

Reminder: Applications due August 24 for Nationwide Steve Rish Award

Just a reminder that applications for the Nationwide Steve Rish Award are due on August 24. CSB's partner agencies can apply for this \$5,000 award via the application materials posted at www.csb.org under *News/In the News*. Nationwide created the award in support of CSB to honor Stephen A. Rish's commitment to Nationwide and the Columbus community. The \$25,000 grant to CSB in Mr. Rish's name is being used to fund five annual awards of up to \$5,000 each (at least 1 award recipient per year) to support special projects. For more information, contact Sara Loken at 221-9195 or scloken@csb.org.

[RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT]

Funding Update

The current state of CSB funding is uncertain, due to budget constraints at the City, County and United Way. We hope we will be able to rescind the 30-day notice to supportive housing programs.

The passing of the City of Columbus income tax increase on August 4 is a good indication that we will not face funding cuts for the Rebuilding Lives program. While the City has not yet executed our Rebuilding Lives funding contract for July 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009, for approximately \$451,367, we are hopeful that all programs will remain intact. We are in contact with City staff to understand next steps. In the budget planning for this fiscal year, CSB assumed a continuation of flat funding from the City.

A large portion of CSB's funding comes from the Franklin County Real Estate Transfer Fee (RETF). Current estimates show that the RETF is \$1.7 million below the \$3.25 million CSB needs for calendar year 2009 funding. CSB has been assured at least \$1 million in supplemental funding from the Franklin County Commissioners, and hope the entire \$1.7 million gap will be met. The Commissioners will vote later this month on all supplemental funding requests.

Decisions about 2010 United Way program funding will be approved by the United Way Board of Trustees in November. In the mean time, program investment funding of \$373,906 was awarded to bridge the gap from July 2009 to January 2010. While the current six-month funding award represents a 6% reduction in program investment funding, the United Way views emergency shelter and homelessness as an important part of their commitment to the community. Additionally, by November, CSB is hopeful to receive a six-month funding commitment, for the United Way's investment in Rebuilding Lives for the period July 1 – December 31, 2009 (\$99,205), as well as a multi-year funding recommendation. To date, all indications suggest that funding levels for all programs will continue at the same rate as current year.

2009 HUD Continuum of Care Application

Due to the Homelessness Prevention & Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP) process, HUD is behind schedule with releasing the 2009 CoC Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA) and Application. HUD recently announced that it does not expect to release the CoC NOFA and Application before August 24. As in previous years, CSB will lead coordination efforts for the preparation and submission of the consolidated application on behalf of Columbus and Franklin County.

HPRP Stimulus Funds Being Allocated to Programs

Collaborative Planning Teams are meeting to develop their initial plans and budgets for use of the new HPRP (Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-housing Program) stimulus funds. These teams include key stakeholders and those who have experienced homelessness. There are 4 Collaborative Planning Teams:

1. Coordinate Emergency Aid to Prevent Homelessness
2. Adult System Improvement
3. Family System Improvement
4. Homelessness Prevention for Mental health Populations

The City, County and State have amended their respective Consolidated Plans to include all anticipated uses, and they are contracting with CSB to administer all programs and to make payments on behalf of individuals served by agencies. HUD approved the plans July 9. A local Steering Committee including membership by City, County, United Way of Central Ohio, ADAMH and CSB officials is providing oversight of all HPRP activities.

The State of Ohio application was submitted July 14 and included CHN's Homelessness Prevention for Supportive Housing, CHN's Housing Placement Services, CSB's Direct Client Assistance program, and Huckleberry House's Rapid Re-Housing for Homeless Youth. An application was also submitted for Communities in School's Stable Families program. For each of these currently operational programs, State funds are sought to continue services, which have been affected by loss of revenue from the Ohio Housing Trust Fund and/or United Way of Central Ohio.

