

Notes
Regional Resource Connection
Tuesday, November 6, 2007

Present: Kamaal Abudul-Muhaimin, Trina Bartlett, Judy Boykin, Kathy Boylan, Erika Jones, Gale Lucas, and Tammie Murphy

RRC Data Report: The group reviewed the September RRC data, which reflected Berkeley County only. Complete Jefferson And Morgan County data will be available for November.

Kamaal reported that there was less activity in August than in previous months. The largest numbers of referrals were for electric. Housing costs continue to be an issue, and there weren't a lot of "habitual" users.

In reviewing the report, the group asked Kamaal to note when he contacted an agency, but the agency was unable to help, rather than just putting n/a under referrals.

Warming Hands and Hearts: The group tentatively decided that Warming Hands and Hearts will kick off on December 3, when regular LIEAP begins, unless sufficient funds are not available. If not, then WHH will begin in January, when emergency LIEAP kicks in in January. Kathy noted that previously, the biggest demand for WHH assistance has been at the end of February and in the first couple weeks of March.

The group discussed at length the problem of a minimum delivery size of 150 gallons with the cost of oil so high. Trina recommended the Gale define the problem and provide a list of providers, and Trina will ask Jan to identify who could best speak to the providers. The discussion would involve asking providers to lower the number of gallons for deliver. Providers need to be informed that individual clients would not be contacting them to negotiate delivery size. Rather, a representative of the Warming Hands and Hearts Program would do the negotiating.

The group decided the Warming Hands and Hearts dollars will be distributed in the following manner: Berkeley County 50%; Jefferson County 30%; Morgan County 20%.

The Salvation Army has agreed that vouchers can be done onsite so that individuals don't have to go somewhere other than DHHR to receive WHH assistance.

The group also discussed the need to ensure that WHH gets back to initial premise – which is to fill the gap after both LIEAP and other community resources have been tapped.

Common Intake Form: The remainder of the meeting was spent editing the common intake form. Kathy suggested that the RRC pilot it to see how it works before other agencies are asked to use it.