



### ***Items Relevant to Other Workgroups***

- *Training Workgroup:* Does there need to be training across the CoCs for the HARP voucher program? Can we clarify what role the Training workgroup plays and where the workgroups are supposed to turn to address training needs?

### ***Discussion Items***

#### **Review of Current Action Plan Items**

##### *Action 1.1*

- The first survey has been completed.
  - There was a lot of responses from the rural community.
  - One of the things that jumped out was the need for support services.
  - We might do the same survey a couple of more times and see if this need is a trend.
- Through the survey approach we will be able to come up with the next steps for this action.

##### *Action 1.1.3*

- The Campaign e-newsletter is coming out on a regular basis.
- The Campaign Web site will be showcased at the conference.
  - The Web site will have live counts of homelessness from the CoCs so that counties can see what the specific numbers are in real time.
  - There will also be a showcase on the Web site for homeless resource centers, AmeriCorps, etc.
  - It will be a more user-friendly site.
- The stimulus money will be coming out soon.

##### *Action 2.1*

- Trainings across the state for the housing agents who administer the HARP program and MPRI.
  - MSHDA has had to cut back on HARP vouchers. As soon as they reduce below the 100% mark, MSHDA will open up that program again. It is hard to know, however, when that will happen given the current economic situation.
  - This program could be considered one of the first major successes of the campaign.
- There might be a need to educate landlords on the MPRI program because a lot of landlords won't sign a lease with ex-offenders.
  - The list of felony-friendly landlords is not very long.
- What can be done to change this?
  - Could have the landlords tell us what would make this attractive to them?
  - Maybe landlords speaking to landlords who are participating, peer-to-peer?
  - There will be a session at the Affordable Housing Conference with people out of Grand Rapids who have been successful in educating landlords.

- Sometimes landlords are fine if there are supportive services there, but then there are problems getting the funding for the supportive services.
- We may need to look at some of our goals to assess how this is affecting what is going on in the field.
- We also need to track the impact and the effectiveness of the policy and procedure.
- It may be possible for MSHDA to get other PHAs to follow what they are doing; to use what they are doing as a model.
- Questions and ideas can be directed to Nancy McCrohan or passed over to the Training workgroup.

#### *Action 2.1.1.3*

- There is a new process out on MPRI, and there are trainings happening around the state.

#### *Action 3.1*

- Do we need to have a cross-group meeting with the Training workgroup to work through what we have identified here as training needs?
- We need to come up with some trainings, or some links to trainings for landlords, for PHAs, and for other statewide groups.
  - Maybe CSH could help out with setting up trainings.
- Because it is nearly impossible to read all the e-mails and newsletters and information that comes across the Web, it might be a good idea to develop a book, a brochure, or some hard-copy material that people can look at; to engage the landlords and others in receiving training.
- Face-to-face relationships with landlords seem to work the best in the rural communities.

### ***Enhancing Regional Communications***

#### *Presentation by Paul Beiring and related discussion*

- Paul is now able to get involved in every region.
  - *For example:* By-laws, he has been able to take in several sets from some regions and take them to another region to help move that region forward.
  - However, each region seems to be at a different period of growth and there is difficulty in taking from one region and simply applying to another, these things must be adapted to the new contexts.
- It has always been the focus to collaborate regionally to help the clients, to do what is best for the clients.
  - Taking care of people has to happen on a large scale, on a multi-county level, because the clients are a transient population.
  - When Region 6 began talking about regional policy they began with looking at discharge policy. This was not coordinated, so they looked at coordinating it across the region. This coordination has spread to the other regions Paul has visited.
  - Now people in other regions are talking about creating regional policy to coordinate services.
- Regional communications:
  - Currently there are report-outs at the regional councils from the statewide workgroups. It seems to be good, but there does seem to be a certain amount of disconnect. It is unclear how or if this information gets filtered down to the CoC level.

