

**WCICCC Full Continuum Meeting & Conference Call
MCS Community Services, 345 West State, Jacksonville, IL
November 18, 2010, 10:30 a.m.**

Attendance in Person:

Barb Baker, Congressman Schock's Office (Jacksonville)
Catherine Swanson, IIRA/WIU (Macomb)
Dave Farkas, Illinois Department of Corrections/Quincy Parole Office
Emily (Hurst) Bishop, Morgan County General Assistance (Jacksonville)
Glenda Farkas, WCI Center for Independent Living (Quincy)
Jamie Childers, Crisis Center Foundation (Jacksonville)
Krista Kunz, ROE #46 (Brown/Cass/Morgan/Scott)
Lori Sutton, IIRA/WIU (Macomb)
Tammi Longegan, MCS Community Services (Jacksonville)

Attendance via Conference Call:

Al Coleman, ROE #22 (Schuyler)
Anne Dixon, Western Illinois Regional Council (Macomb)
Cheryl Esselman, Two Rivers RC (Quincy)
Cynthia Grawe, Madonna House (Quincy)
Heidi Prather, Salvation Army (Quincy)
Jim Kaiser, ROE #1 (Adams/Pike)
JoAnna Joseph, St. Louis VAMC (Morgan/Scott)
John Egan, Illinois Department of Children and Family Services
Judy VanAman, St. Louis VAMC PRRC (Morgan/Scott)
Katy Wiswell, MCS Community Services (Jacksonville)
Mary Muehlenfeld, YWCA of Quincy
Susan Fifer, QUANADA (Quincy)
Suzan Nash, Western Illinois Regional Council (Macomb)

1. Welcome (Glenda Farkas - Chair)
2. Special Guest Speakers
 - a. JoAnne Joseph, Homeless Veterans Coordinator with the St. Louis VA Medical Center spoke to the group on programs that their agency offers. Morgan and Scott counties are the region in our area that corresponds to the VA Medical Center in St. Louis service area. The Health Care for Homeless Veterans (HCHV) encompasses three different programs.
 - i. Transitional Housing Program – a grant per diem program. VA provides a per diem rate to community providers who run treatment transitional housing program. For example, we have 30 beds at Salvation Army. Salvation Army provides management services and the VA provides the funding and oversight to ensure health and safety.
 - ii. Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH), which is a partnership with HUD. There are 95 Section 8 vouchers that we can provide to Veterans along with case management. For people with low income because they have to pay part of their rent and keep their utilities on and need to demonstrate a need for case management. Targeting veterans who are chronically homeless, those that are female, and those that have children for this program. They have requested over 100 more vouchers for use further out from the city.
 - iii. Outreach and Education. In the next year's strategic plan they have dedicated staff and JoAnne's time to work with different CCC to update on what services are

available so you can direct those who come in for assistance and utilize resources correctly.

Other programs include:

- i. Veteran's Diversion Court in St. Louis City and will start some in St. Louis County (like a drug court for veterans) with education and support from the police station.
- ii. Incarcerated Veteran Reentry Specialist regional outreach to prisons to identify veterans to hook them up with our services.
- iii. They are also available to provide resources for Veteran Stand Downs (a community resource fair) to provide clothing, staff, health care professionals to do health screenings, barbers for haircuts, legal service representatives, employment services, and food.. Try to have all veterans pre-register so they know how many might be coming. Veterans can find out about resources available. JoAnna can send out information on the process, if anyone is interested.

Over the next year, the VA in St. Louis wants to grow. They have a lot of staff and peer supports are committed to partnering with the community and getting the veterans all the services they need. Any other questions, please contact JoAnna Joseph at 314.652.4100 extension 55472 or joanne.joseph@va.gov

