

HOMELESS SERVICES NETWORK OF CENTRAL FLORIDA MINUTES – February 2009 Continuum of Care Meeting

Bakari Burns, Chairman of the Board, welcomed 55 attendees to the meeting.

2008 HSN Continuum of Care Allocation: Cathy Jackson reviewed the individual grant awards made to HSN in February 2009 by HUD. The \$5.8 million includes \$1.5 million in new program funding, \$1.2 million in a Rapid Rehousing Demonstration Grant, \$2.4 million in renewal grants, \$650,000 for a new Shelter + Care grant. A complete description of the funding allocations can be found on HSN's website at www.hsncl.org.

Participants discussed the impact of the new funding including the creation of a drop-in center model, access to transitional housing for homeless men and women with severe mental illness and the other new programs.

Economic Stimulus Package/Funding for Homeless Services: The group reviewed the various components of the Economic Stimulus package to begin to understand how the new funding could be used for programs related to homelessness. A complete description of the Summary can be found on HSN's website at www.hsncl.org. Most of the discussion centered on the "Homeless Prevention Fund". Its purpose is to provide short term and medium term rental assistance, housing relocation and stabilization services, and rapid rehousing. Seminole County gets about \$1 million; Orange County gets about \$2.5 million; Orlando gets about \$900,000. HSN may get \$3 million to implement this program in Osceola County, which is not considered an "entitlement" community.

Eligible activities are:

- short- or medium-term rental assistance,
- housing relocation and stabilization services,
- housing search assistance,
- mediation or outreach to property owners,
- credit repair,
- security or utility deposits,
- utility payments,
- rental assistance for a final month at a location,
- moving costs assistance,
- case management, and
- other appropriate activities for homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing of persons who have become homeless.

Grantees must use HMIS or a comparable database. Up to five percent can be used for administrative costs, and funding will be distributed to jurisdictions using the Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) formula. Grantees will have to spend 60 percent of the funds within 2 years of obligation from HUD and 100 percent within 3 years. HUD may reallocate funds from a grantee that do not meet the 2-year requirement to those that do. HUD has 30 days to issue guidelines about the use of funds.

Project Homeless Connect Updates: PHC events include a March 20, 2009 event at Northland Church in Seminole County and an April 25, 2009 PHC specifically for families with students attending Seminole County Schools at Lyman High School.

ID Barriers: Jackie Dowd described some of the newest requirements to obtain an ID in Florida which include:

- DMV will no longer accept an oral statement of Social Security Card. The actual card, a W-2 form, a tax return, a paystub, a DD-214 or a school record must be presented.
- Effective January 26, 2009, an applicant must present proof of residence. HSN has designed a proof of residency form for the Continuum of Care which can be signed by shelter managers for clients who are staying in shelter housing. It has been approved by the DMV Office in Tallahassee.

HMIS Open System: Joel Remigio described the data sharing initiated in mid February so all HMIS agencies may see Universal Data Elements on clients in the HMIS database, regardless of which agency entered the initial data on the client. The Continuum of Care is moving to a broader range of data sharing, which will begin in April 2009.