

**Homeless Provider Forum
February 4, 2010
Meeting Minutes**

Dawn Lee, OC Partnership

- **Orange County's 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness** – The plan was unanimously approved by the Orange County Board of Supervisors at their meeting on January 12th. Work has begun at developing the infrastructure under which the Plan will be implemented. Information on Bylaws and Operating Procedures of other regions across the country are being reviewed in forming Orange County's structure.
- **Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR)** – Orange County CoC was not able to participate in the Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to HUD as we'd hoped. Bed utilization rates across the board and in several shelter categories failed to meet the minimum threshold. It is imperative that agencies enter each and every client served into CMIS and accurately update changes in status and record exits within one week. HUD continues to increase their efforts in reconciling the various data collection and reporting processes to ensure consistency.
- **The National Alliance to End Homelessness** – the 2010 Annual Conference on Ending Family Homelessness will be held on February 11 - 12. Sample breakout sessions include: Strategies for Transitional Housing, Assessing HPRP Programs, Challenges in Serving the Undocumented and Identifying and Serving At Risk Families. Next month Kelly and I will report back information gathered.

Kelly Lupro, OC Community Services

- **HEARTH Act (McKinney-Vento Reauthorization)** – The HEARTH Act was signed into law on May 20, 2009 and reauthorizes and modifies the programs under McKinney-Vento including SHP and S+C as well the ESG program. It requires HUD to issue regulations within 6 months of the day of enactment (May 20) with most provisions taking effect within 18 months. Expected draft regulations by now. National Alliance to End Homelessness provides a section by section analysis on their website: www.endhomelessness.org/section/policy/legislature/mckinney_vento Provisions of the HEARTH Act include:
 - Consolidation of HUD's competitive grants programs into a single Continuum of Care program.
 - Changes the definition of homelessness to include people at imminent risk of losing their housing within the next 14 days (currently 7 days), anyone fleeing domestic violence, and families with children and unaccompanied youth who are living unstably or who are defined as homeless under other Federal programs.
 - Families with children will be able to be considered chronically homeless assuming that they meet the rest of the definitional criteria
 - Beginning within 2 years after the date of enactment of the HEARTH Act, McKinney Vento funded shelters, transitional housing, and permanent supportive housing programs that serve homeless families will not be allowed to deny admission to families based on the age of their children.
 - All current eligible activities remain and rehousing services are explicitly added as an eligible activity including housing search, mediation or outreach to property owners, credit repair, provision of security or utility deposits, rental assistance for a final month at a location, assistance with moving costs, or other activities that help homeless people move immediately into housing or will benefit people who have moved into permanent housing in the last 6 months
 - Operating costs will be redefined to include service coordination and
 - Reasonable amounts can be used for staff training

Provisions involving ESG:

- Emergency Shelter Grants program will be renamed the Emergency Solutions Grants program.
- It expands eligible activities to include more prevention and rehousing activities, which can serve people who are homeless or at-risk of homeless including people who have less than 30% of area median income and move frequently for economic reasons, live doubled up, are facing eviction, live in a hotel or motel, live in severely overcrowded housing, or are exiting an institution.
- Anybody considered homeless by other Federal statutes can also be served with prevention or rehousing assistance.
- Funding increases to 20% of the amount available for homeless assistance
- At least 40% of the ESG funds will be dedicated to prevention and rehousing activities.

Funding and Timing:

- The HEARTH Act authorizes a funding level of \$2.2 billion. For comparison, in FY 2009, \$1.677 billion was appropriated.
 - HUD must release the NOFA no later than 3 months after enactment of appropriations. Awards will be announced no later than 5 months after applications are due (six months for the first 2 years)
 - HUD will develop a new pro-rata need formula but will ensure enough funding for renewals for expiring contracts.
- **Obama Administration 2011 Budget:**
 - First budget that implements the HEARTH Act.(proposes a 10% increase)
 - Sufficient funds for communities to receive slightly less funding for new projects in FY 2011 over FY 2010 but more than FY 2009 (which should be announced soon)
 - Proposes \$200 million for ESG which is a 40% increase over the FY2010 level but is less than would be allocated to ESG if the HEARTH Act was fully implemented.
 - **2010 Housing Inventory and Shelter Count update:**
 - Sent out January 26 per HUD's instructions of last week in January
 - Want to know about each shelter program operated by an agency
 - Need to know overall capacity as well as how many beds by populations were occupied that night.
 - Contact me if you are a shelter provider and did not receive a survey.
 - We are collecting surveys now and will follow up with phone calls to non-responders and if clarification is needed.
 - Starting this spring all CoCs will be required to submit Housing Inventory data previously submitted with Exhibit 1 directly into a new HUD Homelessness Data Exchange (an expansion of the AHAR data exchange)
 - HUD implementing checks and balances HIC should match CMIS, which should match AHAR which matches Exhibit 2 submissions, etc.
 - The new system also requires a count HPRP rehousing beds/units (not prevention)-we will be providing direction on how to comply

Shelter Information & Openings

Arbor Education & Training is hosting a Job Fair on 02/24/10 from 2-4 at the Anaheim Community Center. It is a great opportunity for job-seekers to come dressed ready for an interview and meet potential employers!

