

[CRISIS RESPONSE]

Waitlists in Single Adult Shelters

Our community experienced a concerning increase in waitlists for single adult shelter, especially as it relates to women during the summer months. In FY2012 (July 2011 - June 2012), the emergency shelters for single adults served more people than in the prior fiscal year – 15% more men and 22% more women. Overall, we are noticing an increased demand for sheltering services.

Unlike the family system, where the capacity is flexible and all families in crisis are being sheltered, the single adult system has a fixed capacity and single adults are turned away and not sheltered when this capacity is met. The average waitlist for shelter for women between June – August was 36. However, the waitlist went as high as 74 women on a couple of nights.

Initiated by the City of Columbus, Franklin County and CSB representatives, along with emergency shelter providers and members of the Columbus Coalition for the Homeless gathered over a series of weekly meetings to discuss possible solutions to clearing the current waitlist for shelter services and meeting demand for shelter.

CSB has taken action to clear these waitlists immediately by working with our partner agencies using the same types of strategies that were effective in the family system. We also allocated contingency funding to temporarily increase the capacity in single adult shelters until the full winter overflow capacity becomes available on November 15. Given the increase in need, additional beds need to be added for winter overflow, specifically for women to assure that there is enough capacity to shelter all women during the coldest months of the year.

A plan to meet the needs for additional capacity has been created, with a focus on housing more people. By focusing on increasing successful housing outcomes and shortening shelter stays, we will alleviate the need to continue to add additional shelter capacity. Housing solves homelessness. Additional funds are needed to implement the proposed strategies. CSB is actively seeking funding from the City of Columbus and Franklin County.

CSB and providers are meeting on a regular basis to work together to gain efficiencies and improve and streamline processes. Shelters are being required to regularly report to CSB on their progress in serving and housing homeless individuals. CSB has developed a weekly tracking sheet for shelters and housing providers to complete.

Adult System Redesign, Core Team

The Core Team was formed to develop specific, detailed recommendations regarding the new crisis response model for single adults experiencing homelessness. Membership includes direct service providers, formerly homeless individuals, CSB staff and board members, public and private funders and grassroots advocates.

The Core Team has continued to meet monthly. It is a very exciting time within the group. Each of the five subgroups is now beginning to report out on their initial work.

The Diversion workgroup was the first group to report. Elements of the proposed local diversion practice include a strengthened diversion assessment tool, utilization of a landlord bank, mediation at the coordinated point of access, a potential roommate pilot via Craigslist, and increased involvement from the faith based community. The diversion subgroup will utilize the Core Team's feedback in order to continue to refine the stated ideas.

The System Criteria subgroup will be bringing preliminary criteria definitions to the Core Team to review in September. The Navigator subgroup will bring their initial recommendations to the group in October after incorporating feedback from a shelter and housing provider focus group being held in September.

Subgroups are continuing to meet and they welcome any new ideas. Please contact Erin Maus at emaus@csb.org or 221-9195 x121 for additional information on future workgroups that may be formed.

Kinship Care Piloted for Families

The YWCA Family Shelter Kinship Care Pilot Program is now available for eligible families who are experiencing homelessness and staying at the YWCA Family Center. The Kinship Care Pilot was created on the premise that approximately 65% of the families entering the YWCA Family Center come directly from doubled-up living situations, a living arrangement within the context of today's economic conditions that has become a necessity for a number of families throughout the Columbus community. Families that enter the YWCA Family Center directly from a doubled up situation are offered the opportunity to return to that living situation and receive case management services, mediation and a small stipend for the host family.

Of the current active participants, the Kinship Care program has seen great success utilizing mediation services and case management. Many of the families have obtained employment or increased their income while being placed back into their doubled-up living situation. With case management services, participants will have the opportunity to identify a stable housing environment for their family.

[TRANSITION]

Commons at Third

National Church Residences celebrated the grand opening of the Commons at Third with a special ceremony on July 16. The new permanent supportive housing community has 100 housing units for single adults presenting with a certified disability. Of the 100 units, 60 are targeted to those adults meeting the Rebuilding Lives eligibility criteria and the other 40 units are reserved for adults with a certified disability, meeting low income guidelines – 15 of which are reserved for clients of the ADAMH Board of Franklin County moving out of residential facilities. Jeff Lyttle, CSB's Vice Chair, spoke at the event representing CSB.

[ADVOCACY]

HUD Releases HEARTH Act Rules for Continuum of Care

On July 31, 2012, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development published an interim rule for the new consolidated Continuum of Care program. The rule implements changes made by the Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act of 2009.

The regulations note that the purpose of the Continuum of Care is to:

- < Promote community-wide goals to end homelessness;
- < Provide funding to quickly re-house homeless people while minimizing trauma and dislocation;
- < Promote access to and effective utilization of mainstream programs; and
- < Optimize self-sufficiency among people experiencing homelessness.

