

Ebony Magazine highlights Columbus Victories over Homelessness

The October issue of Ebony Magazine highlights stories of hope overcoming homelessness in Washington DC, Columbus and Sacramento. The article features families served by **Community Housing Network** and **YWCA Columbus**, and shares the promise of more good news to come as a result of the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program stimulus funds. A copy of the article is enclosed.

[RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT]

Funding Update

City Council voted September 14 to award the expected \$451,367 to the Rebuilding Lives program. These funds will cover the grant period from July 2009 to December 2009. A preliminary 2010 funding request has been proposed to the City and an official request will be submitted on September 18. Individual briefings with members of City Council are underway.

CSB has received \$1 million in supplemental funding from the **Franklin County** Commissioners, to counteract the deficit created by the Real Estate Transfer Fee. We will return to the Commissioners in December to request the additional \$700,000 needed for 2009. A request for 2010 funding was submitted in early September. We plan to meet with each Commissioner in October.

Special Briefing on Homelessness set for October 7

A special briefing on homelessness will be held for Columbus City Council's Health, Housing & Human Services Committee, chaired by Councilmember Charleta Tavares, on October 7 at 5:30 pm at City Hall. Several partner agency and client speakers will join CSB for this annual advocacy event. Please consider attending this special event to show your support. You can contact Tiffany Nobles at tnobles@csb.org for more information.

United Way of Central Ohio funding for Rebuilding Lives awaits approval in November by the UWCO Board of Trustees, but we remain optimistic that funding will continue as planned.

Board2Board Dialogue set for October 12

Please continue to save the date for the Board2Board Dialogue – an event for CSB Partner Agency Executive Directors, Partner Agency Board Presidents, and CSB Trustees.

Monday, October 12, 2009
9:30 am – 1:00 pm
Nationwide's Heritage Room
One Nationwide Plaza

HPRP Stimulus Funds Being Allocated to Programs

The City of Columbus and the Franklin County Board of Commissioners are moving forward in their partnership with CSB for administration of Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP) dollars. The City of Columbus voted on September 15 to award its share of HPRP funds, \$2,642,649, to CSB. Likewise, the Franklin County Board of Commissioners will vote in September to award its share, \$746,920.

CSB has already made an initial round of funding awards to programs that will utilize funding immediately upon the October 1 start date for HPRP funding. After review by the Rebuilding Lives Funder Collaborative Committee of the Whole and the HPRP Steering Committee, CSB's board of trustees and the Rebuilding Lives Funder Collaborative met on August 25 and August 27, respectively, to approve proposals from provider agencies for City and County HPRP funds. CSB's board of trustees and the Rebuilding Lives Funder Collaborative will meet again in November or December 2009/February 2010 to consider updates to the community's HPRP plan and additional investments.

[ADVOCACY]

Medicaid Improvements Needed

The National Alliance to End Homelessness and National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare sponsored an organizational sign on letter urging House and Senate leadership to consider two critical Medicaid provisions in health care reform. CSB signed on to urge Congress to give people who are homeless better access to Medicaid. The specific provisions being sought are: 1) All people living below the federal poverty level are eligible for Medicaid, and that 2) Community service providers are able to receive Medicaid reimbursements for coordinated health services including primary health care and mental health and addiction treatment services. You can learn more at <http://www.endhomelessness.org/content/article/detail/2411>.

State Budget Crisis

With the July passage of the 2010-2011 State Biennium Budget by the Ohio Legislature, came significant cuts to the Ohio behavioral healthcare system. A few of CSB's partner agencies are also part of the ADAMH network and are being impacted by ODMH/ODADAS funding cuts being passed on by ADAMH. These are the amounts of funding that are lost:

	Funding cut through 12/31/09	Funding cut for CY2010
Community Housing Network	\$227,053	\$301,567
Maryhaven	\$516,000	\$389,000
Huckleberry House	\$47,388	\$150,908

Southeast is also affected by funding cuts being passed on by ADAMH, but the amounts were not available at the time of publication.