The HPRP Steering Committee reviewed applications from providers to access the local HPRP funds, and the Rebuilding Lives Funder Collaborative Committee of the Whole met August 6 to review these proposals. The Rebuilding Lives Funder Collaborative will meet on August 27 to approve proposals for City and County funds. On August 25, CSB trustees will approve grant awards to agencies for programs that will begin implementation in October 2009.

In related news, Barbara Poppe traveled to DC on July 8 and served as a presenter at a HUD HPRP training, to share Columbus' experience with implementing the Stable Families homelessness prevention program.

You can find more information and answers to frequently asked questions at www.csb.org.

[ADVOCACY]

Franklin County Commissioners Office Gives Back

On July 8th, Franklin County Board of Commissioners staff members volunteered to serve dinner to the families staying at the YWCA Family Center.



Franklin County Commissioner John O'Grady serving dinner to families at the YWCA Family Center.



Ken Wilson, Director of the Office of Management and Budget, Franklin County.



LtoR, Bill Flaherty, Deputy County Administrator, Franklin County Board of Commissioners and David E. Migliore, Director, Franklin County Department of Job and Family Services helped to prepare dinner.



State Budget Crisis

The State budget crisis continues to worsen. The Ohio Job and Family Service Directors Association recently published a 2010/2011 state budget that indicates significant cuts to adult and family programs, adult protective services, and child care programs, totaling a reduction of 150%. In addition, ADAMH has suffered significant funding cuts which will severely constrain local services. In spite of all the efforts made, the safety net has vanished in this time of increased demand. Although discouraging, work on a correction bill is likely to begin by fall.

Sheriff's Sales Growing

Community Research Partners recently assessed the foreclosure situation in Franklin County, comparing 2008 statistics to those of 2003. The study highlighted the growth of sheriff's sales. While sheriff's sales in 2003 represented 12% sales in 1-3 unit residential properties and only 3% condominium sales, these numbers had jumped to 32% and 20% by 2008. Although those with lower housing prices are still more affected, this foreclosure situation has spread out over time and now includes areas with mid-and upper-range prices.

President Obama's Vision

HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan, chairperson of the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness, recently gave an inspiring view of President Obama's plans to end homelessness, both through a letter to advocates and a speech at the National Alliance to End Homelessness conference.

"Last week, I had the honor of being elected the new chairperson of the USICH. I want to tell you that I take this role very seriously and intend to work closely with President Obama and my fellow cabinet members to move forward the federal government's efforts to address homelessness. I am excited that in the short time the President Obama has been in office, a number of aggressive steps have been taken to expand our Nation's efforts to address homelessness: from the \$1.5 billion in new funding for the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, to the President's insistence on strong interagency collaboration, which has led to new partnerships between federal departments and agencies in an effort to formulate policies and programs that better address the homeless crisis."

"...in the coming months we will be reaching out to you in a number of ways for your input on the strategies we are considering for moving forward. We will need your thoughtful comments on the regulations HUD is crafting to implement the recently passed HEARTH Act, reauthorizing the McKinney-Vento program. We will need your ideas on programs and policies that are working at the local level, and will be seeking your input on how the programs of various federal departments and agencies can better work together to move our agenda forward."

"We intend to be aggressive in our efforts to lay out a strategy..."

[REBUILDING LIVES]

Rebuilding Lives Funder Collaborative

On July 23 the Rebuilding Lives Funder Collaborative held a Committee of the Whole meeting to hear presentations and consider proposals on the Collaborative Outreach System and Affordable Housing Campaign strategies that emerged as part of the RLUS process. The City of Columbus was identified as the convener of both strategies.

On August 6 the Rebuilding Lives Funder Collaborative held a Committee of the Whole meeting to hear presentations on several proposals developed by the collaborative planning teams for the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP). The HPRP proposals will utilize the City of Columbus and Franklin County HPRP allocations and will be considered by the full RLFC at its quarterly meeting on August 27. If you would like to attend this meeting, please contact Tiffany Nobles at tnobles@csb.org or 221-9195 x117.

