

**Homeless Provider Forum
November 6, 2008
Meeting Minutes**

Linda Pringle, OC Community Services/Homeless Prevention Division

Linda will be contacting shelter Executive Directors to set up a meeting. The meeting is for Linda to find out more about the shelter and also to let them know about the Disaster Housing Recovery Team Strategy. The purpose of the Strategy is to develop a coordinated way to meet the short-term and long-term housing needs of displaced disaster victims. If you would like to contact Linda to set up a meeting she can be reached at 714-480-2761 or Linda.Pringle@hcs.ocgov.com

Dawn Lee, OC Partnership

10 Year Plan to End Homelessness - The Working Group has had three very productive meetings focused on the development of Orange County's plan goals. We began by reviewing the body of work currently available across the nation with regards to Ten Year Plans and are choosing the best of each for incorporation into our plan. Over the next few meetings we will work to refine the plan goals and define the local strategies that should be implemented to accomplish these goals.

CMIS Progress – As of October 31st, we have 24 agencies participating in CMIS who have entered 15,412 clients into the system. Our newest participating agencies include Family Assistance Ministries and the John Henry Foundation; the City of Anaheim Community Services Department is in the process of coming on board. Our coverage rate of shelter beds in CMIS improved to 47% this year up from the 24% reported in last year's SuperNOFA application. We still have to meet the national goal of 75% shelter participation. A new release of CMIS containing several added features is now in production.

2008 National HMIS Conference – Hundreds of Continuums of Care across the nation were represented at the September training to bring all up to speed on the continued priority of the collection of unduplicated regional homeless information. Most Continuums have surpassed the 50% participation rate and many have met the 75% or higher requirement. HUD has drafted new and slightly modified HMIS data standards and a noticeably different and much improved Annual Progress Report. The new APR will include a seventeen measure Self Sufficiency Matrix. Both will go through a public review process and we'll be moving toward the generation of APRs out of CMIS in the future.

Partnership for Prescription Assistance Program – OC Partnership hosted a presentation of this program in October. The program is a single point of access to free or discounted maintenance prescription and includes 475 individual prescription assistance programs and covers 2500 brand name drugs. Their goal is access to prescriptions, linkages to free clinics and advocacy. See www.pparx.org. The local contact is Sabrina Ross (949) 336-4500.

National News – The U.S. House of Representatives passed the HEARTH Act (H.R. 7221) last month. The Act seeks to provide communities with new resources and better tools to prevent and end homelessness. The HEARTH Act would substantially improve the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development's (HUD) homeless assistance grants programs. The HEARTH Act would allow more flexibility for housing and services providers, allowing them to serve a wider range of people facing housing instability. It would also prioritize homeless families with children, and continue HUD's focus on permanent supportive housing for chronically homeless individuals. Homeless advocates are calling upon the Senate to pass their version of the bill (S. 1518) in the current lame duck session this month.

Winter CoC Forum – will be held on Thursday December 11th. The topic is Best Practices in Continuum of Care Planning and we will have a panel of CoC reps from local regions here to discuss their planning and decision making structure, share some thoughts on local Orange County challenges and opportunities that are in front of us and then will have an open forum gathering input from you on suggestions on how we should be structured and determine priorities.

Point In Time – Project planning is continuing. Each of you should have already been contacted to see you can help. The count will occur on January 24th in the a.m. The first meeting of the Advisory Committee was held. This group's role is to help bring resources and information to the project and specifically they will provide insight on identifying hotspots, volunteers, homeless workers, donations, and engaging other non participating providers. With regards to hotspots we are asking you to identify key people within your organization – clients, volunteers and/or staff who are willing to sit down with a PITs team member to identify hotspot locations. Please email info@pointintimeoc.org to give us the names of potential hotspot advisors and we will set up times to meet with them. There is a job opportunity for Homeless Workers as part of this project. An outreach effort will begin in a few weeks. More information can be found on the project website www.pointintimeoc.org.

The Sister's of St. Joseph's has graciously hosted this forum for the past several years. Over that time they've seen costs go up and are requesting that going forward we assist in covering the cost of coffee and tea for the meetings. Please consider adding to the donation bin as you have your morning cup of Java.

Shelter Information & Openings

Cassie Eidem with South County Outreach will have one opening in their Transitional Housing Program starting at the end of November.

Grandma's House of Hope currently has five openings at their Women's Transitional Shelter. Program serves SINGLE women, 17 and older who are victims of Domestic Violence (2nd step) Human Trafficking, Homesless with Addictive/Compulsive Disorders, Elder Abuse and seniors on Disability. We will consider unusual circumstances for acceptance into our program. Resident receives food and shelter, case management, individual and group therapy, job search and wardrobe support, free hairstyling, optional bible studies. Shelter is a six bedroom, three 3 1/2 bath one story home with two living rooms. Program fees are \$125 per month, will consider \$50 for the first week if client is eligible. We are a faith based shelter. Please call (714) 636-3690 or (714) 457-3187 to speak to Je'net.

Cathleen Murphy with American Family Housing announced that they have openings in their Transitional Housing Program for families. Please contact Darla at 714-897-3221 ext.105 or April, ext.106. Please note that April will be out of the office until Monday, November 10th. AFH has also opened up the Haven Program, which provides permanent supportive housing for unaccompanied adults, including those with substance abuse issues and disabilities. We currently have openings for 4 men and 4 women. As of November 15th, we will have 28 additional openings (14 men, 14 women). Please contact Kay at ext.111 or Scott at ext.117.

Colleen Smagala with Anaheim Interfaith Shelter has an opening in their Infant (6 weeks to 2 years) and Pre-school Room. You can contact them directly at 714-774-5330.

Rafaela Montoya with Laura's House has two openings for single women.

Featured Topic: Legal Issues – Exiting Clients

Renato Izquieta, Legal Aid Society of Orange County

Renato shared valuable information on the legal ways to exit clients through the Transitional Misconduct Act or the Unlawful Detainer Process.

**Next Homeless Provider Forum is scheduled for
December 4, 2008 - 9:00 am – 11:00 am
Topic: Annual Planning Meeting**