[REBUILDING LIVES]

Rebuilding Lives Funder Collaborative

The Rebuilding Lives Funder Collaborative (RLFC) held its quarterly meeting on August 27. RLFC members considered several topics including Rebuilding Lives Plan strategies and activities for the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP). Key highlights of the meeting were as follows: unanimous approval of the programs identified for City, County and State HPRP allocations; endorsement of the convener plans for the Collaborative Outreach System and Affordable Housing Campaign strategies from the RL Plan; and approval of the new permanent supportive housing program selection process for the 2009 HUD Continuum of Care (CoC) funding bonus. Due to other scheduling conflicts and the need for the RLFC to meet to consider a new permanent supportive housing program (an activity previously considered unnecessary until 2010), the November 19 RLFC meeting has been cancelled. A new meeting date will be identified once HUD releases the 2009 CoC Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA) and application, expected in late September or early October.

Unified Supportive Housing System

USHS continues to look for HUD Chronically Homeless eligible clients to be housed in 30 Scattered Site units for the Rebuilding Lives Leasing Project to start in late fall. USHS asked emergency shelters and outreach providers to submit potential applicants to USHS by September 24. CSB is waiting for its HUD contract in order to launch the project. Housing and services for these units will be provided through Southeast, Inc. Please contact Denise Ansback at 614-221-9195, ext 104 or at dansback@csb.org for more information about this project.

The next USHS project, the Move-Up Pilot, is in its development phase. The Move-Up Pilot Implementation Workgroup, facilitated by consultant Keith McCormish, continues to work through the details of the project. Three supportive housing projects, YMCA at 40 W Long Street, YWCA WINGS and Maryhaven Commons at Chantry will be piloting this initiative. Tenants in 224 Rebuilding Lives units will participate in this year-long pilot, where housing providers will be assessing tenants' willingness and readiness to move to more independent housing.

The Unified Supportive Housing System is a collaborative effort managed by ADAMH, the Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority and CSB. These partners are working together with other agencies in the community including health, housing, shelter, and outreach providers to:

- ⟨ Ensure more efficient and targeted use of supportive housing through a centralized eligibility determination, prioritization and placement system.
- ⟨ Promote efficient use of community resources for supportive services through a unified services payment model.
- ⟨ Promote recovery and support community re-integration through a centralized utilization review system and "move-up" assistance.

The Osteopathic Heritage Foundation is the primary funder of the Unified Supportive Housing System.

[PROGRAM UPDATES]

Family System

The Family System continues to collaborate effectively and strengthen partnerships with a focus on next step housing. The Family System's collaborative planning team (Family System CPT) continues to move forward. The team has met to further identify and define client needs. As a next step the Family CPT is in the process of developing a common assessment and goal development process that can be utilized across the system to bring a greater degree of efficiency to the process.

Volunteers of America continues to work towards converting some shelter units to a rolling stock format. VOA has been able to house 3 families and subsequently transfer the leases to the families. It is hoped that this process will prove to be more efficient and cost effective in the long term.

Adult System

Planning for the Winter Overflow seasonal shelter process is nearly complete. Lutheran Social Services-Faith Mission will, once again, manage the overflow process for the men's and women's shelters. For the upcoming seasonal overflow period beginning October 15, 2009 and ending March 15, 2010, shelters will increase their normal capacity as they have in the past, but two major changes will be instituted. An alternative site separate from the shelters will be developed for the men to be accessed when severe weather occurs. This site will begin operation January 1, 2010 and provide shelter only – no case management services will be offered. The other major change will be with women's seasonal overflow. The YWCA Family Center will be utilized to shelter women overnight when all regular system and overflow beds are full. Faith Mission will refer women to the YWCA Family Center for the period of October 15, 2009 through March 31, 2010. Faith Mission will identify the women requiring shelter and provide transportation. It is hoped that this arrangement will prove to be more efficient and less problematic than placing women in hotels for the overflow process. Currently, the adult emergency shelters continue to operate at or near capacity.

