WCICCC Full Continuum Conference Call
March 11, 2010, 10:30 a.m.

Attendance:
Glenda Farkas, West Central Illinois Center for Independent Living (WCICIL), Quincy
Anne Dixon, Western Illinois Regional Council (WIRC) Macomb
Melissa Holden, YWCA of Quincy
Tammi Lonergan, MCS Community Services, Jacksonville
Heidi Prather, Salvation Army (SA), Quincy
Cheryl Esselman, Two Rivers Regional Council (TRRC), Quincy
Lori Sutton, Western Illinois University, Macomb

Minutes

1. Welcome (Glenda Farkas)
2. Provider Update/Personnel Changes
    a. YWCA (Melissa Holden): No changes in personnel. There will be a vacancy, in TH, at the end of the month; the YWCA has its first client that will purchase their first home.
    b. MCS (Tammi Lonergan): Planning on asking HUD to get 1 more unit of transitional housing. Currently, the program has 3 HUD-funded and 1 DHS-funded unit.
    c. WIRC (Anne Dixon): Had a successful move-out in Bushnell with a client. The Housing Authority units are vacant. The program is changing how it works with the Housing Authority. The Housing Authority will be making recommendation to their program, when appropriate.
    d. TRRC (Cheryl Esselman): They have around $6,000 in shelter money available.
    e. SA (Heidi Prather): Architectural drawings for the new center are done, being reviewed. Doing some fundraising activities for new center. Looking to hire a person to help as needed. There are 6 people in the shelter, so there are some openings. A shelter review is schedule for next week.
3. Homeless Prevention and Rapid-Rehousing Program Update
    a. Update by provider (Two Rivers Regional Council, MCS Community Services, and Western Illinois Regional Council)
        i. WIRC (Anne Dixon): Averaging 10 new full intakes each week. There are 23+ participants in the program.
        ii. TRRC (Chery Esselman): They have enrolled 63 people in the program. There are 20 people that have completed the program. There program offers 3 months of assistance. On 3/16/2010, 4-5 p.m. at TRRC, the organization will be hosting a Money Management Workshop on basic budgeting. This is open to all clients. Child care will be provided along with a light meal. Cheryl invited other programs to send clients. Adams County funds are currently on hold; Brown, Pike and Schuyler County still have funds available and taking applications.
        iii. MCS (Tammi Lonergan): They have taken around 70 applications.
    b. Quarterly HMIS report due to DCEO by 5 p.m. Monday, April 5. **Please have all HPRP/HMIS data entered into the system by April 2**. Lori Sutton will need to send DCEO a continuum-wide HPRP/HMIS report.
4. Illinois Department of Human Services, TANF Emergency Contingency (Cheryl Esselman)
The continuum as a whole or an agency directly can apply for funds. The funds need to be spent by 9/30/2010. It appears that it may be more effective to apply on the agency basis, due to how the match works. The program is very restrictive on what you can do with the funds and how the match works. TRRC is looking at developing a new program.

