

**Utah Balance of State
Homeless Coordinating Council, Inc.
January 14, 2008
Minutes**

Formatted: Level 1

Attending In Person:

Chris Nguyen, Chair
Eileen Dwyer, Director
Camille Farra, UHMIS
Caron Withers, New Horizons

On Conference Call:

Stefanie Jones, BRAG AOG
Lisa Hunt, Davis Behavioral Health
Kay Card, Safe Harbor
Marilyn Vogrinec, Southeastern AOG
Debbie Hatt, Southeastern AOG
Maureen Allred, Six County AOG
Heather Hoyt, Uintah Basin AOG
Heidi Miller, Cedar City Housing Authority
Sharon Anderson, Family Connection Center
Bill Woods, ICCS
Sharon Relph, Four Corners Behavioral Health
Jeff Kane, Homeless Veterans Fellowship

1. Introductions. Chris Nguyen welcomed the participants and introductions were made.
2. Approval of Minutes. Bill Woods made a motion for approval of December's meeting, Kay Card seconded the motion. Members approved the minutes as written.
3. Area Updates and Pilot Projects
 - a. **Bear River AOG** - Committee is working on their local 10-year plan and will present the plan to the governing board on January 22nd for approval. The committee is also getting ready for the point in time count.
 - b. **Uintah AOG** – Committee is working on their local 10-year plan and getting ready for the point in time. (1) The project the AOG has been working on in Roosevelt, converting the old food pantry into 2 transition units, has been held up due to Norma Jurado leaving and the lack of contractors. They should be underway in the next couple of months. (2) Uintah County and Vernal City are partnering to conduct a housing needs study and have opened a one stop shopping office for those seeking housing. This office is staffed 50% of the time with a Housing Counselor and sees clients by appointment only. Those coming in are

assisted with a) a background check; b) a credit check; c) income evaluation; d) assistance determining which housing programs are most appropriate; e) assistance applying for different programs; f) receive information as to the various rental options and how to contact landlords. We will be working with USU Extension and the AOG, along with various other community partners. This should help people to identify their best housing options and hopefully help those in need into permanent housing. This, hopefully, will reduce the stress on everyone's part as people go from agency to agency trying to figure out how to get help. (3) The Uintah Basin HCC has identified a pilot project. We are asking the Housing Counselor to identify 4 to 6 individuals or families that have a good chance of making the transition to permanent housing. We will apply for some funding to help these families either with minor debt reduction or down payment assistance or with rent and utility deposits. We will then track the families to see if this assistance actually helps keep them in permanent housing.

c. **Southeastern AOG** – Pilot project is going to be with families in conjunction with drug court.

d. **Six County AOG** – The AOG has received the funding letter from the State for their pilot project. They will be meeting with Lloyd Pendleton this week to work on the details.

e. **Davis County** - Pilot project is very successful. Four families are in the training program. One family is going to graduate in February. The father of this family has a job making \$14,000 per hour. The County is going to hold a summit on January 16th to talk about homeless issues for their 10 year plan.

f. **Five County AOG** – A single mother with two children has moved into the pilot program in St. George. An individual who has been homeless since he was 13 is being housed in Cedar City and is doing very well. It is anticipated an additional family will be assisted no later than the end of January.

g. **Weber County** – Jeff Kane reported on their 4-plex. One of their participants in the 4-plex is working full time and has been re-united with his son. They had not been in contact for several years. We also had one recipient relapse and then he began displaying some behavioral challenges. With the help of the VA and other community partners we were able to get him into a treatment center. All reports indicate that he is doing much better and he hopes to be out in late March. We are currently looking for someone to fill the vacancy.

4. Strategic Planning Updates:

a. Goals – There was no report.

b. Prioritization – There have been more changes made on the Priority Criteria. The changed form will be sent out to the members before the next meeting for comments or changes.

5. Membership Update: There was no update.
6. HMIS Update: Camille Farra report that they are working on a monthly report template so agencies will be able to view their data easier. It has been approved by the UHMIS Steering Committee to be merged into a larger more diverse committee structure and become part of the Information Committee of the State Homeless Coordinating Committee with Bill Crim, United Way for Salt Lake, acting as chair. The staff is working hard with the agencies trying to get data correct before the point in time count on January 31st. Metsys is going to be updating the system in February so it is more user friendly. If anyone is having problems with HMIS, please contact David Musick at 520-8110.
7. Continuum of Care Funding: Eileen Dwyer reported the Balance of State funding was received for only one year renewals and did not receive funding for the new project or the bonus funds. The reason for not receiving the funding is still unknown and hopefully we will receive our score. Because of the lack of funding, it will be important to plan our funding strategy for the next year and try to get as many projects funded as possible. Eileen requested the agencies that will be going to request funds in the next cycle, send a budget for their agencies on operations, supportive services and administration fees to her by **February 8th**. This request is also for any agencies that are going to apply for new funds. Eileen also requested that the agencies look at their client vs. dollars ratio and see if there is any possibilities for a budget cut in their program.
8. Announcements/Other Business:
 - Eileen Dwyer announced a HUD Training will take place on January 23rd from 8:30 to 12:00 noon. A call in number will be distributed with an agenda.
9. Meeting was adjourned at 1:00 pm. Next meeting will be held on February 11, 2008 at 12:00 noon at The Road Home.