



Oregon HIV Housing Task Force Meeting Minutes: June 15, 2005

Participants:

Name	Agency
Elizabeth Anguiano	<i>OMHAS</i>
Annick Benson-Scott	<i>Department of Human Services</i>
Jerae Bjelland	<i>Marion County Health Dept.</i>
Leona Crawford	<i>Linn County Health Dept.</i>
Victor Fox	<i>Department of Human Services</i>
Cari Green	<i>PDES</i>
Kristin Kane	<i>Cascade AIDS Project</i>
Cheryl Owen	<i>Lincoln County Health Dept.</i>
Marty Perrigan	<i>Benton County Health Dept.</i>
Amber Reeves	<i>Mid-Willamette Community Action Agency</i>
Patty Thomas	<i>Jefferson County Health Dept.</i>
Dawn Thompson	<i>Cascade AIDS Project</i>
Carmen Urbina	<i>Centro Latino Americano</i>
Renee Yandel	<i>HIV Alliance</i>

Welcome and Introductions

Introductions were made. Annick explained that these meetings are a part of the HIV Housing Strategic Planning and that the group will develop a comprehensive housing plan as a result of the information heard. The plan will become a part of the Oregon HIV Care Coalition plan for the HIV Client Services program. Each meeting will focus on particular topic areas and expert speakers will be invited in to present. Today, there are two topics: Ready to Rent and Re-employment programs.

FOCUS AREA #1: Rent & Ready to Rent Programs

Speaker: Amber Reeves, Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency, Salem

Amber presented information on the Rent Program in Salem (also available in Polk County). The Rent Program funded by HUD and is a free tenant education program designed to assist individuals and families, who because of poor rental histories or poor credit, cannot access or retain housing. The Rent Program includes 5 classes focusing on money management, tenant behavior, goal setting, rights and responsibilities, cleaning and home maintenance and moving in and out of housing. In order to be eligible for the program the person(s) must be homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. The person(s) income may not be more than 60% of median income and must be in case management. Additionally, participants have a barrier to securing housing, such as domestic violence, criminal history, poor rental history and/or poor credit history.

A normal class size is around 10-12 people per month. To complete the course the participants must attend all 5 classes, do the homework and participate. Participants receive a certificate of completion that is recognized by landlords in the area.

The class includes a pre-test and post-test situational evaluation questions specifically focusing on whether participants have increased their knowledge and skills as a result of the classes. 82% of participants have found success at getting housed within 6 months of completion. 80% of participants are still housed after 1 year.

Persons participating in the classes do not have to be employable. Participants are able to seek employment while in the class and after they have completed the program. Case managers are asked to provide services to participants for at least 6 months after completion of the class.

The curriculum used by MWVCAA can be purchased for \$30.

Barriers in other Communities:

- Not all communities have Rent programs.
- Some programs charge money. For example Lane Counties program is \$200.
- OHOP has required these classes for in some regions. Some clients do not follow through and then are denied OHOP services.
- Spanish classes are rare.
- All sessions are required for completion and some participants miss one or two classes.
- Section 8 waiting list is 2-3 years long.

Other programs in Salem:

- The ARCHES program will pay up to 2 years of rent for participants who successfully complete the Rent program.

Refer to attached handouts.

Speaker: Dawn Thompson, Cascade AIDS Project, Portland

Dawn presented information on CAP's Ready to Rent program. This program has been up and running for 5 years. Ready to Rent is a 4-6 week tenant education program created by Portland Housing Authority. The program is open to CAP clients and helps them take responsibility for past rental issues, overcome barriers and learn about their rights and responsibilities as a tenant. There are about 6-12 participants in each class and once the program is completed each participant receives a certificate that is recognized by approx. 400 landlords in Multnomah County. The certificate is valid for about 1.5 years if they participate in a follow up session after 6 months. CAP offers one Spanish class per year.

The Portland Housing Authority will train presenters on the Ready to Rent curriculum. The CAP curriculum has been adapted to meet CAP's needs. The Portland Housing Authority tracks participation and outcomes for the program.

The Ready to Rent program is a part of "Positive Directions".

Refer to attached handout

HIV HOUSING PLAN FOCUS AREA:

Goal #1: Develop a resource inventory of rent readiness training programs and contacts throughout the state. Make the resource guide available to HIV Case Managers.

Goal #2: Pursue rent readiness program opportunities targeting Title II clients.

FOCUS AREA #2: Re-employment Programs

Speaker: Kristin Kane, Cascade AIDS Project, Portland

Kristin Kane presented information on CAP's Ticket to Work Program, which is a part of the Working Choices Program. The Ticket to Work program specifically targets clients who are wanting to return to work but are concerned about losing benefits. Voc Rehab offices administer the program.

Working Choices works with individuals who are ready to take a job, seeking employment or going back to school. This program is a pre-work program and gets participants ready to attend pre-employment program such as MAP (Making a Plan). This program allows 6 participants maximum. MAP supports participants to take a "step" towards their goals.

CAP also offers a Job Club, which provides participants leads on job opportunities. Each quarter CAP brings in speakers to discuss state employment programs, benefits and skills building. Job Club participants range from 2-8 persons. Persons do not have to be at a particular stage of employments or level of competency. Meetings include lunch and support system.

Additionally, CAP educates potential employers and encourages them to hire persons with HIV, provides workplace education on HIV. CAP focuses on large corporations, such as, NIKE and Bank of America.

Barriers:

1. Some clients are afraid to go back to work (i.e. AIDS phobia, disclosure).
2. Some clients do not want to return to work full time.
3. Some clients are unable to return to work because of illness.

See attached handouts.

HIV HOUSING PLAN FOCUS AREA:

Goal #1: Develop a resource inventory of re-employment programs and contacts throughout the state. Make the resource guide available to HIV Case Managers.

Next Task Force Meetings

- October 19, 2005, 1-4 PM (Homelessness & Corrections)
- December 7, 2005, 1-4 PM (Mental Health & Substance Abuse Issue).