



Employment, Income Supports, and Supportive Services Subgroup

Meeting Minutes

July 8, 2009

Items Relevant to Other Workgroups

- *Community Building and Communications:* As the EISSS workgroup considers an outreach plan to homeless and at-risk individuals, the group may need to seek input from the CBC workgroup.

Attendees

- *Cathy Truss*
- *Nisha Coolman*
- *Jim Bunton*
- *Betty Zylstra*
- *Nancy Oliver*
- *Kathy Bradley*
- *Paul Beiring*
- *Jennifer Stewart*
- *Jeff Kaplow (PPA)*
- *David McConnell (PPA)*

Goals for This Meeting

- To share progress in addressing current action items.
- To plan the next steps for these tasks that work toward the outcomes in the action plan.

Discussion Items

Review of Progress on Action Items

Action 1.1: Review employment resources and successful strategies for providing employment services.

- The task team has spoken with homeless service providers, employers, and homeless shelters to see if there is funding available through their programs for employment services.
 - The team has received some feedback on available funding through these organizations and through DHS.
 - There are resources available to the public at large that are not specifically focused on the homeless populations.
- The team is still developing a list of successful strategies.
 - Kathy Bradley will seek input from the other task team members and then send the strategies to Jeff for dissemination to the whole workgroup.
- Weatherization dollars
 - Money has been released to devote to training people for weatherizing homes. This will be happening rapidly; through the stimulus.
 - MRS is working in conjunction with Goodwill Detroit; looking at green jobs relating to weatherization. It was suggested that the task team should speak with Goodwill about its program.
 - Cathy Truss can provide a list of the organizations doing weatherization training.

- Additional funding is available for community colleges to provide job training.
- MRS is looking to build a facility on the east side of Detroit to expand training programs.
 - Its focus will be on populations with disabilities, but this overlaps with homeless populations.
- Cathy Truss will reach out to the Secretary of State to find out who the team would need to talk to and other steps that need to be taken to resolve issues surrounding identification for homeless populations.

Action 1.2: Expand and strengthen provider networks

- The MARO conference was very enlightening.
 - There was a willingness to participate and there were many good ideas.
 - Jeff will send Susan Hornfeld's report on the MARO conference to the workgroup.
- This task team will meet again before the next workgroup meeting to strategize about the next steps on this action, including the potential for making better use of funding attached to food stamps.

Action 1.3: Develop strategies for outreach to homeless and at-risk on workforce development resources

- There was no update from this task team.
- It may make sense to have input from the Community Building and Communications workgroup as this task moves forward.

Action 2.1.1: Identify best practices, models, and strategies to learn from

- This task is in a kind of holding pattern.
- Paul is working with PPA and the Community Building and Communications workgroup on a communications plan that will help to disseminate information to the regions.

Action 2.1.2: Identify barriers to provision of supportive and preventive services, including policy barriers

- There are potential solutions out there that the team will need to take a look at.
- There are a number of issues that seemingly could be addressed with small policy changes.
- Some issues relate to Michigan Works!, the task team will bring Kathy Bradley into the discussion of these issues..

Action 2.2: Revisit the 2-1-1 system and MDIT citizen portal

- Mini-grants are going out to communities to support their 2-1-1 systems.

Action 4.2: Develop strategies for overcoming transportation barriers

- Examples of best practices were sent out to the workgroup after the last meeting.
- This task team will need to meet and discuss the issue further.
- Jeff will send along the contact information to Paul for Diane and Jim. Paul will convene the task team before the next workgroup meeting.

Adapting the MPRI model

- There are a lot of questions around the model in some communities.
- There seem to be some aspects of the MPRI model which would not translate easily to what the team is trying to accomplish here.

- It does seem like the role of a community coordinator could be a useful piece of the program.

Other Issues

- Supporting the NOFA on HPRP
 - The housing workgroup is setting up a team that will include individuals from all of the workgroups to look at this grant and to see what the Campaign can do to support local communities.
 - Some communities have already done a lot of planning around this, because the funding is so restrictive.
- The Grand Rapids model
 - This model is on the MSHDA Web site, where there is a flowchart available.
 - They are focused on housing and targeting their resources on those at the greatest risk.
 - At the central intake, there are an increasingly larger number of people without any income.
- Tracking ARRA funding
 - No workgroup members expressed interest in pursuing this as a full workgroup action.
 - For information on recovery spending, please visit www.michigan.gov/recovery.
- John Rio's Community Employment Pathways Forum
 - The forum will be held on August 4, 2009
 - He has asked for workgroup members to attend and possibly provide a rundown of workgroup activities.
 - Jennifer Stewart said that she may be interested in attending; she will see if she is available that day and will contact John Rio directly.
 - Jeff will send details to all of the workgroup members.
- The workgroup could use additional non-profit representation in the Detroit area.
 - Paul might be able to get Jeff some suggestions for representatives.
 - Everyone should contact Jeff with suggestions.

Next Meeting

- The next meeting will be August 12, 2009 at 2:00 p.m.
- Meetings are scheduled for the 2nd Wednesday of every month from 2:00-3:30 p.m.