5. Point-In-Time (PIT) Shelter Counts (Lori Sutton)
    a. The following organization responded to our request for information: Cornerstone Foundations for Families, Crisis Center Foundation, Madonna House, MCS Community Services, New Start Rescue Mission, Quanada, The Salvation Army Emergency Shelter, Samaritan Well, Two Rivers Regional Council, Western Illinois Regional Council, and YWCA of Quincy. Only one organization didn't respond to our request.
    b. On the night of the PIT, there were 50 single individuals, 8 persons and 4 households in families **without** dependent children, and 89 persons and 35 households in households **with** dependent children. For a total of 147 persons in emergency and transitional housing on January 27, 2010. This is up by 48 persons from the count in 2009 with 99 persons in shelter.
    c. The HPRP results showed a total of 40 households and 100 persons being helped with that funding stream.
    d. DHS Homeless Preventions showed 7 households and 10 individuals in motel shelters.
    e. HUD will have continuum enter the PIT information into a new online system in April.
6. Other Business
    a. Supportive Housing Association (SHPA)
        i. CoC Committee meetings have been changed to the 4th Thursday of each month at 10 a.m. Please contact Lore Baker, Communications and Outreach Director to be put on mailing list for calls – 217-424-9407 or shpa@att.net. Next meeting is scheduled for March 25, 2010
        ii. March 24, Legislative Breakfast & Advocacy Day in Springfield, contact Lore Baker for more information and to sign up (see handout).
        iii. With the budget increases, Glenda asked if members could be more involved with the group. Melissa indicated SHPA has been very good about getting out information and statistics.
    b. Supportive Housing Institute, Corporation for Supportive Housing, various dates May thru October (see handout)
    c. April 10: Back on Her Feet, fundraiser for Madonna House and food drive for Quanada's Food Pantry (see handout)
7. Meeting Schedule:
    a. April 8 – steering committee, conference call, 10:30 a.m.
    b. May 13 – steering committee, conference call, 10:30 a.m.
    c. Summer TBA, dependent on HUD grant release date – full continuum, conference call, 10:30 a.m.
    d. Sept. 9 – steering committee, conference call, 10:30 a.m.
    e. Oct. 14– full continuum, conference call/meeting, 10:30 a.m.
    f. Nov. 11 – steering committee, conference call, 10:30 a.m.

Join the Responsible Budget Coalition!

*By **John Peller** - Posted on **09 October 2009***

You thought this year's Illinois state budget was bad? Next year's will be even worse, with a projected $12 billion deficit.

But there's a solution. The **Responsible Budget Coalition** has united wide-ranging human service groups to back a comprehensive budget solution that will increase revenues while expanding tax credits for homeowners and low-income working families.

Organizations and individuals, sign on **here**.

Responsible Budget Coalition

RAISE REVENUE TO FUND VITAL SERVICES FACT SHEET

• The current (FY10) state budget of $26 billion represents a 10 percent cut from FY09 levels. The result is deep and damaging cuts to education, health care, human services, and public safety, and thousands of layoffs of state, local government and not-for-profit sector employees who provide those services.

• The current budget relies on more than $6 billion in one-time, non-recurring revenue from borrowing, the federal stimulus, fund sweeps and debt restructuring. In addition, more than $3 billion in unpaid, past-due bills will be carried forward to FY11.

• The state will start FY11—next fiscal year—with a deficit of more than $12 billion. This figure includes the current $6 billion in one-time revenue, $4 billion in operating debts, $1.2 billion in required pension payments, and $800 million in debt service. It does not include the revenue needed to reverse funding cuts in the current budget year. The General Assembly must raise adequate new revenue to close this hole.

• We support a comprehensive tax-reform package following the framework of HB 174, and raising at least as much new revenue as that bill proposed. HB 174 would:

- Raise $5.6 billion to $6 billion in new, recurring tax revenues, expand tax credits for homeowners and low-income families, and provide additional funding for education, health care, human services and public safety.
- Increase the individual income tax rate from 3% to 5%, and raise the corporate income tax rate from 4.8% to 5%. +$6.4 billion
- Increase the personal exemption from $2,000 to $3,000. -$1.05 billion
- Double the property tax credit from 5% to 10% (capped at $1,500). Make this credit refundable, ensuring that homeowners receive its full value even if it exceeds their income-tax liability. -$493 million
- Triple the state Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) for low-income working families from 5% to 15% of the federal EITC claimed. -$167 million
- Apply the state sales tax to luxury services previously untaxed in Illinois but already taxed by neighboring states. +$450-600 million

HOUSING ACTION ILLINOIS
2010 STATE ADVOCACY AGENDA

RESOLIVNG THE STATE BUDGET CRISIS

Support Progressive Fiscal Reform

Support progressive fiscal reform to address Illinois' structural budget deficit and restore cuts to housing-related human service programs. As of the beginning of 2010, Illinois is delinquent in paying more than $5 billion it owes to private sector providers of human and health-care services and others. Going into fiscal year 2011, Illinois is facing a $13 billion budget deficit and another year of cuts to human service programs.

