

National Church Residences Breaks Ground on the Commons at Livingston

National Church Residences held a groundbreaking ceremony on May 27 for the new Commons at Livingston, a permanent supportive housing community for low-income and formerly homeless veterans. The east Columbus site is NCR's fourth permanent supportive housing facility, and the organization's first supportive housing facility exclusively for veterans. 25 units will be dedicated as Rebuilding Lives units for veterans who have experienced chronic homelessness. The Veterans Administration will provide supportive services at the facility.



From left to right: Hearcel Craig, Columbus City Council; Jeff Reynolds, Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati; Lou Ruscilli, Ruscilli Construction; Ron Adams, National Church Residences; John Glacken, Veterans Administration; Charleta Tavares, Columbus City Council; Michelle Heritage Ward, Community Shelter Board; Mayor Michael B. Coleman, City of Columbus; Daniel Snow, veteran; Paula Brooks, Franklin County Board of Commissioners; and Tom Slemmer, National Church Residences.

[HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION & RAPID RE-HOUSING PROGRAM]

Centralized Point of Access

The new Centralized Point of Access (CPOA) is now completely operational. Clients seeking shelter now call a single phone number, 1-888-4SHELTR, to access shelter. From there clients are linked with other available community resources. If needed, clients complete an intake with CPOA staff at 315 East Long Street and are assigned a bed as openings allow. The shelters have noticed much less movement between shelter programs which allows the case managers to work more closely with each client while assisting them to obtain permanent housing.

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 are closely tracking these numbers. All CEOs at our partner agencies agreed their staff would make their best effort to achieve the target numbers. If necessary, CSB will tie Transition applications to contractual allocations. 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 was developed and distributed widely. It is hoped that increased landlord education will address a barrier faced by partner agencies in getting landlords to participate in the program. A landlord education event will be held on June 17 at 6:00 pm at St. John's Evangelical Protestant Church, 59 East Mound Street.

[REBUILDING LIVES]

Tax Credit Hearings for Supportive Housing

CSB took part in the review of two permanent supportive housing projects that were submitted for tax credit awards from the Ohio Housing Finance Agency. CSB participated as the representative of the Continuum of Care Steering Committee and the Rebuilding Lives Funder Collaborative. This is a new process instituted by OHFA in an effort to garner more input from the local community regarding the projects and to better understand the development process and the target population as they make their decisions regarding tax credit awards. The Community Housing Network project is Inglewood Court to be located

on the west side of Columbus. It is a 60-unit development with 45 units for Rebuilding Lives and 15 units for ADAMH. Maryhaven will be the supportive service provider for the project. The other submission is from National Church Residences and is called the Commons at Third. It will be a 100-unit facility located in the Grandview area. It will afford 60 Rebuilding Lives units and 40 units for very low income individuals with disabilities. Both projects presented strong cases for consideration. OHFA will make a decision July 1, 2010.

USHS Commons at Buckingham

The Unified Supportive Housing System (USHS) is currently in the lease-up phase 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.

In order to speed up housing for clients during CAB lease-up, NCR has been performing disability assessments as needed if a caseworker 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 are being 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, Veterans Administration, Open Shelter, or Capital Crossroads), ADAMH providers, or NCR. Only clients who have gone through the USHS eligibility process will be housed at CAB.

To date, 31 eligible applications have been referred to NCR for housing, which will go toward filling the 100 units. The projected move-in date is July 14, 2010. Shelters and outreach agencies will continue their efforts to increase the number of applications submitted to USHS.

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.

Citizens Advisory Council

The next Citizens Advisory Council meeting will be held on June 14. Michelle Heritage Ward will be in attendance to meet the members. The group will also hear a presentation on the new Centralized Point of Access for Single Adult Emergency Shelters from Sue Villio, executive director of Faith Mission.

Rebuilding Lives Funder Collaborative

The Rebuilding Lives Funder Collaborative convened on May 20. Members considered CSB Funding Awards for FY2011 and heard updates on Rebuilding Lives Plan strategies and project development progress to date. The meeting schedule for August 2010 through May 2011 was also approved. The meeting minutes are posted to www.csb.org under the following link <http://www.csb.org/?id=how.community.rffc.meetings>.

[PROGRAM UPDATES]

Family System

The family system continues to prepare for summer which typically shows an increase in families attempting to access shelter. The YWCA Family Center will once again provide overflow capacity for the system. Every family seeking shelter will have a safe place to sleep.

Many families have been diverted from the Family Center by accessing assistance through the Stable Families homelessness prevention program. On average, the YWCA Family Center refers approximately 50-60% of all clients that contact the Family Center to the Stable Families program. This allows the family to stay in their current housing and avoid entering shelter.

The Job2Housing Pilot Project has been assisting the YWCA Family Center move families into permanent housing. To date, Job2Housing has enrolled 19 families into the program. Each of these families will complete vocational training in order to gain skills that will assist them in obtaining a career.

[IN THE SPOTLIGHT]

Tours

In May CSB provided a tour for Russ Kennedy, Mount Carmel Health System, of the YWCA Family Center and YMCA 40 West Long supportive housing.

Congratulations to **Friends of the Homeless** on the installation of a new community garden. Staff and volunteers planted a garden and an herb spiral on May 22.



[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

- < **Board2Board Dialogue**
Monday, October 11, 2010
9:30 am-1:00 pm
Nationwide's Heritage Room
One Nationwide Plaza
- < Check out the interactive calendar at www.csb.org under Resources for Our Partners < Meetings.