

**Notes**  
**Self Sufficiency Work Group**  
**Monday, February 23, 2009**  
**Shenandoah Community Health Center**  
**10:00 AM**

**Present:** Trina Bartlett, Kathy Boylan, Alonzo Carmichael, Kelly Duncan, Debbie Gillis, Glenda Helman, Becca Montero, Audrey Morris, Esther Murphy, Amy Orndoff, Joan Roach,

**RRC Report:**

**Training Calendar:** Kathy has updated the training calendar (attached)

**Client Contract:** Audrey and Glenda presented the client contract and the group reviewed their suggestions and made some additional ones. They will make recommended changes and bring the changes to the next self sufficiency work group meeting. As part of the discussion, the group noted the need to pursue having HUD applications available at agencies so clients aren't limited to the time frames provided by the housing office.

**RRC Partner Training:** A "training" and review of the memorandum of understanding will be held during the next RRC meeting on Thursday, March 12 at 9:00 AM at Berkeley County DHHR. Agencies that are interested in being an RRC partner are encouraged to attend.

**Funding:** Trina noted that it is her understanding that the RRC needs full time positions in Jefferson and Morgan Counties and those efforts will continue to pursue funding to accomplish this.

**211 Legislation and Public Policy Updates:** Trina reported that legislation to provide federal funding for 211 has been introduced, but the legislation needs support. She will provide the self sufficiency work group with information about the Calling for 211 Act. She noted that we need to get the West Virginia delegation on board as co-sponsors in order to try to move the legislation further.

Trina also provided an update on the HHSC public policy recommendations. The steering committee along with Hannah Geffert is working to address the refund anticipation loan issue. Legislation was drafted last year and introduced in the senate, but the bill never went anywhere. According to one expert, the legislation appeared to be a consumer protection bill but was more protection for those giving refund anticipation loans. The public policy committee will meet again on Thursday at 1:00 at DHHR.

**Transportation Committee:** The transportation committee meeting did not have any outputs because of small turnout.

**Review of Goals:** Trina noted the self sufficiency work group appears to be on target with activities to meet goals.

**New Business:** Trina reported that Jan had passed on information about a mobile tax preparation program in another community. He had suggested employing the local care dealerships in lending vans and using the magnetic signs. Kathy suggested the concept doesn't need to be limited to tax preparation but could be used to provide opportunities for families to sign up for services and to educate them about available services. Trina will put this on the agenda for the next self sufficiency meeting.

The group also discussed the number of TANF recipients who are seeking community service opportunities and the need to build the capacity of the nonprofit community to handle this. Kathy will provide the list of organizations to which clients are referred, and this topic will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

**Announcements:**

- There will be a Christmas Clearinghouse meeting on Thursday, March 5, at 1:00 at Berkeley County DHHR.
- Community Networks and Telamon have both been notified that they have received their HUD funding.
- Emergency LIEAP is now open and will run until April 24. The first week is particularly busy, so clients are encouraged to wait until the first week of March to apply.
- The stimulus package did increase food stamps, but only by about \$14 to \$16 per family.
- Good Shepherd's Potters Bowl has been changed from Saturday, March 7 to Friday, March 6.
- Katie Couric's news team is coming to the Eastern Panhandle to do a story about how the stimulus package will affect a local family.
- The Shining Apples Work Camp will be in the Eastern Panhandle from July 26 – August 1 to conduct home repairs. Telamon is distributing the applications for assistance.
- United Bank is interested in working on financial literacy or other self sufficiency issues by doing some kind of outreach to the community.
- The I and R Center now has an intern from BlueRidge CTC who is working on updating the I&R database.

**Upcoming Meetings:**

- Christmas Clearinghouse: Thursday March 5, 1:00 Berkeley County DHHR
- Next RRC Meeting: Thursday, March 12, 9:00 AM Berkley County DHHR
- Next Transportation Meeting: Thursday, March 12, 11:00 AM Berkeley County DHHR
- Next Self Sufficiency Meeting: Monday, March 16, 10:00 AM Shenandoah Community Health Center
- Quarterly HHSC Meeting: Friday, May 1, 2009