Overall total state and local tax burden as a percentage of income in Illinois ranks 41st in the country. This tax burden figure includes every tax and fee charged by any unit of state or local government in Illinois, versus those charged by every unit of state or local government in every other state. Housing Action Illinois will work with Responsible Budget Coalition to organize support for progressive fiscal reform in targeted legislative districts.

Restore State Funding for the Homeless Prevention Program

The program provides financial assistance to prevent individuals and families from becoming homeless and help those who are experiencing homelessness to be quickly re-housed and stabilized. For fiscal year 2010 funding was reduced to $2.4 million from $11 million in the previous fiscal year, a 78% cut. While the federal Homeless Prevention and Rapid Rehousing Program (HPRP) stimulus funds has very similar allowable uses, we need to restore state funding to insure that resources are available when HPRP funds are exhausted.

Emergency Food and Shelter Funding/Rebranding of Program

Restore prior year budget cuts for the Emergency Food and Shelter Program. The program provides overnight shelters, transitional housing and supportive services. Funding for fiscal year 2010 is $9.1 million. Funding in fiscal year 2003 was $9.7 million. We will also request the renaming of the "Emergency Food & Shelter" line item to "Emergency and Transitional Housing." This proposed name more fully captures the role of overnight shelters and transitional housing programs in the long-term process of rehousing individuals and families.

ADDRSSING THE FORECLOSURE CRISIS

Amend State Foreclosure to Promote Loss Mitigation Compliance

The federal Home Affordable Modification Program (HAMP) is meant to give homeowners with loans owned or guaranteed by Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac or other participating servicers an opportunity to refinance into more affordable monthly payments. However, many servicers participating in HAMP are not following all of the program's directives, especially the requirement that loans be evaluated for HAMP eligibility before foreclosure proceedings are commenced.

To increase compliance with this program, and other mandatory loss mitigation programs, we propose amending current state law to require foreclosure complaints to state whether the mortgage is eligible for HAMP and whether a HAMP modification has been attempted. The amendment would also allow borrowers to use lack of loss mitigation program compliance as a defense against foreclosure.

Cook County Mediation Program Design

The Cook County Board has appropriated $3.5 million for the creation of a countywide foreclosure mediation program for borrowers and servicers to be implemented in 2010. We will work as part of the Chancery's Court Mediation and Housing Counseling Subcommittee and other key stakeholders to design and implement the program.

Promote Servicer Accountability

This initiative is designed to track individual loan modification cases opened by nonprofit housing counseling agencies in order to evaluate how successful loan servicers are in carrying out their loss mitigation procedures and how likely they are to work with a HUD-certified housing counseling agency. Through a combination of interviews, reports, and public meetings, we will administer a program that will analyze the success rate of practiced loss mitigation strategies, create communication and accountability systems between housing counseling agencies and loan servicers, and develop appropriate public policy responses.

PROMOTE FAIR HOUSING AND HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES

Protect Fair Housing for Seniors in Assisted Living

The Illinois Assisted Living and Shared Housing Act (IAL/SHA) is inconsistent with the Federal Fair Housing Act (FHA) and the Illinois Human Rights Act (IHRA), allowing Illinois seniors to face discrimination and denial of needed services and housing because of race or disability. The proposed amendments amend the provisions of the IAL/SHA that govern the licensing, construction and operating standards of an Assisted Living establishment to reinforce that senior housing providers must comply with the FHA and the IHRA.

Affirmative Defense from Eviction for Survivors of Sexual Violence

Amend to the Forcible Entry and Detainer Act to provide an affirmative defense from eviction from rental housing predicated on the tenant's, lessee's, or household member's status as a survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, or sexual violence.

Not-for-profit Rental of Condominiums and Townhouses

We will reintroduce legislation to protect the ability of not-for-profit organizations with federal tax-exempt charitable status to rent condominiums and/or townhouses that they own in order to provide affordable housing.