Unified Supportive Housing System

USHS trainings on referrals into the system for shelters and outreach were completed in July and will be scheduled quarterly for all new employees.

USHS is looking for HUD Chronically Homeless eligible clients to be housed in scattered site units for the RL Leasing Project to start in the fall. CSB is waiting for its HUD contract in order to launch the project. USHS will supply all referrals for the 30 units, which will have housing and services provided through Southeast, Inc.

USHS is accepting client forms for future vacancies at Southpoint Place Apartments and upcoming units for RL Leasing. Please contact the USHS Project Manager, Kevin Jones at 614-221-9195, ext 121 or at kjones@csb.org for more information.

The Unified Supportive Housing System is a collaborative effort managed by ADAMH, the Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority and CSB. These partners are working together with other agencies in the community including health, housing, shelter, and outreach providers to:

- ⟨ Ensure more efficient and targeted use of supportive housing through a centralized eligibility determination, prioritization and placement system.
- ⟨ Promote efficient use of community resources for supportive services through a unified services payment model.
- ⟨ Promote recovery and support community re-integration through a centralized utilization review system and “move-up” assistance.

The Osteopathic Heritage Foundation is the primary funder of the Unified Supportive Housing System.

[PROGRAM UPDATES]

Family System

The Family System continues to collaborate effectively and strengthen partnerships with a focus on next step housing. The YWCA Family Center is currently in overflow and has served up to 10 families in overflow during July.

HPRP Planning by the Family System’s collaborative planning team (Family System CPT) continues to move forward. The team has met to further identify and define client needs and develop a flow chart of the process of providing services to families. Participants continue to be excited about the process and met again in early August to develop common assessment and goal planning tools.

Adult System

Planning continues for the Adult System Improvement through the use of Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-housing funds available through the economic stimulus program. CSB staff and a consultant met with adult system shelter operators and were able to map out their processes for diversion/prevention and services. The process was able to identify those activities common to all shelters, including the triage and intake processes. There appears to be opportunities to reduce the number of triages and intakes a client must go through, have only one source to identify shelter bed availability and reduce manipulation of the system. Additional meetings are scheduled during August to review current findings and continue planning. Most shelters continue to operate near or at capacity.

Critical Access to Housing

Critical Access to Housing continues to focus on persons with the most critical needs related to health and safety. The 65 units of housing dedicated to the project are consistently filled. Engagement by outreach staff continues at several camps throughout the city. Staff reports a slight increase in people on the land, partially due to the economy.

Critical Access to Housing is a Rebuilding Lives project to engage people experiencing street homelessness. It targets those who are staying in places where there are identified health and safety concerns and those who need critical care and focused attention to secure housing.

Stable Families

There are currently 86 families enrolled in the Stable Families program, with 8 more pending enrollment; 59 families exited with successful housing outcomes from the program during the fourth quarter. Families are referred to the program from the YWCA Family Center, Franklin County Children Services, Project Connect and by word of mouth. The project hopes to have social work interns available from The Ohio State University in September and from Ohio Dominican University in late August.

Stable Families is an initiative to prevent homelessness, aimed at long-term housing stability, reduced student mobility and increased academic success in schools. This pilot project is made possible by the Siemer Family Foundation and United Way of Central Ohio, the Ohio Department of Development, Franklin County Commissioners and The Columbus Foundation.

Permanent Supportive Housing

The groundbreaking for the new National Church Residences Commons at Buckingham supportive housing project took place July 9. The ceremony was well attended and speakers included Mayor Coleman of the City of Columbus, City Council Member Charleta Tavares and County Commissioner Paula Brooks. The project will be located near downtown Columbus adjacent to Abbott Labs and I-670. It will consist of 100 units (75 Rebuilding Lives units) and will be the third supportive housing development for NCR. Completion of the project is expected in July of 2010.

