

DeKalb County Continuum of Care

January 27, 2016 Quarterly Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Robert Putz, CACDC; Sharon Dillon, First Institute; Jim McDougall, DPD; Lesa Eames, DeKalb Community Action; Lucy Sosa, DeKalb Community Action; Sabrina Nicholson, Ben Gordon Center; Mary Ellen Schaid, Safe Passage; Linda Drake, DCVAC; Jennifer Yochem, HACD; Carol Herrington, HACD; Corinne Steimer, Hines VA; Leah Jordal, VAC; Jordyn Crane VAC Intern; Deanna Cada, DeKalb County Mental Health Board; Tara Russo, Elder Care Services; Laura Biundo, Elder Care Services Intern; Steve Watry, SPD; Lesly Wicks, Hope Haven; Anita Zurburrgg, DeKalb County Community Foundation; Jim Fisher, Formerly Homeless; Cindy Graves, DeKalb County Health Department; Eric Hicks, DFD; Julio Hernandez, Service Client DCCA; Stephanie Danielsen, Amber Manor Apartments; Claudia VanDelinder, Center for Family Health; Shatara Goodman, Service Client DCCA.

Business began at 10:35 AM with Perkins welcoming attendees. Attendees provided brief introductions. Perkins reviewed the November 18, 2015 Minutes and asked for any corrections or changes to those minutes. No changes were requested. Perkins asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Sharon Dillon made a Motion to approve, Carol Herrington seconded the Motion. All were in favor, none opposed. Minutes approved.

Discussion moved to the HUD Homeless Assistance Grant. The grant was submitted successfully along with 7 AHAR's. HMIS and migration to CoC IL501 HMIS system continues. Perkins is waiting for more information on cost and structure.

Perkins reviewed the protocol and data collection for the upcoming January 29, 2016 Point In Time Count. Data sheets were reviewed along with timeline and data collection information.

Perkins discussed the CoC Officer Review & Election portion of the Bylaws and due to their complexity combined with the makeup of IL509, the structure needs to be revamped for easier compliance. In the next coming months, CoC Chair Cindy Graves will work with Perkins to review other CoC structures and Bylaws and make recommendations to the CoC for changes.

Perkins asked for updates from the group, Lesly Wicks from Hope Haven stated that the Shelter is at capacity and has a waiting list. Shelter has many large families. Realizations of the Rapid Re-housing program limitations have come to fruition noting that families are presenting with complex issues and higher housing barriers taking a longer time (six months) to be able to move them in to a successful housing position. Wicks noted that the estimated \$130K loss of state funding is devastating to the shelter and its services.

Mary Ellen Schaid said that the shelter is full and has many children. Schaid noted that clients are staying longer. Safe Passage is fielding 5-10 calls per week of clients they must defer to other shelters due to lack of space and funding. The state funding crisis is still causing turmoil however, no layoffs or furloughs have happened but they are unable to fill significant staff positions.

DeKalb Community Action Staff member Lucy Sosa discussed high quality collaboration among social service agencies, citing HACD, DCCA, ECS and other agencies having recent successes in serving clients and looks forward to this type of partnership to continue.

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Perkins reviewed the informal survey data received from the previous meeting. Depending upon who/what service you provide, demonstrated a need. Perkins reiterated that quality data will be the driver for future supportive service projects.

City of DeKalb Representative Derek Hiland reviewed the City of DeKalb CDBG 2016 Annual Action Plan and asked for comments from the group. Derek noted that full copies of the plan can be found on the City's website and provided the contact information for comments.

Perkins opened the meeting up to updates from the group:

- Corinne Steimer noted one opening in the VASH program and reminded the group to contact her for any known homeless veterans.
- Bob Putz reviewed the services available through CACDC and encouraged members to refer persons to Community Support Program in order to utilize funds through CACDC.
- Sabrina Nicholson reminded the group of the Community Support Programs' Work Program. Participants must have a mental illness diagnosis. Participants have been very successful and do not need to be a current BGC/CSP client.
- Tara Russo discussed the recent closing of Lutheran Social Services noting that many of the care givers will be re-employed through private contractors and ECS is working to help facilitate the shift for clients. Tara noted that due to the state budget crisis there has been discussion of ECS taking over other rural county support structures.
- Shatara Goodman discussed with the group recent issues with finding support and tutoring for her daughter. Group members were able to provide suggestions such a Neighbors House and NIU.
- Claudia VanDelinder discussed the Center for Family Health and reviewed its sliding scale for payment, transportation reimbursement and more. She provided brochures and cards for the group.
- Jim Fisher asked the group to send their outreach materials to the Methodist Church for use when he is working with people.

As there were no further announcements and no other further business to discuss, Perkins asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Carol Herrington made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Jennifer Yochem seconded the Motion. All were in favor, none opposed, meeting adjourned. The Meeting of the DeKalb County Continuum of Care meeting adjourned at 11:55 AM.