

Wisconsin ServicePoint Steering Committee

Thursday, March 5, 2009

9:30 AM

Wisconsin Department of Commerce

Members Present: Adam Smith (WI Bureau of Supportive Housing); Melisa Perez (WI Bureau of Supportive Housing); Jayne Wanless (Bureau of Supportive Housing); Steph Karpinski (WI Bureau of Supportive Housing); Patti Abbott (Hope House of Milwaukee); Candice Amil (Hope House of Milwaukee); Karen Smith (Western Dairyland); Jessica Schafer (ECHO, Inc.); Jennifer Allen (House of Hope, Green Bay); Chris Lashock (Emergency Shelter of the Fox Valley); Nina Dunkerson (HALO, Racine); Vicki Berenson (WCADV); Vivian Larkin (WCADV); Randy Hahn (The Salvation Army, Wausau); Kim Cable (Couleecap); Emily Palmer (WI Bureau of Supportive Housing Intern)

Members Absent: Sarah Lim (Tellurian); Joana Hemschemeyer (Hebron House of Hospitality, Inc.)

Welcome and Updates: Kim Cable, chair of Data Collection Committee for SHP/BOS. Joana had a last minute board meeting. Sarah is at home being a mother to a new baby boy. Judy Wilcox retired and position will not be replaced.

Introduction of New WISP Steering Committee Member: Vivian Larkin, Director of Economic and Social Justice at WCADV. Vicki is leaving the committee and wants to nominate Vivian as her replacement.

Review of Last Meeting's Minutes: Motion made to approve minutes by Jennifer Allen, Karen Smith 2nd the motion. Motion carried.

Review Committee Member Terms: Handed out excerpt from a meeting in 2007 stating committee terms set-up. Expanding committee members is good for fresh blood. But reimbursing for our expenses may not be able to happen with budget restraints if we expand. If we add members food reimbursement most likely will be cut. Adam suggests talking about do we want a BOS rep. Patti and Jennifer think we definitely need a BOS rep. on this committee. Motion made by Jennifer, 2nd by Randy to add BOS rep to committee. Next issue, should we target any other special target groups for 2009? HIV/AIDS or runaway homeless youth? HIV/AIDS entering as unnamed clients and entering some services into WISP (HOPWA data). What are they going to bring to the table that is not already here? Special needs program info that we don't have on the committee. Disconnect between ARCW and local CoC's, foster a connection between local services and accountability for them in WISP. If we decided to add HIV/AIDS, we need to go the ARC headquarters in Milwaukee. Maybe try it out as an ad-hoc spot to see if it works out. Invite Angie Miller to a meeting with the intention to see if it is a position we want to add and then talk about it at next meeting. Randy made a motion and was 2nd by Jennifer Allen, to invite Angie to a meeting. Runaway youth: Jennifer tech. falls into that category. Definitely makes sense once RHYMIS is a part of WISP. Terms: Jennifer, Patti, Joana, and Karen's terms are up today. Nice to have long standing members, shows commitment to WISP and we are evolving and not stagnant. All wish to renew at 2 year terms.

Set Meeting Calendar for 2009: May 21 in Wausau at Salvation Army; August 6 in Appleton at Emergency Shelter of Fox Valley; November 5 in Waukesha at Hebron House; March 4, 2010 in Madison at Tellurian. Motion made by Jennifer, 2nd by Chris, motion passed.

Update on New Programs: 4 new SHP permanent housing programs. Recipients of HPRP can use money for rent assistance, housing counseling, utilities, mediation, and rapid re-housing (subsidized rent), but not mortgage foreclosure. About \$27 million will be available in HPRP. HUD wants WI as a model how money is handled. WI is ahead of the curve in prevention services. Simple RFP for the monies, Steph is creating a formula for a min. allocation. Want to see the services shown in HMIS for accountability. Around March 19, HUD will have rules for the money. Has to be means tested, recent situation (income dropping, loss of job) based not chronic homeless.

Review Statewide Point-In-Time Process: Adam provided a handout. The numbers seem low; the unsheltered numbers are not showing up on the report. Some CoC's do not have unsheltered numbers in. Need to not have a service transaction with an unmet need for it to pull into report. Just need name, gender, birth date to enter unmet needs. Steph did a report showing that people are staying longer in shelters. A lot of those being turned away are chronically homeless and failed other programs. The unmet need data is great for showing the need and helps us get funding in the state. BOS will be doing another count in Oct. Need to see if we can get the other COC's in on the count. Housing Inventory Chart needs to be updated accurately. TBRA affects AHAR reports, for example 150% of beds used but when you take TBRA out, only 60-70% is used. Agencies use TBRA in different ways so its time consuming when AHAR is run. 19 out of the 20 AHAR's submitted were accepted for useable information. Families need a group id in ShelterPoint. *Check in additional family members* is the button we need to use when someone comes in after original entry date. DV shelters not using WISP are not on Housing Inventory Chart.

Review FAQ's for Domestic Violence Providers: Vicki gave out 5 hand outs about DV agencies and WISP. DV shelters can only give out information to others with a time limit. Abusers are relentless in finding the victim so giving out identifying information and making sure it is secure is a top priority. Vicki will send this info to Adam and send it to us electronically.

Homeless Conference: Save the date, July 21 at Madison Marriot West in Middleton. The five workshop tracks are: Families and Homelessness, Innovative Programs and Best Practice Methods, Special Populations, HMIS, and Funding. HUD loves Homeless Connect. Cost is \$95 per person and it is from 8:30am to 5pm. Scholarships are available including rooms.

SkanPoint Update: Nina gave handouts about SkanPoint and showed us how to use SkanPoint. SkanPoint is separate from ShelterPoint and ClientPoint. HALO is tracking bus tokens and passes since they can not track shelter in SkanPoint. Nina wishes it would work with ShelterPoint. Will be a challenge with staff she thinks. Time-wise, at HALO saves you time searching for the client but the needs for each client are different. Only had 2 clients refuse cards. Has issued about 200 cards, reissued about 10 cards.

Sex Offender Research Report and Shelter Provider Survey Report: 39 responses to Shelter Provider Survey. Each agency shelters based on need of community and their ideas of what grant rules mean to them. 67% agencies require you to apply; 48% agencies let clients stay 90 days or longer (client based); all agencies said they have case managers who work with the clients. Wide range of services and way things are done, it's hard to make any correlations. Lots of agencies use in-kind donations and contract referrals. Need to learn more on outcomes, rural v. metro, what is your definition of case management (follow-up, case place, length, etc.). Motel vouchers and shelters are very different, need to do a separate survey on each. Hand out with summary of survey with copy of survey.

Sex offender research report by Emily Palmer. Laws restrict what they can do and where they can be. Anti-discrimination act excludes those with convictions and is sex offender. Green Bay has a sex offender law: 2000 sq. feet away from children, does not distinguish between sex crime severities. Where

they live are not the problem, it's the relationships they make per research. These laws create more stress and cause them to re-offend more. Colorado and Minnesota has group homes and help to get into stable housing where they felt more supported and less likely to re-offend. Do we take a side on this?

Other business: Underreporting chronic substance abuse and severely mentally ill in families. They come in afraid or don't want to admit it in front of children. Clients feel they may not get served if they admit they are substance abuse user/mentally ill. Does not need to be diagnosed, but if it is causing their homelessness put it in WISP. We need to show it as a need to get money for the services they need. Think it would be a good topic for the Homeless Conference.