Supportive housing projects continue to enjoy high occupancy rates. Fourteen of the seventeen projects had occupancy rates above 95% during the month of July. The three remaining projects averaged 89% occupancy and report an ample number of potential tenants so their vacancies will be filled as soon as possible.

[IN THE SPOTLIGHT]

US Census Bureau

CSB has been invited to become an official partner with United States Census Bureau for the 2010 Census. CSB Program Administrator Tiffany Nobles will serve as the liaison for this project and will work with Brent Warren, the 2010 Census Partnership Specialist for the Columbus region. Tiffany will coordinate presentations by Census Bureau staff at meetings of the Adult and Family System Operations Workgroups, the Permanent Supportive Housing Providers Roundtable and the Citizens Advisory Council. She will also serve as a member on a Complete Count Committee. 2010 Census promotional and educational materials will be distributed regularly up until the March census date. Please watch www.csb.org for more information.

NAEH Conference

Barbara Poppe and Tiffany Nobles attended the National Conference on Ending Homelessness in DC on July 29, 30 and 31. The conference was hosted by the National Alliance to End Homelessness. Barbara served as a workshop presenter alongside Dennis Culhane and others on the topic of transforming homeless assistance.

Tours

In July, CSB provided a tour for Dianne Radigan, Cardinal Health, of Faith Mission on 8th and North High Street Apartments supportive housing.

[CSB NEWS]

Gateway Survey Results

In the June/July 2009 Communiqué, a link was provided for the Gateway Application Process online evaluation. The results CSB has received so far have all been positive and extremely helpful, but we would greatly appreciate more responses and feedback. Please complete the survey by August 31. Final results of the survey will be published in the September Communiqué.

The survey can be found at:

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=t20K68QKo3o52Tr6JQmU_2fQ_3d_3d

Staffing Update

Director of Programs & Planning

We are very pleased to announce that Dave Davis has been selected as the Director of Programs & Planning, effective July 13. Dave brings nearly six years experience at CSB along with significant leadership and management skills in workforce development prior to joining CSB. We have experienced Dave as a dependable team player who is aligned with our mission. We believe he possesses the leadership and organizational skills necessary to be successful in this role.

Many of Dave's current accountabilities as Program Manager-Adult Services will continue. While we work to outsource all human resources activities, including recruitment and hiring of staff, the Program Manager-Family Services position was held open. We have re-opened hiring for a Program Manager position that combines duties for the Adult System and the Family System.

Director of Finance & Grants

Konrad Kuschnerus has been hired as the Interim Director of Finance, and joined us shortly before Shawn Hufstedler's July 24th departure. Konrad worked for Cardinal Health most recently. He is overseeing all financial matters for CSB and continuing with plans to better align current staff responsibilities on the Finance & Grants Administration team. A finance assistant will likely be added by fall or winter to prepare for HPRP implementation.

Janet Bridges, Assistant Director of Finance & Grants Administration, is leading all grants administration activities (both the funder and the partner agency grants).

USHS Project Coordinator

Anna Bianco resigned from her part-time position as USHS Project Coordinator, effective July 31. Anna moved to the Dominican Republic to take on international development work. We thank Anna for her efforts in developing the Unified Supportive Housing System and we wish her good luck in her work. Anna's role with USHS will be taken over by Kevin Jones.

Project Manager

Kevin Jones has been hired as an Interim Project Manager. Kevin worked for ICC most recently. He will work on several projects over the next few months, including:

- < Updating our current financial assistance programs (DCA - Direct Client Assistance) to comport with HPRP (Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program - stimulus funding) regulations and incorporate new financial assistance components related to new HPRP programs.
- < Staffing the USHS (Unified Supportive Housing System) pilot project
- < Developing competitive processes to select and secure outsourced vendors for all human resources and information technology functions.

Upcoming Meetings

- < **Board Meeting**
August 25, 2009, 11:30 am-1:30 pm
at CSB
- < Check out the interactive calendar at www.csb.org under resources for our partners < meetings.