Stable Families

The second interim evaluation of the Stable Families program is available on CSB's website, at the following link: <http://www.csb.org/files/docs/Publications/2009/9-11-09/CSB%20Stable%20Families%20Interim%20Assessment%20Report%202.pdf>

The report evaluates the pilot for the April 7, 2008 - December 31, 2008 period. The most important findings of the report are:

- < Overall, 74 families exited the program in 2008, with 59 (80%) of them successfully completing the program (i.e., transitioning to permanent housing). 37% of the families that completed the program relocated to more affordable housing.
- < \$96,030 in direct client assistance (DCA) was provided to enrolled families, with families receiving (on average) \$1,011.
- < From program entry to program exit, enrolled families reported increases in their perceived ability to meet many basic needs, such as shelter, income, life skills, among others.
- < A range of estimates for Stable Families' likely effect on Franklin County's Emergency Shelter System is presented in the main report. The most liberal estimate of program impact suggests it could assist approximately 18% of the families who are projected to access the family emergency shelter system in FY2010. The most conservative estimate, indicates the program could help approximately 3% of families who may access this emergency shelter system.

- < The percentage of Columbus City Schools students with 0 school moves after their households entered Stable Families (76%) was consistent with the program outcome (“75% of dependent children will remain stable in school”) that was set for Stable Families pilot.
- < Focus groups and in-depth interviews with recent Stable Families participants revealed a great deal of appreciation for the Stable Families program, especially the dedication of the caseworkers.

The Stable Families project is seeking to expand to the Weinland Park Elementary School. Plans call for the expansion to serve 45 families annually with referrals coming from Weinland Park, the Schoenbaum Center, Godman Guild, Community Properties of Ohio and the OSU extension center. It is felt that this expansion and the participation of Weinland Park will bring a much needed service to families. This expansion is possible due to support by a grant from JPMorgan Chase and a designated gift to CSB through The Columbus Foundation Critical Need Alert. Jeff Lyttle and Barbara Seimer provided leadership to develop the expansion concept.

Stable Families is an initiative to prevent homelessness, aimed at long-term housing stability, reduced student mobility and increased academic success in schools. This pilot project is made possible by the Siemer Family Foundation and United Way of Central Ohio, the Ohio Department of Development, Franklin County Commissioners and The Columbus Foundation.

Permanent Supportive Housing

Annually, developers of permanent supportive housing projects may apply for Federal tax credits secured through the Ohio Housing Finance Agency (OHFA). The Rebuilding Lives Funder Collaborative (RLFC) as part of the process prioritizes projects for submission to OHFA. Additionally, the RLFC reviews projects for HUD Continuum of Care (CoC) bonus funding and makes recommendations to the CoC Steering Committee. As part of CSB’s streamlining work with the RLFC and the CoC Steering Committee, a single committee has been created to review projects and make recommendations. This committee includes representatives of the RLFC, the CoC Steering Committee (including one provider), and the Citizens Advisory Council.

This new PSH review process will accommodate both the 2009 CoC bonus award applicant and assign priority among local projects for 2010 tax credits. (The 2010 bonus award applicant is the Community Housing Network’s Inglewood Court project which received that designation in 2008). A request for Project Concepts was released during August seeking permanent supportive housing for the homeless projects to be considered for these priorities. Project proposals are due September 23, 2009. The committee expects to conclude its work by late October/early November. For more information about the process, contact Dave Davis, CSB Director of Programs & Planning.

CSB has been an active member of the Ohio Supportive Housing for the Homeless Alliance (OSHHA) which has been working with OHFA to better align OHFA’s investment in permanent supportive housing for the homeless with local community plans to end homelessness. OHFA is revising its 2010 process to work more closely with local homeless planning bodies to assure that OHFA awards credits to the highest quality projects. The RLFC has approved OHFA as an ex officio member of the local review PSH committee.

[IN THE SPOTLIGHT]

Huck House Joins the CSB Family

With board approval on August 25 of HPRP Stimulus funds for the Huckleberry House Rapid Re-Housing Program, Huckleberry House becomes CSB's newest partner agency effective October 1. They are an excellent addition to our CSB partner agency network and have been participating in Columbus ServicePoint (CSB's community-wide homeless management information system) since 2006.



Huckleberry House was established in 1970 to provide a safe place for runaway youth in Columbus. They provide many programs to help teens throughout Franklin County who are in crisis situations, homeless or runaways.

