

Notes
Self Sufficiency Work Group
Monday, December 21, 2009

Present: Trina Bartlett, Dale Bradfield, Kathy Bradley, Joan Roach, and Teresa Warnick

Christmas Clearinghouse and RRC: Kathy reported that following RRC numbers from June – November 2009 in the three county area:

Cases: 1,059

Amount requested: \$370,997.04

DHHR Contribution: \$22,984.60

Partner Contribution: \$180,961.30

Client Contribution: \$38,211.66

Total Contribution: \$232,045.49

Cases met non-financially: \$14,347.20

Total unmet: \$78,696.23

Adults served: 1,542

Children served: 1,440

Families: 839

Kathy also reported that Christmas Clearinghouse took 1,978 applications. She will have the numbers by partner for the January meeting. The project this year was more massive than ever, and there were both positives and areas in need of improvement. The most positive aspect was that there were no duplications in the database. The areas for improvement for next year include a better database and the need to have a strategy if we take applications for seniors. 79 people (all seniors) were not served because no one volunteered to provide gifts for seniors. Kathy said these individuals were referred on to the senior center.

Christmas Cash for Kids raised approximately \$15,000 children and were able to nearly double the number of children served as Toys for Tots took nearly 1,000 applications. Christmas Cash for Kids served 713 children. Kathy extended her thanks to City National and Prettyman Broadcasting. She said more people gave smaller amounts this year.

She said that Christmas Clearinghouse needs to be a year round process, and applications need to be submitted earlier next year. As of Monday, there were only 20 bags of gifts that weren't picked up.

Kathy reported that regular LIEAP has ended with a record number of applications. Emergency LIEAP will begin January 11, and Warming Hands and Hearts will also begin in January.

Street Guides: The street guides are ready for distribution. Some were actually folded during the meeting. Please let Teresa Warnick know if you need any. They will also be available at the February quarterly HHSC meeting.

Guide to DHHR Services: Teresa will work with Darcia to put together a simple guide of DHHR services for local organizations. She will have a draft at the January self sufficiency meeting.

Self Sufficiency Trainings for 2010: The group reviewed the workshop enrollment form for 2010. Only minor changes were made, including the availability of Social Work CEUs and the approximate time the workshop will last. Trina will distribute these after the new year.

Work Plan: The group reviewed the 2009 work plan and made a few changes. These included.

- Obtaining funding for the equivalent of three full time RRC Coordinators – one in each county;
- Providing for quarterly training for RRC partners (Separate from the quarterly trainings held after the HHSC quarterly meetings. These meetings will be in place of a monthly RRC meeting.)
- Changing the language regarding the workshops being provided
- Instead of simply supporting volunteer tax preparation, encouraging the use of free tax preparation services;
- Providing the guide of DHHR services to community based organizations.
- Eliminating the objectives about the car repair services
- Adding additional objectives to the Christmas Clearinghouse goal
- Adding a goal about better coordination of food distribution services to avoid duplication.

Other/Announcements: Friends in Action is seeking three eligible families.

The Homeless Point in Time Survey will be conducted from 4:00 PM January 28 to 4:00 PM January 29 in all three counties. The purpose is to try to count all that homeless individuals in our communities during that time. The housing work group needs a volunteer coordinator.

Next Meetings

Self Sufficiency Work Group - Monday, January 25, 2010 10:00 AM Shenandoah Community Health Center

RRC Meeting - Tuesday, January 18. at 9:00 AM at Berkeley County DHHR

HHSC Quarterly Meeting - Friday, February 5, at 9:00 AM at Berkeley County DHHR in Martinsburg.