

Warm Welcome for Michelle

Thanks to all who attended the community reception welcoming Michelle Heritage Ward on April 29. And a big thank you to Grange Insurance for hosting a very lovely event.



Patricia Cash, CSB Board
Chair



Susan Lewis-Kaylor, ADAMH; Bill Lee, Southeast; Lori
Criss, Amethyst



Michelle Heritage Ward



Mary Vail, Goodwill; Louise Seipel, Community Properties of
Ohio; Nick McCormish, Public Service Consulting

[RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT]

Shelters to Receive City Funds for Capital Improvements

CSB is pleased to announce that \$250,000 in funding has been made available from the City of Columbus, as part of the 2010 Capital Improvements Budget, to provide funding for the rehabilitation or renovation of emergency shelters. The funds are available for repair, renovation, or improvement of existing emergency shelters serving homeless persons. Additionally, the City has budgeted funds annually for the Capital Improvements Program through calendar year 2015. \$250,000 will be available in 2011, \$450,000 will be available in 2012, and \$350,000 will be available each year from 2013 through 2015. CSB staff is currently in the process of evaluating applications received from Partner Agencies and working with the City to determine funding awards.

[HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION & RAPID RE-HOUSING PROGRAM]

Transition Program

CSB's Transition Program provides financial assistance to help individuals and families exit shelter. The program is now funded with stimulus dollars (Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-housing Program – HPRP). To ensure that the available funds are spent down adequately, CSB has given target numbers for each shelter to accomplish, with regard to submission of applications for financial assistance on behalf of clients. We will closely track these numbers and if the shelters do not meet these numbers, we may tie the applications to the agencies' contractual funding. It is extremely important to help individuals and families in shelters exit to stable housing in a quick and efficient manner. Otherwise a bottleneck occurs across the entire sheltering system and prevents other people in crisis from accessing shelter beds, while also driving up system costs.

An educational tool for landlords has been developed and is being distributed widely. It explains the benefits and requirements of participation in this program. It is hoped that increased landlord education will aid partner agencies in getting landlords to participate in the program. We are also hosting a landlord reception in June to promote the program.

HPRP Steering Committee update

The HPRP Steering Committee met on April 28. The group approved the final version of the HPRP funding allocations and reviewed the most recent dashboard report outlining progress on spending and households served by each program and corresponding HPRP funding source (City of Columbus, Franklin County and State of Ohio). The group agreed to a bi-monthly meeting schedule and changed its membership to only include representatives from the City of Columbus, Franklin County and CSB. Representatives from ADAMH Board and United Way of Central Ohio have participated on the Steering Committee since its inception but since we are now in the program implementation phase, it was agreed that their regular participation is no longer necessary.

Centralized Point of Access Launched on April 21

The new Centralized Point of Access project officially began on April 21. All adults accessing shelter should now call 1-888-4SHELTR (1-888-474-3587) or go to Faith Mission's intake center located at 315 East Long Street. This new system will reduce the need for clients to visit multiple shelters in search of a bed. Shelter staff will be better able to provide high quality services and improved linkages to other available community resources. With creating a single door for shelter beds, we hope to reduce the confusion and multiple triages and intakes that previously clients had to endure.

[REBUILDING LIVES]

Access to Benefits Strategy – Benefits Partnership

The Benefits Partnership program has been approved to continue as a host site for Phase 2 of the COHHIO SSI/SSDI Project. This allows for the continuation of the SSI Benefits Specialist that was funded under Phase 1 of the project. There was a small increase in the grant amount for Phase 2 to \$55,100. CSB will continue to partner with the YWCA to provide the benefits service.

This strategy is to provide immediate and systematic access to mainstream benefits and services for persons who are homeless and served by the homeless service system. The project is designed to improve the financial stability of individuals by increasing access to mainstream benefits and strengthening collaboration between existing resources and agencies.

Citizens Advisory Council

Several Citizens Advisory Council (CAC) members – Sheila Prillerman, Barney Moorehouse, Robert Tope and Bruce Garrard – received scholarships from different entities including CSB to attend the Annual Coalition on Homelessness & Housing in Ohio (COHHIO) Conference held April 19-20 in Columbus. Knowledge gained from the various workshops will be shared at the next CAC meeting on June 14. CSB's new Executive Director, Michelle Heritage Ward will be in attendance and the group will hear a presentation on the new Centralized Point of Access for Single Adult Emergency Shelters from Sue Villilo, Executive Director of Faith Mission.

Rebuilding Lives Funder Collaborative

The Rebuilding Lives Funder Collaborative (RLFC) will convene its next meeting on May 20. The RLFC will consider CSB Funding Awards for FY2011 and hear updates on Rebuilding Lives Plan strategies and project development progress to date. The group will also approve its meeting schedule for August 2010 through May 2011 and update its policy statements. The meeting agenda and materials will be posted to www.csb.org under the following link <http://www.csb.org/?id=how.community.rfc.meetings> one week prior to the meeting.

OSHHA Tea with Funders

On May 6 Michelle Heritage Ward and Tiffany Nobles attended the Ohio Supportive Housing for the Homeless Alliance (OSHHA) Tea with funders as CSB representatives on the OSHHA Steering Committee. The purpose of the event was to introduce the organization to possible funders through the relaxed method of afternoon tea. It was also an opportunity for members to learn more about how OSHHA can better approach possible funders in the future. Representatives from the Sisters of Charity Foundation of Cleveland, Osteopathic Heritage Foundations and The Columbus Foundation attended.

