

Continuum of Care Homeless Provider Forum Meeting Minutes – June 5, 2014

Continuum of Care Announcements

Audrey McIntosh, 2-1-1 OC

- Welcomed Liz Rojas, new CACI Director for 2-1-1 OC
- 2-1-1 OC will be sending out Community Matters Newsletter once a week
- Western Next Practices Round Table – The art of scaling best practices to end homelessness
 - At USC June 18-19
- Still in need of spotlights
- Next meeting is rescheduled for July 17th due to the holiday

Agency Spotlight

Michael Shepherd, Pathways of Hope

- Previously Fullerton Interfaith Emergency Services
- Working on hunger and homelessness, focusing in on serving families and now single individuals
- Agency is doing well, but recognizes the need for change including:
 - Shifting services to different areas geographically
 - Taking Transitional Housing Program and making it low threshold
- Encouraged other agencies who are struggling through all of the changes to meet with them to discuss how they are progressing through it

Announcements

Grandma's House of Hope– New Case Manager position available. For more information contact 714-558-8600.

Presentation

Featured Topic: Permanent Housing Strategies

Panelists: C2eH – Fair Housing Council: David Levy, Yvette Ahlstrom: Illumination Foundation, Helen Cameron: Jamboree Housing

Fair Housing Council: David Levy, Director of Development

- Presented on the most common legality issues when it pertains to permanent housing.
- Encouraged providers to look at the project in Westchester County, New York. A similar model may be possible here in Orange County.
- Landlord/Tenant Issues:
 - Stated that it would be wise for providers to know the Federal Housing Advertising Guidelines for the benefit of their clients regarding the search for housing.
 - Discrimination with a smile – tenants are told there isn't housing when in fact there is.
 - Should be educated on the terms and conditions as well.

Illumination Foundation: Yvette Ahlstrom

- Three main things the agency does: educating, empowering and encouraging
- Offer assistance with the practical step-by-step application through the housing process.
- Key is to educate clients on the best practices when it comes to applying for housing.
- Encourage clients to look at the application as a job interview
- Empower clients to take a stance for their family
- Agency goes ahead of the clients to landlords and explain what the program is, how long the funding lasts, and what the agency's role is in the agreement process.
- Landlords want to know why they should take a chance on our clients. They don't get them into housing and then simply leave, but instead provide assistance for the long run to help clients become financially stable on their own.
- This is a long term job including case management, tenant education, home visits, etc., which may encourage a landlord take a chance on a client.
- ESG, Housing Assistance Program, Sustainable Housing and Rapid Rehousing are looking for longevity which takes an ongoing partnership.

Jamboree Housing: Helen Cameron

- Point in Time Count from 2013 reflected over 12,000 incidents of homelessness, however, we are still lacking good data.
- Approximately 16-20% of those who are homeless that also have a mental health issue is estimated to be a low number.
- \$860 a month is what someone on disability receives which can obtain permanent supportive housing.
- Diamond Apartment Homes
 - Prop 63 has transformed the mental health system and opened a lot of doors for the mental health population. \$33 million set aside in Orange County to develop housing for mentally ill clients.
 - There are many restrictions due to a variety of funding sources which creates a difficult situation.
 - Developed 25 apartments with many support services. Not one person moved out of the development.
- Doria:
 - Because of the success of Diamond Apartment Homes, they entered into a partnership with the City of Irvine.
 - Once again, not one person moved out.
- Outcomes:
 - Orange County is showing many of the same results.
 - Learned many lessons including the need for on-site services. Didn't have enough support services available at Jackson Isle, another development, and out of 29 individuals, 14 moved out.

Q&A

**Next Continuum of Care Homeless Provider Forum is scheduled for
July 17, 2014 from 9:00 am – 11:00 am**

Covenant Presbyterian Church, St. Andrew's Hall
1855 Orange Olive Road, Orange 92865

Topic: Point in Time Count & Western Best Practices Conference Review

Refreshments: 2-1-1 Orange County

E-mail Announcements by noon on Wednesday, July 16, 2014 to HPF@ocpartnership.net