



Topeka/Shawnee County Homeless Task Force

c/o Community Resources Council

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Minutes August 12, 2009

CHALENG Lunch and Presentation: Department of Veterans Affairs

The August 12, 2009 meeting of the Topeka/Shawnee County Homeless Task Force convened at noon at Community Action. Lunch was provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs. A presentation of the CHALENG (Community, Homeless, Assessment, Local Education, and Network Group) Program, which is concerned with Homeless Veterans, was provided by Randy Crandall with assistance from Devin Kariker and Maxine Yager. Handouts and an explanation were provided for the HUD-VASH program to support homeless veterans in finding and maintaining permanent housing.

PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION ON HMIS AND THE COC.

John Castello, MAACLink Administrator, made a brief presentation on the History of HUD Funding for Homeless Activities and the requirement for a Homeless Management and Information System (HMIS). It was reiterated that all recipients of HUD Grants, including all subgrantees, were required to use an HMIS to record data in support of their Grant activities.

Announcements

Nancy Johnson reported on the status of the HMIS Grant which is expected to fund this fall. The delay is caused by HUDs focus on distribution of Economic Stimulus Funds. In the meantime CRC is picking up the expenses related to MAACLink.

Doug Wallace of Valeo described the SOAR Program which is the SSI/SSDI Outreach Assessment and Recovery Program which is designed to train Case Workers to assist Homeless clients in getting enrolled in SRS Programs. Valeo will be training people in September and more training will follow.

Randy Crandall reminded us of the Homeless Summit in Topeka on October 29 and 30.

Karen Peterson announced a meeting the Affordable Housing Subcommittee to be held following the current meeting.

(Homeless Task Force Minutes, August 12, 2009, continued.)

In attendance:

Chris Kratochvil – HCCI
Devon Kariker – VA
Doug Wallace – Valeo
Jeff Karas – TRM
John Johnston – THA
John Castello – CRC
John Homlish – Community Action
Karen Peterson – SRS Retired
Kim Swinney – KLS-TMAP
Ellen Maxine Yager – VA
Melissa Gray – Let's Help
Melissa Nolte – KLS
Michael Bradley – The Villages
Nancy Johnson-CRC
Randy Crandall-VISN
Diane Etzel-Wise-KSHC
Barbara Ballentine – KSHC
Sophie George – THA
Robert Gonzalez – DAV
Sherrie Gellings – DAV
Darlene Hurley – VA
Denise Cunningham- VA
Saran Riley Hanson-CornerHouse, Inc