YWCA CEO Search

As has been announced previously, Cindy Lazarus will step down as the CEO/President of the YWCA in 2010. The YWCA board of trustees has formed a search committee and welcomes input about potential candidates. A position description is attached, and inquiries/applications can be directed to the search committee at ywca@rayandbarney.com.

Triage Training Webinar

Dave Davis of CSB and Molly Rampe of the YWCA Columbus have been invited by One Family, Inc. in Massachusetts to lead a statewide triage training webinar for providers in ten regional networks. One Family, Inc. requested CSB and the YWCA's assistance because of our shared success with triage processes in the family system. One Family, Inc. is a statewide technical assistance provider for the homeless services provider regional networks in Massachusetts. The webinar is scheduled for October 15.

Tours

In August, CSB provided a tour for Franklin County Commissioner John O'Grady of Southpoint Place and area encampments. Also in August, we provided a tour of YWCA Family Center and Commons at Grant for Rhett Ricart of Ricart Automotive; Jim Cetovich of Ruscilli Construction; and Kerry Suddes of The Suddes Group.

[CSB NEWS]

Annual Data Published

The Annual System & Program Indicator Report for the period 7/1/08-6/30/09 has been published and is attached to this newsletter. The 4th quarter report is also attached. Both reports can be found under the *Publications* link at www.csb.org.

Gateway Survey Results

We received extremely positive results from the Gateway Application Process online evaluation. Five of 16 agencies participated in the survey, Overall these responding partner agencies were pleased with the streamlined process. 100% of survey respondents found it helpful to have materials located online at www.csb.org; 83.3% found it useful to receive draft funding awards in advance; and 100% of participants agreed that receiving the Program Outcomes Plan (POP) in advance was helpful to programmatic planning.

Additionally, we received excellent feedback on ways to further improve and streamline the application process. We will use these comments in the coming year and hope to make the process even more efficient and user-friendly.

One survey respondent said, "I appreciate the time and effort CSB staff took to redesign the process this year. It was a much more streamlined process and easier to complete. Thanks for all your hard work; we appreciate it."

Columbus ServicePoint

Columbus ServicePoint was upgraded to ServicePoint 4.06, the latest version of Bowman System's homeless management information system. The upgrade was necessary so our system will comply with the HPRP (Homelessness Prevention & Rapid Re-Housing Program) and the newly released HUD Data Standards.

During the months of August and September, all emergency shelter and permanent supportive housing programs were distributed new Outcome Reports in Columbus ServicePoint (CSP). The Outcome Reports contain demographic information for the population served as well as the outcomes that are currently reported in the quarterly System and Program Indicator Report and in the annual program evaluation. All the programs are now able to monitor their performance on an as needed basis and have at their finger-tips valuable information about their programs and the clients they serve. Training on these reports is also offered to all those that are interested. CSB's

Data and Evaluation staff will continue to release Outcome Reports to all the programs accessing CSP. We are estimating that by the end of October, all the programs using CSP will have an Outcome Report.

CSB staff is also in the process of distributing and implementing scanning equipment to all high-volume emergency shelters. Lutheran Social Services – Faith Mission, Southeast – Friends of the Homeless, Volunteers of America's Men's Shelter and YWCA Family Center already received the necessary equipment and are testing the new technology. The equipment, consisting of a barcode scanner, laminating machine, printer and digital camera will allow all shelters to create "CSP Cards" for all their clients that will expedite the clients' identification and intake into shelter.

Staffing Update

CSB is working to outsource all Human Resources activities since this function is out of scope for our core functions. We conducted a competitive request for proposals process and intend to begin contract negotiation with the winning vendor by the end of September. Big thanks to trustees **Tim Miller** and **Mark Russell** for reviewing the proposals and sharing their HR expertise.

A Program Manager and part-time Project Coordinator are still needed to round out CSB's staffing. These positions are posted internally and at www.csb.org. We are accepting applications and pursuing leads for these positions but will not launch aggressive searches until the HR vendor is in place.

Upcoming Meetings

< Check out the interactive calendar at www.csb.org under resources for our partners < meetings.

Attachments

- < Ebony article
- < YWCA CEO position description
- < Annual System & Program Indicator Report (7/1/08-6/30/09)
- < 4th quarter System & Program Indicator Report (4/1/09-6/30/09)