

[FROM HOMELESS TO HOME]

ADAMH TO INCREASE SERVICES TO HOMELESS ADULTS IN FRANKLIN COUNTY

ADAMH, the Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Board of Franklin County will invest more than \$600,000 in new treatment and support services targeted at adults who are experiencing homelessness and in need of mental health or addiction treatment.

The Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services received a three-year grant from the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration to increase capacity to provide accessible, effective, comprehensive, coordinated/integrated and evidence-based treatment services; permanent housing; peer supports and other critical services for veterans and non-veterans who experience homelessness or chronic homelessness.

ADAMH and Southeast, Inc. were selected for this expansion grant as a result of their long and strong experience with serving individuals experiencing homelessness in Franklin County. This three-year commitment will provide over \$225,000 each year to assist in the expansion of services to adults experiencing homelessness or at risk of becoming homeless and have a severe and persistent mental illness or substance abuse issue.

With this increased investment, Southeast Inc. will expand its Projects for Assistance through Transition from Homelessness (PATH) Program to pilot new street outreach approaches to improve engagement of people who are living on the land, in shelters, or who are at risk of losing their place to live. These individuals will be offered treatment services, housing and benefits that promote recovery.

An additional ADAMH investment of \$380,000 will allow Southeast Inc. to develop two new teams to reach people with untreated mental health and substance abuse issues who are not currently engaged in treatment or need more intensive treatment.

DID YOU KNOW?

Single men and women in shelter are twice as likely to be disabled than individuals in the general population.

For more facts about homelessness, see our *Annual Homeless Assessment Report* at www.csb.org/publications.



[CRISIS RESPONSE]

SHELTERS PREPARE FOR WINTER WEATHER

Community Shelter Board began sheltering families overnight in the new building at 595 Van Buren Drive in July. Families are sleeping in beds initially intended for single men and women. This action addresses the urgent need for emergency shelter for families because of the explosion of family homelessness over the last few years. Families who cannot be accommodated at the YWCA Family Center are spending the night in the Van Buren building and receive services from the YWCA Family Center. The number of families in homelessness grew 79% over the last three years, putting the system in crisis. The YWCA Family Center was built for 50 families but has been over capacity for more than three years, too frequently serving more than 100 families.

Waiting lists for women have been cleared by opening dorms for women at the Van Buren building. The YMCA of Central Ohio is staffing and operating the front door and flexible capacity overflow sheltering programs for single adult women. Beginning November 15, Lutheran Social Services will add 46 beds for single men at Faith Mission on 8th Avenue. YMCA of Central Ohio will coordinate additional emergency shelter beds for single adult men as needed beginning in December.

Construction of the new family shelter began in October with anticipated completion in September 2015. Volunteers of America of Greater Ohio will operate the new family shelter and it will serve 85 families at capacity.

Anyone in need of shelter should continue to call the homeless hotlines:

- < Single women and men should contact the coordinated point of access: 1-888-474-3587.
- < Families should contact the YWCA Family Center: 614-253-7970.

[GATEWAY]

CONTINUUM OF CARE APPLICATION UNDERWAY

As the unified funding agency for Columbus and Franklin County, Community Shelter Board is preparing to apply for \$10.95 million in federal funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. This funding supports 39 permanent supportive housing, transitional housing, and administrative programs.

During its October 21 meeting, the application was approved by the Rebuilding Lives Funder Collaborative. The Rebuilding Lives Funder Collaborative also ranked all 39 projects for funding priority.

The application will be posted on CSB's website by October 30 under How We Are Ending Homelessness/Community Planning.

PROGRAM REVIEW & CERTIFICATION UNDERWAY

CSB's review team is currently conducting program review and certification visits with its provider agencies. Site visits began in June and will continue into December. Special recognition goes out to the Homeless Families Foundation for achieving compliance during their initial August visit. Congratulations to the Homeless Families Foundation for their hard work on behalf of our community's most vulnerable families.



Any questions about the program review and certification process should be directed to Yolande' Hall at 715-2530 or yhall@csb.org.

FALL 1-ON-1 MEETINGS

CSB and many of its provider agencies will be conducting one-on-one meetings in October and November. The meetings provide an opportunity for agencies to make quality improvement suggestions and to introduce topics for discussion on behalf of their clients.

HUD ISSUES NEW DATA STANDARDS

In May, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, along with the Departments of Health and Human Services and Veterans Affairs released the *2014 HMIS Data Standards* at <https://www.hudexchange.info/hmis/hmis-data-and-technical-standards/>. HUD and its federal partners also published the *Data Standards Manual* at <https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/3826/hmis-data-standards-manual/> and *Data Dictionary* at <https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/3824/hmis-data-dictionary/>. Since then, Community Shelter Board and Bowman Systems worked to implement the new standards. All recipients of federal funding or CSB funding began collecting data on new and active clients, based on the 2014 Data Standards, as of October 1, 2014. Along with the federally required data, CSB also incorporated some new data elements needed as a result of the new crisis response system and navigator program.

Additional rules on HMIS requirements will be released in the coming months and will cover these topics: draft notices on governance, privacy/security, and software/data collection. HUD and its federal partners (Departments of Health and Human Services and Veterans Affairs) are working to prepare multiple HMIS program manuals. The manuals will provide project set up and data collection guidance for each federal program required to use the HMIS, including the Continuum of Care and Emergency Solutions Grant programs. HUD and its federal partners are also working to develop an implementation timeline illustrating when each partner expects their respective programs to begin using HMIS. While Continuum of Care and Emergency Solutions Grant programs should already be using HMIS, other federal partner programs will be gradually phased in to using HMIS.

In July, HUD released its notice on prioritizing persons experiencing chronic homelessness in permanent supportive housing. They also released recordkeeping requirements for chronic homeless status. This notice provides guidance to Continuums of Care regarding the order in which eligible households should be served in permanent supportive housing.

The notice was presented to the Rebuilding Lives Funder Collaborative and the RLFC Board at their September meetings. Both bodies approved the implementation of this notice. The notice was also presented in detail at a meeting of the Permanent Supportive Housing Roundtable. CSB worked to update its program review and certification standards to comply with the HUD notice. The revised standards are on CSB's website. All provider agencies are asked to comply with the new standards by January 1, 2015. In the meantime, CSB is also working to update the Unified Supportive Housing System policies and procedures, incorporating all changes required by HUD. Once these policies are finalized and prior to their implementation, CSB will hold a training to detail all the applicable changes.

[VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT]

SUMMER COOKOUT

East Side Grace Brethren Church held a cookout for guests at the Van Buren building in September, including live music. Volunteers also helped through the Church of the Brethren Annual Conference Witness to the Host City project. During the conference, more than 20,000 diapers, 1,700 toiletry kits and thousands of pairs of socks were collected.



COLUMBUS VOLUNTEER CHALLENGE

Volunteers built raised bed vegetable gardens at the new shelter building in September – made possible by a Columbus Volunteer Challenge micro-grant. Other volunteers signed up through the Columbus Volunteer Challenge to serve meals.



[STAFFING UPDATE]

DEVELOPMENT & COMMUNICATIONS ASSOCIATE

CSB is pleased to introduce Arecka Wilson as its new Development and Communications Associate. Arecka worked as a buyer in the pharmaceutical, nutritional, and retail industries for 10 years prior to becoming a stay-at-home mother. Most recently, she worked as a tax preparer and an agency marketing assistant.

In a part-time associate role at CSB, Arecka is working with the Development and Communications team to perform database and web site functions and project support.



Arecka Wilson
Development &
Communications Associate