The regulations went into effect on August 30, and they state that Continuum of Care funds may be used for the five program components listed below:

1. **Permanent housing**; the program participant must be the tenant on a renewable lease with an initial term of at least one year. Eligible types of permanent housing are permanent supportive housing for persons with disabilities and rapid re-housing.
2. **Transitional housing**; Program participants in transitional housing must have a lease that has a term of at least one month but no longer than 24 months and cannot be extended.
3. **Supportive services only**; Supportive Services Only grants cover supportive services, including street outreach, to both sheltered and unsheltered homeless persons to whom the recipient or sub-recipient is not providing housing assistance.
4. **HMIS**; the HMIS lead agency may use Continuum of Care funds to lease or operate a structure in which HMIS is operated, and for other eligible costs.
5. **Homelessness prevention**, in limited cases only. The HEARTH Act increased the focus on homelessness prevention, though prevention resources are intended to be available to communities primarily through the Emergency Solutions Grant program. Only those communities designated as high-performing communities may use Continuum of Care funds to provide homelessness prevention assistance.

Under the new rules, Continuums of Care must operate within a specific governance charter and with specific membership, carrying out established functions. CSB has already merged the existing Continuum of Care Steering Committee with the Rebuilding Lives Funder Collaborative in order to meet HUD required membership and functions.

CSB staff is studying the new rules extensively to understand and clarify all implications for our system in Columbus and Franklin County and will share more detailed information with partner agencies accordingly. The regulations are clear that all projects currently funded through the Continuum of Care are eligible for renewal. In the meantime, a [Summary and Analysis of the Interim CoC Rule](#) is available from the National Alliance to End Homelessness.

[GATEWAY]

Program Review and Certification Underway

CSB's review team is currently conducting program review and certification visits with contracted partner agencies. The site visits started in June and will continue into December. In addition to the annual review of partner agency standards, partner agencies are working to achieve compliance with HUD's recently-released Emergency Solutions Grant policies and procedures.

Special recognition goes out to Communities in Schools for achieving compliance during their initial July PR&C visit. The review team found Communities in Schools is providing exemplary data management and maintaining quality service provision. Their work is vital to keeping families in crisis out of the shelter system and in their own homes. Congratulations to CIS for their hard work on behalf of our community's most vulnerable families.



If there are any questions or concerns about the PR&C process, please contact CSB Grants Administrator Noel Welsh at (614) 221-9195 or nwelsh@csb.org.

[IN THE SPOTLIGHT]

Seeds for Growth

Michelle Heritage participated in Huntington's Seeds for Growth event on July 11. She spoke on a panel discussion focused on board leadership.

CSP Awards

What gets measured gets done. CSB tracks, measures and analyzes a tremendous amount of data as part of its work to end homelessness. We couldn't do it if our provider agencies weren't working hard to enter client data into the system 365 days a year. We are especially grateful to Kevin Wampler of YMCA and Lori Varn of Volunteers of America of Greater Ohio, who we honored with 2012 Columbus ServicePoint Awards.

Kevin implemented data entry for winter overflow, working diligently to ensure data completeness, accuracy and timeliness. Lori dedicated her time to help test and improve several reports used by the entire homeless system. We thank them both for being great partners in ending homelessness.



Lianna Barbu and Kevin Wampler



Lori Varn and Lianna Barbu

Sponsors Tour Programs

In July, CSB provided a tour for Chad Jester, Jackie Sells and James Gaddy from Nationwide. The group visited the Commons at Third days before the grand opening as residents were signing leases for their new homes. It was a great experience.

CSB also provided a tour in June for Theresa Saelim from PNC, of Rebecca's Place and Volunteers of America rapid re-housing program.

CSB was presented a check from A Smile by Dr. DeVese on August 30 as part of the final Heritage Concert Series event at the King Arts Complex. Dr. DeVese held a contest to find the best smile in Columbus, and for the first 200 entries, he donated \$10 to CSB for a total of \$2,000.



Chad Jester, Michelle Heritage, Jackie Sells and James Gaddy



Mayor Coleman, Michelle Heritage and Dr. DeVese

National Conference on Ending Homelessness

Michelle Heritage and Lianna Barbu attended the National Alliance to End Homelessness conference in Washington, DC July 16-18. Michelle presented at two workshops – *Overseeing Homeless Assistance* and *Working Across Silos for Housing for People with Disabilities*. Lianna presented at a workshop called *Developing an Inclusive and Effective Emergency Shelter System*.

While in DC, Michelle chaired a meeting of the NAEH Leadership Council – a group of representatives of cities and states that are on the forefront in addressing homelessness. She also participated in Capitol Hill Day activities, meeting with staff in the offices of Senator Portman and Congressman Tiberi.

Upcoming Meetings

- < Check out the interactive calendar at www.csb.org under Resources for our Partners < Meetings

Welcome, Baby Wade

Congratulations to Jeremiah Bakerstull, Data & Evaluation Manager, and his wife, DeAnna. They welcomed a healthy baby boy on July 6. Wade Douglas Bakerstull weighed 8 lbs 6 oz and was 19 inches long.