Serving People in Need (SPIN) - GAPP Housing program is a 12 month case management program for homeless families that are in need of permanent housing. They have immediate openings for the month of February. Clients must be employed, and have children under the age of 18. They also received Rapid Re-Housing HPRP funding for the city of Costa Mesa. If you have any questions, you can contact Serving People in Need (SPIN) directly at 714-751-1101 and speak with a case manager Katie Hook ext. 15, or Sheryll Carter ext. 14.

Boys Hope Girls Hope (BHGH) currently has an opening for one young man in their residential program and will have openings for two young women by June. Incoming scholars can be anywhere between the ages of 10 and 14. BHGH is a private, voluntary placement program that helps academically capable and motivated children-in-need to meet their full potential and become men and women for others by providing value centered family-like homes, opportunities, and education through college. More information can be found at www.BHGHSocal.org or by calling 949.515.8833.

Anaheim Interfaith Shelter (A.I.S.) has openings at their childcare center, the Halcyon Child Development Center; the openings are for children between the ages of 8 weeks and 2 years of age. Contact the director of the childcare facility, Ms. Araceli Serrano, at 714-774-5330 for information. AIS will also have an opening for a small family in April.

Safe Families offers a temporary home for children ages newborn to 18 years old whose parents may be struggling with illnesses, incarceration, teen pregnancy, domestic violence, joblessness, homelessness, or hospitalization. The placement can be from 1 day to 1 year; or more. This service is free and currently there are 20 families trained and ready to serve their community by helping to temporarily provide a safe home for children. For more information or to receive client referral cards please call Renee Franks at (714) 543-5437 ext. 1234.

Orange County Rescue Mission's mobile clinic is open to all comers, and is completely free, though they try to serve the true homeless, those without insurance or low income. First come, first served. The fixed site clinic is open to the public as well, but is on a sliding scale based on income.

Orange County Rescue Mission's has two current openings at Hope Family Housing in Buena Park. We are taking applications via the application found on our website, www.rescuemission.org, under "I Need Help" and then "Hope Family Housing" (El Modena or Buena Park, it's the same application for both). The application can be filled out and faxed to (714) 566-6465, or printed out and mailed to OCRM, ATTN: Christina Wollin, 1 Hope Drive, Tustin CA 92782. (Note: Applicants must be working full-time, welfare (etc.) is not considered income in this case.)

On February 17, 2010, the Illumination Foundation's Mobile Medical Clinic will be at the San Juan Capistrano Community Center located at 25925 Camino Del Avion from 5-8pm. South Coast Eye Clinic will be taking a list of names. This is on a first come first serve basis.

South County Outreach has three openings for families (from 2 to 6) with dependent children in their Transitional Housing Program. Call (949) 380-8144, ext. 205, for more information.

The Eli Home has two openings at their transitional shelter for a single mother with children up to 12 years old. Please contact their office for more information 714-300-0600.

American Family Housing will have openings in their permanent supportive housing in early to mid March for families. Housing is located in Westminster. Please contact Dolores at 714-897-3221 ext.114 for income qualifications.

Grandma's House of Hope has openings for single women, and women with one or two children (one must be 0-5) who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. Backgrounds may vary from Domestic Violence, addiction and recovery, mental health, physical disabilities and/or human trafficking. (Women's Ages range from 18 to 80) This is a two year transitional living home that offers group and individual counseling, case management, job search and wardrobe assistance, food, , internet and cable access,

bible studies (voluntary) and most importantly; a safe place full of the promise of healing and hope. Weekly program fee is \$130 per week. There are scholarships available Please refer your clients to GHH at (714) 636-3690 to set up a phone interview. Case Managers can call Je'net directly at (714) 457-3187 with referrals. www.GrandmasHouseofHope.org

Precious Life Shelter has two openings in the emergency program for the homeless pregnant adult woman, proof of pregnancy with due date, and some form of valid ID required. Contact LaShane at 562 431 5025. And they are still interviewing for the 2nd Step Program for the parenting mother with preadolescent children, must be able to work and save. Contact Melissa at 562-431-3356.

Bethany will have openings for single employed women without dependent children in March.

H.I.S. House will have an opening - families of four or five and be interviewing on _____ at 9:00 am. Please call on _____ for more info.

City of San Juan Capistrano MDM & Associates has six openings in their _____ program.

**Next Homeless Provider Forum is scheduled for
March 4, 2010 from 9:00 am – 11:30 am
Sisters of Saint Joseph Campus Auditorium * 480 S. Batavia * Orange, CA 92868
Topic: Regional View of Homelessness and Influencing Public Policy
Refreshments: Friendship Shelter & Fullerton Interfaith Emergency Services
E-mail Announcements by noon on Wednesday, March 3, 2010
to Sharon McKeag at coordinator@ocpartnership.net**