- b. John Egan from Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) spoke to the group on programs that the DCFS has available for homeless youth (see handouts for details).
 - i. Youth Housing Assistance Program: this is a program for youth that have aged out of the system. The youth must be at least 18 and less than 21 years of age. The program provided housing advocacy and cash assistance. There are around 28 youth that have aged out of the system in our region. DCFS needs help in finding the youth that need assistance. The youth can call 312.814.5571 to find out if they qualify.
 - ii. Services for Discharged Youth: youth that have had their case closed, can request their case to be reopened in order to get assistance. There is a college program that can help the youth until age 23 if they are in college, as long as they register for the program before they turn 21. Youth wanting their case reopened can contact DCFS at 866.459.6884
 - iii. Family Unification Program: John is currently helping housing authorities to put together applications. To be eligible for this program, the housing authority needs to be administering a section 8 program. The application is due in two weeks, so it is almost too late to apply this year. Quincy or Morgan County may want to apply in the future, their number can justify an application, and the break even number is around 25 vouchers. Please contact John for more details, 312.814.1878, john.j.egan@illinois.gov

3. Provider Update/Personnel Changes

a. Housing & Homeless Prevention Providers

- i. Two Rivers – Cheryl – no updates.
- ii. WIRC - Anne – All HPRP clients housed and paid for and case management being provided for them. All CoC units are occupied.
- iii. YWCA – Mary – Program is full, keeping busy writing grants and doing United Way paperwork.
- iv. Madonna House – Cindy – Currently full and have had no staff changes.
- v. Salvation Army – Heidi – Busy but not flooded, seven in this morning. Not as full as usual, this time of year. No projected completion date for shelter.
- vi. Quanada – Susan – Recently had to reduce number of beds because they had to reduce staff due to funding. They have 15 clients and a waiting list.
- vii. MCS – Katy – No updates with HPRP, MCS lost their intake staff person.

- viii. MCS – Tammi – All CoC-funded units full.
 - ix. Crisis Center Foundation – Jamie – The Center is currently closed due to budget cuts and will be closed until the beginning of the year. The Center also had to lay off its part-time staff. Historically, November and December are the months with the lowest population, which helped to influence the decision to close at this time of the year. The Center is currently making referrals to nearby domestic violence providers.
- b. Education Providers: The three ROEs indicated that they have been visiting agencies to make them aware of services. Schools are doing a lot better at recognizing homeless students.
4. HUD’s CoC grant was submitted on 11/17/2010. There are four renewal applications and 1 new application for the permanent supportive housing bonus. The renewals are for transitional housing in Jacksonville and Macomb (MCS Community Services and Western Illinois Regional Council) and the YWCA of Quincy had a transitional housing renewal and permanent supportive housing renewal. MCS Community Services submitted an application using the \$55,000 that was available for the permanent supportive housing bonus. This is the first year in 7-8 years that the CoC was able to submit an application for a new program. MCS’s new project is for three units of permanent supportive housing to help disabled individuals and/or families. They will target assisting chronically homeless individuals/families, which have been homeless for one year or had four episodes of homelessness in three years. By MCS targeting the chronically homeless, this should make the CoC more competitive in future application, if the project is funded.

A new performance measure was added to several of the applications this year. The CoC will strive to have 100% of school-aged children will be enrolled in school within 72 hours of entering program. The CoC needs to work with the HMIS vendor to enter the fields into the HMIS.

June 22, 2015 is the date that HUD wants to end homelessness. Reading between the lines, HUD will probably be moving people to permanent supportive housing to achieve their goal of ending homelessness.

5. Other Business
- a. January 29, 2011 is the date for the next point-in-time unsheltered count. Entities that are performing the count should clear it with the city public officials to avoid problems.
 - b. The CoC needs to work on getting Eileen Worthington, Regional Office of Education onto the HMIS to evaluate if this would be good for the homeless liaisons to have access to. Alan suggested that Glenda talk at the next coordinator’s meeting, on December 2.
6. Meeting Schedule
- a. January 13, 2011 Steering Committee Conference Call
 - b. February 10, 2011 Full Continuum Meeting/Conference Call, Western Illinois Regional Council, Macomb, guest speaker TBA. Suzan suggested contacting Nora with the Chicago HUD office to be a speaker.
 - c. March 10, 2011 Steering Committee Conference Call
 - d. April 14, 2011 Steering Committee Conference Call
 - e. May 12, 2011 Full Continuum Meeting/Conference Call, YWCA of Quincy, with guest speaker Debbi Reed, Director of Chaddock, a residential treatment program for children.
 - f. August 2011, ROE Homeless Liaisons / Homeless Shelter Providers meeting, Regional Office of Education, Macomb, IL
 - g. September 2011 HUD Peer-to-Peer, date and location TBA

