. Free parking is available in the adjacent garage at the rear of the building.



QUARTERLY REPORT



“I served on that planning committee for Rebuilding Lives, and I loved the plan, thought it was wonderful and we needed it. But I thought it would never happen, but it is happening.”

Dorothy Teater, Member of the Scioto Peninsula Task Force
(which created the Rebuilding Lives plan)

Community Shelter Board releases 2006 Snapshot Report on Homelessness

The Community Shelter Board (CSB) released its second annual Community Report on Homelessness on March 6, 2007. *The 2006 Community Report on Homelessness: A Snapshot* is a comprehensive report on the Columbus and Franklin County emergency shelter system and includes data on persons experiencing homelessness in our community. For the first time, the report includes data for permanent supportive housing. The full report is available for printing at www.csb.org.

The report focuses on services for families with children and single adults. Demographic data on clients served by the emergency shelter systems and permanent supportive for the Fiscal Year 2006 (July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006) is provided. The report also summarizes longer-term data trends for 1995 to present, as well as outlines results of the Point-In-Time count conducted in January 2006, which counted both sheltered and unsheltered persons. The report concludes with over-arching observations.

The results from the *2006 Community Report on Homelessness: A Snapshot* will be used to improve planning and implementation of services for men, women, and children affected by homelessness. Most importantly, the report will inform public and community policy toward our community goal of alleviating homelessness.

Highlights from the report include,

- The magnitude of **7,537 persons experiencing homelessness** and accessing the emergency shelter system during a twelve-month period is difficult to comprehend. **Every day, over 900 people** grapple with homelessness. With **1,637 homeless children** in our community, the problem is a challenge for our citizens and leaders.
- It is no surprise that households experiencing homelessness have very low incomes; what may be surprising is that a portion is working at the time of shelter admission. **All household types had substantially less monthly income than the amount needed to rent a typical apartment in Columbus.**
- Remarkably, **62 percent of family households exited emergency shelter to stable housing, with only two percent returning to shelter.** Unfortunately, positive housing outcomes for single adult men and single adult women were only 19 percent and 24 percent, respectively.
- Overall, the **demand for emergency shelter** — as shown by the number of clients served — **has decreased from a high of 9,414 people sheltered in calendar year 1997 to 7,609 in calendar year 2005.** This is promising, but the quantity of individuals in the system persists, and our efforts to address the root causes of homelessness must continue.
- **An area for concern is the increase in single adult women experiencing homelessness and accessing shelter.** The number of women living on the streets prior to shelter intake is equally troubling.
- **It is promising to note the progress of many clients with the assistance of the Permanent Supportive Housing and Rebuilding Lives program.** Recidivism was minimal, at just 7 percent for men and 6 percent for women, and retention rates were very high, at 97 percent for men and 96 percent for women.

Rebuilding Lives Updated Strategy Funders: ADAMH Board of Franklin County, City of Columbus, Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority, Corporation for Supportive Housing, Fannie Mae, Franklin County Office on Aging, Franklin County, Job & Family Services, H.C. Moores Foundation, Ohio Capital Corporation for Housing, The Columbus Foundation, The Osteopathic Heritage Foundation, and the United Way of Central Ohio.

