

Humboldt Community NETwork Meeting

Meeting Report:
Marshall Family Resource Center, Eureka, CA

April 5, 2007
1:00pm-3:00pm

Meeting Minutes as report by Tina Tvedt, North Coast Clinics Network

Presentation

Melissa Furbee, *NETwork and Switchboard Coordinator*, introduced herself and the presenters, **Fox Olsen**, *Executive Director of the Arcata House*, and **Kermit Thobaben**, *Executive Director of the Redwood Community Action Agency*. Their agencies assist homeless needs in our community.

Fox passed out a signup sheet for the Humboldt County Homeless Coalition and a pre-test worksheet. She explained the test as a way to show that the community is learning about the supportive housing program. Fox explained her background and the growth of the Arcata House. The Arcata House is transitional housing that is handicap accessible.

The program uses heavy case management to stabilize people and integrate families back to the community.

Fox explained the process of doing intake. They noticed people have mental health problems and physical disabilities and have too many barriers to enter the transitional housing. Permanent Supportive Housing accepts those who are chronically homeless, mental ill and financially unstable.

They along with 25 other providers started a Continuum of Care using Permanent Supportive Housing funded by HUD. In 2004, Apartments First was created for disabled or mentally challenged and chronically homeless individuals. The program links housing with supportive services. Fox explained if they can maintain the house they can do well because they are more stable. In addition to housing they talk to the clients about health care and counseling on sobriety.

Fox told stories about finding the perfect apartment for clients. Clients pay 30% of income towards rent. The program makes sure they are utilizing resources. They connect clients with consumer credit counseling and classes as well as the department of rehabilitation for employment. HUD has a housing specialist to work with landlords and clients. They put the housing in the clients name and have an addendum. Fox stated at end of March they have rented 10 apartments and 17 individuals are in program. They have been concentrating on single men and women. They are at capacity right now, but they have some money from HUD

The challenges are clients' financial instability. Therefore they work with clients on budgeting. Another difficulty is the street culture. They talk with clients about setting boundaries. It is also a

challenge because clients look different. Causes for disenrollment are the client's choice, drug abuse and wrong apartment match.

Fox distributed pamphlets about the program. Fox described how to contact resources for services. For more information look at websites- www.endhomelessness.org and CSH, the Corporation for Supportive Housing.

Kermit explained the numbers that are waiting and the tests required to be approved for the housing. There are currently 50 women, 83 men and more families.

Kermit explained the programs offered by RCAA. The MAC Center has 80 beds, Launch Pad, for youth ages 16-17, Run-Away housing has 4 beds for minors, Arcata House has 3 transitional housing, Veterans Resource Center has 1 transitional house, Rehab has 32 more beds, and in Southern Humboldt the Wish House has 10 beds. He stated all the programs operate at capacity except the youth programs. Other housing resources are the Emergency Shelter in Eureka, Humboldt Domestic Violence, the Arcata Night Shelter with 13 openings and in the winter the Serenity Inn houses 64 people. All together there are 164 transitional beds and 96 beds in the winter, not counting extreme winter shelters when churches are used.

They do counts of the Homeless Population by conducting surveys in locations where homeless use services in the community. In 2005, there were 550 adults and 208 dependant children, in 2006, there were 516 adults and 193 children and in 2007 there were 434 adults and 210 children; some of which are in missions and transitional housing. Kermit stated there are 800-1200 homeless at a given time in Humboldt county, therefore .6% of population are homeless.

Kermit explained the difficulties in establishing transitional housing in our community: The North Coast Veterans Resource Center could not start the second housing due to county revocation. Then they tried to buy another property with the city, but they lost it in court. They finally got a site but it took years. The MAC center took 3 years of public hearings but now it is located by Target. They are trying to develop multi-family housing, but a politician is trying to change the zoning. Kermit described the history of Arcata Endeavour whose site was selected because city owned the property. It has been running the program for 5-6 years.

Kermit explained last night at the city council meeting they voted to extend Endeavour's lease for 2 years, but the vote did not pass, therefore the Endeavour may lose their funding from the Feds and may not be able to sustain their program. Kermit added that the Humboldt State University President wrote a letter to the city and Board of Supervisors to not extend the lease. They oppose the service center because it attracts the homeless and then detours students from enrolling.

A lady explained the housing crisis in Miller and the situation of people being evicted from their homes. Kermit said that the Board of Supervisors may have to vote. Kermit told a story about Mary who almost lost her house because it was in poor condition and the actions of the code enforcement. He stated the city of Arcata established a program for funds for tenant based rental assistance for RCAA, the Arcata House and the Veterans.