Youth Housing Assistance Program

DCFS may provide Youth Housing Assistance to help attain or maintain housing stability for youth that the Department currently has or previously had legal responsibility. There are two parts to Youth Housing Assistance: *Housing Advocacy* and *Cash Assistance*, each of which is explained below. Often a client will need housing advocacy services first. Once housing is identified, that same client needs cash assistance. Other clients will not need housing advocacy at all and will simply utilize cash assistance. Still others just need help finding housing and do not need any cash assistance. Call for details.

Housing Advocacy

Housing advocacy services assist clients in obtaining and/or maintaining stable housing. Services include:

- Assistance in securing affordable housing
- Consumer education
- Budget counseling
- Linkages to community based resources (i.e. assistance with utilities, clothing and food)
- Follow-up services for a minimum of three months after the client secures appropriate housing

Note: Housing Advocacy does not include any money.

Eligibility: Youth receiving housing advocacy services must meet all three of the following criteria:

1. Be at least 17 ½ and less than 21 years of age;
2. Be legally the responsibility of DCFS within six months of case closure, **or** have aged out of DCFS care; (Note: Youth that entered adoption or subsidized guardianship after their 14th birthday are also eligible.); **and**
3. Have an income that is sufficient to meet rent and utility costs; **or** be working on obtaining that income. (While housing advocacy can begin before income is in place, it is extremely unlikely that youth will be able to secure housing without sufficient income. Housing advocates can often help with employment.)

Cash Assistance

Assistance will vary depending on a client's situation. Cash assistance may be authorized for the following reasons:

- Housing security deposit
- Rent (limited circumstances)
- Beds for the client and the client's children
- Current utility bills or utility deposits
- Appliances
- Partial housing subsidy for a period of one year following case closure (housing costs must exceed 30% of income & assistance cannot continue past the client's 21st birthday)
- Other items required by the client to avoid or manage a crisis

Eligibility: Youth receiving Cash Assistance must meet all four of the following criteria:

1. Be at least 18 and less than 21 years of age;
2. Be legally the responsibility of DCFS and ready for case closure **or** have aged out of DCFS care. (Note: Youth that moved to adoption or subsidized guardianship are **NOT** eligible for cash assistance);
3. Have completed a budget statement (Form CFS 370-5C) that demonstrates that with any subsidy and all other income they will be able to cover all remaining living expenses (e.g. housing, utilities, clothing, food); **and**
4. Need cash assistance in order to attain or maintain stable housing

Referral Process or Questions

Please discuss this letter with your caseworker. For more information, caseworkers may contact the Youth Housing Assistance Coordinator at 312/814-5571 (Phone) or 312/814-7134 (Fax).



Youth Housing Assistance Program Frequently Asked Questions

Q. I used to be in DCFS care. I am now 21 years old. May I receive these services?

A. No, you are no longer eligible for any of these services when you turn 21, no matter what.

Q. Am I entitled to this money?

A. No. This program is based on need, not entitlement.

Q. Will you pay for my housing?

A. No, the idea of housing advocacy is to help you find housing that you can afford. For those eligible for cash assistance, we can also help with certain housing start-up expenses, such as a security deposit.

Q. I need a job. What can I do?

A. Any Education and Transition Coordinator can assist you in attaining employment by referring you to employment and training programs and services.

Q. I was adopted or entered subsidized guardianship. Am I eligible for housing advocacy?

A. Yes, you are eligible for housing advocacy if you were adopted or moved to subsidized guardianship after your 14th birthday. (Note: Housing Advocacy does **not** entitle you to money.)