USING THE TANF EMERGENCY CONTINGENCY FUND IN ARRA TO HELP POOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

The Federal TANF block grant

- The federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant is a flexible funding stream for states to provide a wide range of services aimed at increasing family self-sufficiency through job preparation, work, and marriage.

The Federal TANF block grant

- Illinois receives $585 million in TANF funds each year from the federal government, and must use these funds to provide services aimed at increasing family self-sufficiency through job preparation, work, and marriage.
- The state is required to contribute an additional $430 million as its “Maintenance of Effort” (MOE)

ARRA TANF Emergency Fund

- The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 created a new and temporary TANF Emergency Fund available to states for federal fiscal years 2009 and 2010
- Illinois can access 80% reimbursement – up to $292.5 million – by demonstrating *increased spending* for TANF services/activities

ARRA TANF Emergency Fund

- DHS can identify third-party funding that can count as MOE and can serve as the 20% portion of the increase that is not reimbursed by TANF ARRA funds
- Third-party funding can include foundation funding, private fundraising, etc.

ARRA TANF Emergency Fund: The Opportunity

- Private funding can have an incremental impact on services to low-income families:

$100,000 contribution
+ $400,000 federal reimbursment
$500,000 total additional funding

ARRA TANF Emergency Fund

- The TANF Emergency Fund will finance 80% of the *increased* spending in three categories:

1. Basic Assistance/monthly cash grants
2. Short-term, non-recurrent spending
3. Subsidized Employment

1. Basic Assistance

- This is primarily cash assistance provided to very low-income families by the Illinois Department of Human Services

2. Short-term non-recurrent benefit

To qualify under this category, the service provided must meet the following requirements:

- Designed to deal with a specific crisis situation or episode of need
- Not intended to meet recurrent or ongoing needs
- Not to extend beyond 4 months for an individual or family
- NOTE: these benefits can be paid to others on behalf of the family, such as a payment to a landlord

2. Short-term non-recurrent benefit

- Funds can be used for benefits DHS delivers directly, or to support benefits or services provided by other government agencies or community-based organizations such as homeless shelters or food banks

2. Short-term non-recurrent benefit

- Since third-party expenditures can count as MOE spending, DHS can partner with non-profits or private philanthropy to provide the 20% "match" then pass the leveraged ARRA funds to the partnering agency

3. Subsidized employment

- Subsidized employment is designed to help participants enter the labor market through the acquisition of work experience and enhanced connection to employers

- Included are activities like transitional jobs programs that involve payments to employers or third parties to supplement the cost of employee wages

3. Subsidized employment

- Transitional jobs (TJ) assists TANF recipients with barriers to employment
- TJ provides a bridge to unsubsidized employment by combining time-limited, wage-paying employment with a comprehensive set of services—including education and training—designed to develop skills and prepare them for success in the workplace

3. Subsidized employment

- Illinois can receive reimbursement for 80% of subsidized employment costs over the base period for the full ranged of expenses related to a subsidized employment program
- Reimbursement is not limited to the actual wage subsidy, but can include the costs of workplace benefits, supervision and training, and administrative costs

Who can be served with these funds?

- For all three categories, eligible parties include families with minor children with annual income below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL)
  - The family **does not** need to be receiving TANF cash assistance to be eligible
- Under limited circumstances, non-custodial parents may be eligible for subsidized employment services

Role of the third-party partners

- Ensure spending is on eligible families (families with children that are below 200% FPL)
- Identify 20% funding to leverage 80% reimbursement in ARRA funds
- Formally agree to allow Illinois to count spending toward MOE (contract or MOU)
- Document all spending in all required quarters

Role of the Third Party

- To be eligible for matching funds from the ECF, Illinois must demonstrate an *increase* in spending as compared to the corresponding quarter in the identified base year
- Even if a third party provided services with no connection to the state, they must document any spending for the required quarters/fiscal years, and demonstrate an increase in order to be eligible for the 80% reimbursement