

An Updated Strategy to House Homeless Families and Adults

QUARTERLY REPORT

Issue 1
July 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 fifth and sixth meetings on Tuesday, May 8, 2007 and Monday, June 25, 2007 respectively. Persons representing agencies providing shelter, housing and supportive services to homeless adults and families, also attended these meetings to give insight around their experiences with clients.

The May Steering Committee meeting was 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 focused on the exploration of current and new strategies as well as the generation of ideas for potential strategy recommendations.

In addition to the Steering Committee meeting, throughout the month of May, Barbara Pope provided updates on RLUS to several of our key stakeholders. Those groups visited were the United Way Housing Vision Council, the Columbus & Franklin County Continuum of Care Steering Committee, the CSB Board of Trustees, the Rebuilding Lives Funder Collaborative, the CSB Citizens' Advisory Council and the Columbus Coalition for the Homeless. In addition to providing an update on our work to date, the groups were asked to give their thoughts on several key questions such as "Does everyone, regardless of their actions, have an unconditional right to shelter" and "How as a community do we know that we have done just enough for prevention to keep people from becoming homeless and entering shelter or on the street?" In June, a "Hot Topic" Discussion was held around these same questions as well as "What is missing and

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
- Erika Clark Jones, Columbus Mayor's Office
- Denise Cornett, CSB Citizens Advisory Council
- Lisa Courtice, The Columbus Foundation
- 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

what is no longer effective in services, shelter, and housing in our community” and “Who holds the accountability and responsibility for successful client outcomes?” Several themes developed from the conversations but the key insights that developed were:

- Most felt that there is not an unconditional right to shelter: expectations of behavior need to be established and communicated and individuals have a responsibility to behave within those expectations or accept the consequences.
- Most agreed that the accountability and responsibility for successful client outcomes lies with the system and organizations providing services in the system, as well as the individuals using the system. These responses were consistent with what emerged in our last Steering Committee meeting.
- All had difficulty in defining when we know we have done enough prevention, shelters, and housing options. No matter what the right balance is, there was a sense that the quality of shelters needs to be improved and to increase housing options.
- The need for adequate, high quality, well-trained staff was a common theme across many of the discussions.

NEW STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The RLUS Steering Committee has had several changes to its membership since the last newsletter. The committee welcomes the following new members:

- Mark Rutkus from Columbus City Council Member Michael Mentel’s office, replacing Todd Dieffenderfer
- William Graves of Ohio Department of Development, replacing Lisa Patt-McDaniel
- Erika Clark Jones, City of Columbus – Mayor’s Office, replacing Trudy Bartley

We are excited about our new members and the insight and experience they will lend to the process.

UPCOMING STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

The next Rebuilding Lives Updated Strategy (RLUS) Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, September 25, 2007 from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm. NOTE: This will be an all-day meeting.** The researchers - Dennis Culhane, Suzanne Wagner, and Steve Metraux – will be making presentations on the research analysis conducted on emergency shelter and supportive housing programs client utilization and inventory. Results from the data match completed between the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) and several entities such as ADAMH, FCCS, FCDJFS and others will also be presented. The presentations will inform the strategies to be developed by the Steering Committee at the meeting.

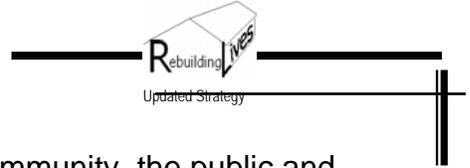
Rebuilding Lives Updated Strategy Steering Committee Meetings are open to the public.

The next meeting will be held on **Tuesday, September 25, 2007** from 9:00 AM- 4:00 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
JULY 2007, ISSUE 1**



“We are fortunate to have representatives from the community, the public and private sectors, established research institutions and the Community Shelter Board working together. This collective effort to improve a plan that has changed how the nation views homelessness, creates even a greater potential to impact our system of services and housing for those who are homeless here in Columbus.”

Elfi DiBella, CSB Vice Chair, Steering Committee Chair

UPCOMING EVENTS

REBUILDING LIVES FUNDER COLLABORATIVE RETREAT

The RLUS Planning Team is in the process of designing a retreat for members of the Rebuilding Lives Funder Collaborative to gain their input in helping to craft strategies for RLUS that they will assist in funding. The date and time of the event are to be determined. Details to follow once developed.

OUTCOMES LEARNING DISCUSSION

The RLUS Planning Team is in the process of designing an Outcomes Learning Discussion for agency Executive Directors, Program Directors and Research Directors to occur in late August or September. RLUS Steering Committee member Alicia Smith of Health Management Associates and RLUS Planning Team member and independent consultant, Deb Helber will host this discussion.

WAGES & COMPENSATION DISCUSSION

CSB Partner Agency executive directors and human resources directors will gather over breakfast on Thursday, August 23, 2007 from 8:00 am – 10:00 am to discuss direct service compensation. Questions to be explored include:

- What are appropriate wages to attract and retain quality staff?
- Could we collectively develop a strategy to improve wages as part of the Rebuilding Lives Updated Strategy?

Barbara Pope, Executive Director and Shawn Hufstедler, Director of Finance & Grants will be the hosts for this discussion.

STAFF TRAINING DISCUSSION

As a continuation of the Wages and Compensation Discussion, CSB Partner Agency executive directors and human resources directors will gather to discuss staff training. Planning is in progress for the event to occur in September or October. The exact date and time of the event are to be determined. Details to follow once developed.

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.