Q. I was adopted or entered subsidized guardianship. Am I eligible for cash assistance?

A. No, if you were adopted or moved to subsidized guardianship you are not eligible for any cash assistance.

Q. Can my husband/wife/boyfriend/girlfriend/partner live with me? What about children?

A. If anyone in your household is eligible for services, we can serve your household, however you define it. We will look at your household income to determine if housing you find is affordable for you.

Q. What about roommates?

A. Sometimes having one or more roommates is the best way to make your housing affordable. You may want to consider this option. We will ask some questions about your roommates' income to make sure this housing situation is affordable for all of you.

Q. Do you have an apartment I can move into right now?

A. No, we do not have any apartments. Our housing advocates will provide assistance with finding housing on the open market, anywhere in Illinois.

Q. What if I don't live in Illinois?

A. First, call your local child welfare office (where you are) and ask for Chafee services. Tell them you aged out of the Illinois child welfare system. If you need help accessing these services, call the number below and we will try to help. If you still need help, but can find your own housing and can afford the monthly rent, we may be able to help you by mailing a check for the security deposit to your landlord. Call to see if this is possible.

Services for Discharged Youth

As youth transition to adulthood they may find that their desire for independence exceeds their ability to care for themselves. Many former wards of the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) have requested that their case be closed on or shortly after their 18th birthday only to find months or even weeks later that they are not able to meet the demands of adulthood without some assistance. DCFS can help many youth who have not yet turned 21 either through the [Youth Housing Assistance Program](#) (in which case their DCFS case does not need to be reopened) or [by having their case reopened before their 21st birthday](#).

Brief Overview of Services Provided

[Youth Housing Assistance Program](#) provides:

- Assistance looking for housing
- Budget counseling
- Life Skills services
- One time cash assistance to pay for bills or items needed for stable housing
- Partial monthly housing subsidy

Services for Discharged Youth provides:

[Youth who aged out of the system](#) (which means that they were not returned home, adopted or placed in a subsidized guardianship home) can have their case reopened before turning 21 to obtain services from DCFS. Services continue until the youth has met their objectives or until they turn 21 (whichever comes first). These services depend on the youth's objectives and can include:

- Intensive case management
- Housing
- Transitional living services
- Budget Counseling
- Life Skills services
- Parent skills training
- Employment services
- Education services
- Medical and mental health services
- Domestic violence prevention and counseling

Eligibility Requirements

- Former ward over the age of 18
- Aged out of DCFS custody (was not returned home, adopted or placed in a subsidized guardianship home).
- Under the age of 21
- Willingness to participate in the program

If you are not sure if the youth meets these eligibility requirements, call us so we can help you find out. To obtain information on the [Youth Housing Assistance Program](#) call the [Youth Housing Assistance Program Coordinator](#) at **312 814-5571**. To have the youth's DCFS case reopened, the youth should call DCFS at **866 459-6884**.

Family Unification Program

From : John Egan (DCFS) <John.J.Egan@illinois.gov>

Wed, Oct 13, 2010 04:19 PM

Subject : Family Unification Program

To : LA-Sutton@wiu.edu

I am writing about a wonderful program called the Family Unification Program (FUP). It provides housing choice vouchers to families who are in danger of being placed in or cannot be returned home from foster care due to inadequate housing. It also provides vouchers for youth who have aged out of foster care and lack adequate housing. Obviously DCFS is interested in working with local housing authorities to apply for the program. This year, they request that we receive the support of the local Continuum of Care when applying for the vouchers. Should your local housing authority apply for funding, we would be seeking that support.

The local housing authority applies for and administers FUP vouchers. I have already reached out to every housing authority in Illinois asking them to apply for funding. I am waiting for their response. I hope you will support our efforts to apply for funding from the program for your community. Although the program can only assist families and youth involved with the child welfare system, it still can help prevent or end homelessness for families and youth who are at risk of becoming, or currently, homeless. Further information on the program can be found at www.nchcw.org. I have also provided some information from the National Center on Housing and Child Welfare on the program below.