OSHHA was formed to create and implement a public policy advocacy agenda that supports the development of permanent supportive housing units across Ohio as a long-term solution for homelessness. OSHHA's membership consists of supportive housing providers for homeless people; local community leaders responsible for implementation of community plans to end homelessness; and advocates for supportive housing as a long-term solution for homelessness. COHHIO is a member and close partner in developing resources to fund this work.

USHS Commons at Buckingham

The Unified Supportive Housing System (USHS) will start lease-up in May of its third pilot, the newly built Commons at Buckingham (CAB). USHS is working in conjunction with National Church Residences (NCR) staff to implement lease-up and subsequent vacancy management for CAB. There is a projected 3 month lease-up for all units, and move in will begin around July 14, 2010. NCR is marketing these furnished, efficiency units with CSB's help.

CAB will offer 100 units of permanent supportive housing, for single adults only. Of these units, 75 will be for Rebuilding Lives eligible clients, out of which 16 will meet the federal definition of chronic homelessness and 10 will be designated for veterans. The remaining 25 units will be for non-Rebuilding Lives eligible clients, with 15 ADAMH units and 10 NCR units for the medically disabled. In addition to handicap accessible units, CAB will also offer on site case management, an employment resource center, and 24/7 on-site staffing.

In order to speed up housing for clients during CAB lease-up, NCR will perform disability assessments and certifications as needed if a shelter staffer is unable to obtain one of the two forms of required disability documentation. USHS will revert to the current disability documentation process after CAB lease-up.

All client applications will be processed by USHS for eligibility approval. Clients interested in obtaining housing with CAB must be referred either by a shelter, one of four outreach providers (Maryhaven, VA, Open Shelter, or Capital Crossroads), ADAMH providers, or NCR. Only clients who have gone through the USHS eligibility process will be housed at CAB.

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. This work is sponsored by the Osteopathic Heritage Foundations, Battelle and Fannie Mae.

[PROGRAM UPDATES]

Family System

The family system continues to work towards the implementation of a common assessment and goal planning process. Currently the system is piloting a tool to decrease the amount of paperwork a client must complete while still gathering all information needed to serve the household. This assessment and goal plan follows the client through their entire homeless episode.

The **Job2Housing** Project is now in full swing. The Salvation Army has hired all staff members needed in order to serve the maximum number of clients possible. Each family is assisted in obtaining permanent housing, enrolling and completing vocational training, and addressing any barriers that will prevent the family from maintaining permanent housing.

Homeless Families Foundation (HFF) and Volunteers of America (VOA) are continuing to pilot **Tier II Conversion**. This strategy was implemented as a pilot in FY09 by HFF and VOA. Plans called for the conversion of existing shelter units into a “rolling stock” direct housing model for families who require transitional assistance to exit shelter and stabilize in the community. These “rolling stock” units are initially leased by the Tier II provider and then transferred to the family. Transitional services taper off as family stability increases, and individualized service delivery, with intensity, frequency and duration are determined based on family needs.

To date HFF has converted or has plans to convert 8 of its 46 units and VOA has converted 12 of its 24 units to the new model. The pilot will be evaluated during FY10 and FY11 and will measure the number of existing units maintained versus to the number of roll-over units created. Evaluation should also focus on the change in outcomes for the households served by this type of program versus the Tier II model, as well as operational and cost efficiencies developed.

[GATEWAY NEWS]

Gateway Update

CSB staff has now completed all Spring 1-on-1 meetings with our partner agencies. Agencies are currently in the process of submitting revised Gateway materials, as needed. All FY11 funding awards will be presented for approval to CSB’s Board of Trustees at their May 25 meeting. Once approved, CSB staff will promptly issue new partnership agreements to all our partners.

We thank all of our partners for making the application process as smooth as possible this year. We appreciate your hard work and patience.

[IN THE SPOTLIGHT]

COHHIO Conference Presentation

As part of the Ohio Supportive Housing for the Homeless Alliance (OSHHA) session at the COHHIO Conference, Columbus/Franklin County was one of three communities highlighted for their progress around supportive housing. On behalf of CSB, Tiffany Nobles presented the Rebuilding Lives initiative including the results of the Rebuilding Lives Updated Strategy and progress made to date around increasing the total number of supportive housing units available in our community.

Advocacy Opportunity

Dave Davis attended a meeting of the Leadership Council of the National Alliance to End Homelessness in Washington, DC on April 22. While in DC, Dave met with Congresswoman Mary Jo Kilroy, and representatives for Senator George Voinovich and Congressman Sherrod Brown to discuss McKinney and Section 8 Appropriations.

Tours

In April, CSB provided a tour for Mike Morris and Teresa McWain of American Electric Power. They toured Commons at Buckingham and the YWCA Family Center. We also provided a tour for Jack Partridge and Darnita Bradley of Columbia Gas. They visited the YWCA Family Center and the Commons at Grant. In early May, we provided a tour for Craig Marshall and Tiffany Crosby, Ernst & Young, of the YWCA Family Center and Commons at Grant.

[CSB NEWS]

Data & Evaluation Manager

We continue to seek qualified candidates for the Data & Evaluation Manager position. This position is responsible for program and system data analysis and evaluation necessary for programmatic and planning decisions. [Click here](#) to view the position description, and please feel free to refer any candidates that come to mind.

Upcoming Meetings

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

⏪ **Together Rebuilding Lives**
Wednesday, June 2, 2010, 12:00 noon
Greater Columbus Convention Center
Grand Ballroom, 400 North High Street