- It might be necessary to limit these report-outs to one or two specific points and/or action steps that are communicated to ensure that the attendees at the regional meetings are not overwhelmed.
  - ◆ These could take the form of briefing points that people could refer to when they report out to their regions.
  - ◆ It might be necessary to get down to three or four points that every region hears to facilitate common communication across all the regions.
  - ◆ Along with the meeting minutes from these workgroups, a one-page “talking points” memo could also be developed after every monthly meeting. This would make it easier for the regional reps to report back to the regions and the CoCs.
  - ◆ Each workgroup can decide what they want to highlight at the end of their monthly meetings.
- One of the main goals for increasing regional communications is to spread and share best practices across the state; to look at how we can share best practices across the counties and across the regions to best affect change; moving toward a centralized model
  - ◆ There are many examples of best practices across the state that can be explored and utilized.
- Statewide workgroups as advocates:
  - These workgroups are a very powerful advocacy group for issues surrounding homelessness.
  - The state sometimes creates policy that does not necessarily serve the client, and what is great about these workgroups is their connection to what is happening in the field. We are advocating on behalf of the clients.
  - The regions, too, are very powerful advocacy group.
  - Overall, the workgroups, regions, and local advocates have been instrumental in recent policy changes at the state level that will help expedite services to homeless individuals.

### ***Priorities for the Future and Associated Challenges***

- The HPRP NOFA is the catalyst, the trigger point for the new way of doing business. The NOFA is very well thought out in bringing people together and making sure that everyone is on the same page.
  - *Everyone:* Please read this before the next meeting and think about how the action plan we have developed can take advantage of the opportunities created therein.
    - ◆ When looking at the HPRP, look at how the action plans are moving us to implement what we know works in our areas and how those can be made a reality everywhere.
  - In the NOFA, MSHDA is going to be providing models to help people think about what can be done.
    - ◆ Would it be possible for this group to come up with some models that can be shown as good examples of what is being done and what can be done?
    - ◆ MSHDA also hopes to have at least a draft application available so people can begin working on it before the money is released.
- At the Michigan Housing Conference, for housing developers, MSHDA will have a panel to talk about the stimulus money and to talk about HPRP monies that will be available to assist people with housing needs.
- There are several action items in our strategic plan that will need to be pushed ahead to another level fairly quickly.

- HUD Funds:
  - ◆ Each region will be getting an allocation.
  - ◆ Some cities are getting direct allocations.
  - ◆ Every CoC is getting a piece of the state's allocation.
  - ◆ Part of these monies can go to service delivery.
  - ◆ MSHDA will be doing one-year contracts and if a CoC is not spending their money MSHDA will move that money to a different CoC.
- ESG Funds:
  - ◆ Now Emergency Solutions Granting rather than Emergency Shelter Grants.
  - ◆ Means that we might have some flexibility in how we use our money.
  - ◆ Systems change is what HUD wants to see.
  - ◆ Shifting system from sheltering to preventing homelessness.
  - ◆ There is going to be one lead agency acting as fiduciary (Lead CHAP agency).
- There will be a need to increase the quality of available housing as well.
  - Landlords need to be connected to programs that will allow them to improve the quality of their units.
- What are the key things that need to be in place to implement the HPRP money?
  - Training for landlords.
  - Properties that meet HUD's Housing Quality Standards (HQS).
  - Developers for supportive housing.
    - ◆ Kent County is developing a low-demand project that they will shop out to a developer rather than have the developer decide who they will take.
    - ◆ Could look at management companies. Lots of communities have property management companies that have units available, but have policies that exclude people. It might be more efficient to talk to the higher-ups rather than individual landlords scattered all over the place.
    - ◆ Can look at public housing. There are openings but the guidelines are way too strict. PHAs can have flexibility.
  - Encourage local government to start a landlord licensing program so that units can be inspected and create revenue as well as pay for itself.
    - ◆ This could be regulated if linked to landlord-tenant law, otherwise there might need to be some sort of local ordinance or rule put in place.
- Identify the key tools necessary to implement this, so that it can be sent out to the CoCs. Will have to be very proactive and move quickly so that the money can get out the door.
  - We could field a survey to identify what communities need.
    - ◆ A survey would have to go out immediately to get the kind of turn-around that would provide useful, timely information.
  - We could create a subcommittee with priority to figure out what needs to be offered to people to help them.
  - It might be possible to have a one-stop to make sure that people can get to what they need easily.
  - We could mock up a toolkit and Paul could take that around to the regions for input on what they have and what they do not have. Then we can focus on what they do not have.
    - ◆ Could we have the toolkit ready by the middle of June?

### ***Session Assessment and Wrap-Up***

- Everyone should read the NOFA.
- Everyone should also peruse the Action Plans of the other workgroups.
- We should consider developing a toolkit and look at it from a regional perspective.

### ***Next Meeting***

- June 8, 2009 from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m.