

COC SYSTEM PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

Minutes of the October 20, 2015 Meeting

Natalie McClesky called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. In addition to Natalie, the following members were present: Amy Krebs, Jennifer Keaton, Carla Wright, Duane Wykoff, Michelle Boone

Natalie introduced two guests Jenifer Boswell and Frank Aquino

Minutes: Natalie asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the September 15, 2015 meeting. Prior to the motion, Jennifer Keaton recommended the following correction and addition to the minutes:

- under the Corrections and Discharge Planning section TASK should be changed to TASC
- under the Recovery House section the Definition of Recovery House was incomplete and should read as follows: most of the time those who go into Recovery House are self-pay and there are no time restrictions on length of stay.

Jennifer Keaton recommended that the minutes of the September 15, 2015 meeting be approved as amended. Dwayne Wykoff seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

MIA Subcommittee report: Frank Aquino provided the following report:

- MIAA has spent time over the last year developing relationships with the Stark County Realtors Investors Agency (SCREIA) in an attempt to open up affordable housing opportunities for MIA clients. The key component being asked for has been reduced/affordable rent. One landlord has stepped up and is currently renting to one client for \$300/month vs. \$525 which is the fair market rate. They will continue to monitor this and hopefully, if successful, the landlord will share this information with others.
- They are also discussing how to resolve the homeless issues in the county including the MIA population as well as the overall homeless population. There have been discussions with a group of landlords regarding the tiny house communities vs. lowering the fair market rate for current properties. Frank has not heard back from Bryan Woods, the VP of SCREIA.
- The MHR SB has recently been developing a “Transitional Bed from Hospital Discharge program. This is in its early stages. They are currently working with 4 local Adult Care Facilities who are holding beds for discharged clients. An application process for local Behavioral Health providers has been put in place and MIA has asked the providers to create “housing plans” with clients prior to completion of applications.
- There is a time limit on stay and an extension request option in case the process of finding alternate housing takes longer than expected. Hopefully these beds will turn over quickly thus opening up availability to others being discharged.
- Housing Promotion Update:
 - 17 evictions from PSH according to MHR SB Housing Reports
 - 14 of the 17 evictions resulted in either continued housing at current residence or alternate housing---suggests an 82% “save” or “housing retention rate”,

- 19 Housing Promotion meetings.
- Important to note that PSH's are being more flexible in housing retention and are giving options rather than eviction. The committee has worked closely with providers and property owners to devise plans for the clients to either retain their current housing or find other appropriate housing.
- HOMES Program is now at Quest---SMHA distributes the voucher and Quest provides the services. The HOMES Program has 7 vouchers per year. This is a 2 year program.

Corrections Discharge Planning/Reentry Program report: Jennifer Boswell provided the following report:

- SC sends inmate to prison and sends service plan with the person.
- Release
 - Most inmates released without supervision.
 - A few are released with supervision. Release plans are sent to the area where the inmate will return prior to their release. Inmates don't always understand what it means to be on supervision and sometimes the people in the home don't want the released inmate in their home. Sometimes there are guns in the home and this is a concern.
 - Public housing rules out some people.
- The Parole Officer and Case Manager work together if offender is choosing inappropriate release site. Most prisons are at sites about 2 hours from Stark County.
- Reentry Mission is to serve as the link between the community side and the prison side.
- There are video conference technologies with the inmates.
- 2/3 of inmates do not get supervision when released and they don't have to have a housing plan.
- Inmates can go anywhere within Ohio when released.
- Jennifer Keaton commented that resource guides are generally outdated.
- Resources used prior to release:
 - Veteran Program---meets with veteran inmates.
 - Mental Health services have been transitioned from Prison Administrative Services to the Mental Health Recovery Services Board in the communities.
 - Community Linkage—MH staff meets with prisoner pre-release to set-up appointments. The inmates are also given a large supply of medication and a prescription for one refill.
- The Office of Reentry is currently working on a "Passport/Release Card" which is a document that provides an ID with a Social Security number and date of birth. This is good for 90 days. It can be taken to the BMV and other sites where needed.
- What else is needed at release?
 - Offender needs to be responsible and the Department will assist them.
 - Hope Channel---6 prisons in NE Ohio have this available on site. Inmates can watch the TV channel that is focused on reentry.
 - There is a need for more focus on reentry issues from the time they enter the prison. The Department is looking into the inmates' needs and ways to get the inmates involved.
 - Video-In Reach Program (VIP)—this is focused on people who will not be under supervision when released (no parole officer). Through this program the inmates

can see and hear what employment, housing, food support, etc. is available in the various communities. In Stark County Faith House, Faith Family Church, & CTC offer these types of services. Halfway House also offers services but only for those under supervision.

- What is happening to inmates who don't participate in discharge planning?
 - Next Step is working on this.
 - Halfway House Rehab Program is only available to inmates under supervision. Most don't want to be there. They need to earn rewards and there are rules with consequences.
 - If somebody has a place to go---let them try it. They can go a to Halfway House later if necessary.
 - Halfway Houses are used when someone is having trouble reaching the goals in their case plan while in prison
- SRCCC---is used to divert prison population. Some go before being fully released.