There was a discussion of Homeless Campgrounds.

Round-Table Discussions

Diana Lubitz, *HCMH/Redwood Employment Services*, Success Program offers jobs for mental health; passed out yellow brochure

Barbara Davis, *AFACTR Americorp*, children had a successful Rock-a-Thon and raffle, Job Market is coming on Wed. and McKinleyville Family Resource Center is having Open House

Kermit Thobaben, *RCAA and AFACTR Americorp*, Home program for elderly and low-income individual to help repair houses-Call: 269-2001

Carey West, *AFACTR Americorp*, recruitment call 269-2020

Selena Kahl, *MTWV Resource Center*, Thrift Store boutique accepting donation, Play Group: 3-6 M-F and Mon. 6-9 dinner, they have network computers available M-F from 3-6pm, Teenship Center and Kenetic Kids Fair call 444-9771 for info.

Rose Broussard, *DHHS.MHB/Homeworks*, help families who have barriers to employment.

Maureen Lawler, *St. Joes Resource Centers*, 95% of clients are homeless, offer a free public phone, mail call, 45 clients have case management. Two gaps she sees are no access to showers and no storage facilities. Call 442-5239 Tues-Fri. They are located next to St. Vincent de Paul in Eureka.

Lucas Kibby, *Dads Program*, looking for dads around 25 years old; Young Parents Summit contact Lori Gladen to sign-up.

Kathryn Johnson, *Special Needs Connection*, flyer

Charleen Williams, *Eureka Seventh-Day-Adventists*, agree need for showers, 442-6950 and thanks for collections for homeless friends

Melissa Furbee, *NETwork & Switchboard*, Making Headway having conference, "Take back the night event", Coffee Opp, Two Feathers' Fundraiser, Humboldt County Breast Health Project and Child Passenger Safety training-Switchboard is up-dating database.

Tina Tvedt, *North Coast Clinics Network*, in partnership with Latino Net are offering free glucose testing strips at MMO, RRHC, Eureka Community Health Center and Humboldt Open Door Clinic for low-income Latinos; for more info call 444-NCCN.

Pam Moore, *Public Health*, Public Health Week, Emergency Prep for Vulnerable Populations, Story Hour on Sat. for 3-5 year old children.

Jene McGovey, *California Women's Agenda*, sponsoring Status of Women Caucus on April 29th-speaker talk to how we introduce one another.

Helen L'Annunziata, *First 5*, Better Together for neighborhood groups, Dia de los Ninos, on April 29, 12-5 at Rhomberg Hall

Grace Brosnahan, May first workshop, Targeting responsibility for drug related activities

Brandy Cyphers, *UIHS*, Grant Funded activity for youth

Basha Richter, *CHDP*, Outreach to attend health fairs, sponsoring conference on Childhood Obesity, class on new born care, call 445-6210

Jyl Barnett, *Food for People*, Food stamp enrollment, Cooking with Commodities at Co-Op April 24th, hunger Advocacy training; Open 12:30-4 Tues and Thus.

Martha Hunkins, *Volunteer Center of the Redwoods*, National and Global Youth Service Day April 22 Garden at RAVEN.

Debbie Coggins, *USDA Rural Development*, They do permanent long-term financing and have \$7,500 grants for housing repairs, 443-6714x101

Other Attendees:

Beverly Prosser, *Manila 4H Recreation*

Judy Harrison, *United Way of Humboldt*

Blanca Bautista, *Public Health Branch*

Karen Diers

Celeste Trepanier, *NC Children Services*

Kathy Hanson, *PHB/TAPPN*

Deno Thorton, *PHB/AOD*

Kim Hagans, *Switchboard volunteer*

Edward Grant, *Homeless Friends Project*

Kristine Fabian, *Marshall Family Resource Center*

Eileen Davis, *Manila 4H Recreation*

Elizabeth Henry, *Homeless Education Project*

Marsha Bauman

Erin Yeardley, *Two Feathers Native American Family Services*

Marcia Bowman, *HCMH, Redwood Employment Services*

Jamie Lamers, *Food For People*

Marianne Pennekamp, *volunteer*

Jessica Whatcott, *Big Brothers Big Sisters*

Mary Scott, *MCAH*

Juanita Duran-Wilson, *CWS-MSW Intern*

Monica Evans, *LWS*