Family Unification Program NOFA has been released

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has given public housing authorities nationwide until **December 1, 2010** to apply for \$15 million in new Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers for the Family Unification Program (FUP). FUP provides families involved with the child welfare system with permanent housing and supportive services in order to safely reunite them with their children. FUP requires housing authorities to work in partnership with local child welfare organizations to find eligible families, reunite them, and provide ongoing services to help them build safe and stable lives for their children. FUP vouchers are also available to help foster youth transition to adulthood from foster care.

A copy of the latest Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) is attached to this email or you can click [here](#). Please visit www.NCHCW.org for more information about the Family Unification Program. The NOFA is also available at www.grants.gov. All current and potential FUP sites are encouraged to attend the NCHCW FUP training conference November 15-16, 2010 to learn more about applying for funding and how to create successful FUP partnerships.

Family Unification Program Conference in Washington DC, November 15 and 16

We look forward to seeing all PHAs and their partner agencies at the upcoming FUP training conference, *Keeping Families Together and Safe*, here in DC November 15-16 to learn about applying for and administering a successful FUP partnership. Registration materials and additional information are attached. Visit www.NCHCW.org for more information about FUP and our upcoming conference.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

John Cheney Egan

IDCFS Office of Housing and Cash Assistance

100 W. Randolph, Chicago IL 60601

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What types of services are available?

Individual Sessions:

- ❖ Identify veteran strengths and interests
- ❖ Identify areas veterans want to improve
- ❖ Develop veterans personal goals and recovery plans
- ❖ Connect with the community
- ❖ Support and problem-solving as needed

Groups:

- ❖ **Mental health groups:** to help veterans develop the skills and knowledge they need to reach their goals
- ❖ **Wellness groups:** to support veterans with community living
- ❖ **Social skills groups:** to assist veterans with forming and maintaining supportive relationships
- ❖ **Substance abuse groups:** to support veterans with maintaining a healthy, sober lifestyle

Family Support:

- ❖ NAMI's *Family-to-Family* class: support and education for veterans' friends and family
- ❖ Family counseling: mental health education and communication skills training for veterans and their families

Peer Support:

- ❖ Certified Peer Support Specialists: to assist veterans with their recovery
- ❖ *Vet-to-Vet* groups: peer run support group designed and run by veterans to assist and encourage veterans during their journey towards recovery

Resources available:

- ❖ Peer support
- ❖ Family education
- ❖ Fitness center
- ❖ Educational activities
- ❖ Recovery library
- ❖ Computer laboratory
- ❖ Family/group/individual therapy
- ❖ Recreational activities
- ❖ Skills training groups
- ❖ Relapse prevention
- ❖ Coordination with other programs and agencies

What does recovery mean?

Recovery is a way of living a satisfying, hopeful, and contributing life even with the limitations caused by illness. (Anthony, 1993)

Is the PRRC right for me?

The PRRC is primarily designed for veterans who are living with mental health diagnoses (i.e., Bipolar, Schizophrenia, or Major Depression) and who struggle with community living.

Who is there to help?

Every PRRC member will be assigned a Recovery Coach to assist them on their recovery journey. The PRRC also has Peer Support Specialists who are available to work with veterans toward their goals.

How do I find out more about this program?

You can call us directly at 314-652-7419 or ask your VA health care provider to make a referral.

PRRC MISSION STATEMENT:

At the St. Louis Psychosocial Rehabilitation and Recovery Center, we believe in the strength, creativity and spirit of each veteran; and we fully support each veteran's efforts to live a purposeful and productive life. By providing high quality, integrated, person-centered services, veterans who have serious mental illnesses are supported on their journey towards recovery. Based on our conviction in hope, we promote a strengths-based approach to mental health treatment in collaboration with veterans, families and local communities.



St. Louis VAMC PRRC

at the

Hope Recovery Center

515 N. Jefferson Ave.

St. Louis, MO 63103

(314) 652-4100

Ext. 55500

Pager (314) 905-0055

Shuttle services are available
from JC and JB medical centers.

Hours of operation are:

Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri

8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Thurs

8:00 a.m. - 8:30 p.m.



The St. Louis VAMC Psychosocial Rehabilitation and Recovery Center

