



Meeting Minutes July 26, 2012

Attendees:

VC= Videoconferencing

Lisa Banks, Oklahoma Department of Human Services
Colleen Bishop, Sunbeam Family Services, OKC
Karla Brown, OSDH Health Equity & Resource Opportunities Division
Ken Bryan, City of OKC
JeVonna Caine, OSDH Community and Family Health Services
Dennie Christian, Garfield County Health Department, Enid (VC)
Cordelia Clapp, Pawnee Tribal Nurse Consultant, Cedar Vale, KS (VC)
Tamyra Cox, Planned Parenthood, OKC
Joani Dotson, Tulsa City County Health Dept. Tulsa (VC)
Mary Dulan, Metro Fair Housing, OKC
Aprille Franks, Think Community
Leslie Gelders, Oklahoma Department of Libraries
Lydia Grun, Metro Fair Housing, OKC
Jeff Hamilton, First Christian Church, OKC
Renetta Harrison, Rogers and Washington County Health Dept. (VC)
Larry Hopper, Oklahoma Alliance for Public Transportation
Amanda Horn, OK. Co. OSU Ext. Office
Hilary Hullinger, OSHD Quality Assurance
Albert Janco, OAA
Keith Kleszynski, United Way
Genie Koen, Woodward County Health Department, Woodward (VC)
David Lee, OSDH Health Equity & Resource Opportunities Division
Cheryl Lively, OSU Ext. (VC)
Richard Marshall, Oklahoma City Housing Authority
Viviana Martinez, Catholic Charities, OKC
Scott Meador, Tulsa City County Health Dept. Tulsa (VC)
Doug Moore, City of Tahlequah
Marisa New, OSDH Health Equity & Resource Opportunities
Barbara Norton, Stephenson Cancer Center, OKC
Gina Peak, OSU Extension Office
Chester Phyffer
Debi Ream, OK DHS, OKC
Dorothy Rhoades, Stephenson Cancer Center, OKC
Diana Romano, OSU Ext. Ok. County, OKC
Connie Schlittler, Ok DHS, OKC
Sandra Schmidt, Rogers and Washington Counties (VC)
Michael Shepherd, ALA, OKC
Melinda Snowden, Ok Health Care Authority, (VC)
Mary Surbeck, Oklahoma City Community Foundation
Leslie Vick, Seminole County Health Dept. (VC)
Betty Weber, OSDH, Pontotoc County (VC)
Sinita Wells, Metro Fair Housing, OKC
Beverli Williams, OSDH, Community Health Service
Pamela Williams, OSDH Office of Communications
Lissa Wohltmann, VA, OKC
Mary Beth Wreen, OSDH Enid (VC)

New Members: Lisa Banks, Karla Brown, JeVonna Caine, Tamyra Cox, Joani Dotson, Aprille Franks, Amanda Horn, Genie Koen, Cheryl Lively, Viviana Martinez, Scott Meador, Doug Moore, Gina Peek, Debi Ream, Dorothy Rhodes, Diana Romano, Sandra Schmidt, Michael Shepherd, Melinda Snowden, Sinita Wells, Mary Beth Wreen
Lissa Wohltmann

Activity: Health Equity Exercise

Thanks again to Jerome Krug and Becky Vanpool for the great health equity demonstration!

The Ins and Outs and RoundABOUTS of Health Literacy in Oklahoma

Thank you to Leslie Gelders for speaking about Oklahoma's very first Health Literacy Summit on September 27, 2012. Registration is available online at <http://www.odl.state.ok.us/literacy/>. The registration fee is \$75 until September 12, \$90 after September 12. Pay by check, payment order, or online using PayPal. Register today!

Affordable Housing Availability: Providing a Foundation for Health in Oklahoma

Greg Jungman gave a great presentation with great information from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development. He spoke about Public Housing Agencies (PHA), as well as the Voucher Program. There were great questions presented to Greg following his presentation.

Questions during and after the presentation included:

Q: Why is there fixed availability and zero growth in Oklahoma? Why is there a hard cap limit on the 13,188 PHA units in Oklahoma?

A: That is just the law that Congress has passed. It potentially could be changed, but Congress would have to pass the law.

Q: Why isn't Oklahoma City taking part in the Hope VI and Choice Neighborhood programs?

A: First you have to have distressed public housing. We don't have anything that would be worth tearing down and rebuilding. There are huge obligations - staff time, developers, and bank interactions.

Q: What about smaller communities

A: They would have to have investors, and small housing cannot attract investors, and the communities cannot afford to take the project on.

Q: We know that projects are hard to sustain because of need for developers. Have we had an increase in developers wanting to get involved?

A: Growth is really in the tax credits, and those are what lead to involvement in the programs.

Q: On the larger map, did that map include the tribal housing, or just the Public Health Agency units?

A: No, we have 38 tribes, each get a low income housing grant. Their program is wide open, they can do what they want with the money as long as it assists low income housing. You would see units in the far northeast and south & south central parts of the state, Anadarko to Chickasha, down to Lawton, but very little in the northwest part of the state.

Q: Knowing we are capped at what's available, and the health issues taking place, what kinds of efforts are going on to increase what's available knowing we have people in need?

A: The secretary of HUD told us we are not focusing on the numbers enough, and that we need concentrate on occupancy rates in public housing. Before the push we were at 96%, we are now at 97%. We are really letting people know that occupying empty units is important. We assisted 300,000 more families this year than we did year before. However, the Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) obtained 185 vouchers for that effort. New vouchers are

specifically for veterans from the VA, and they can obtain voucher assistance. We have about 200-250 vouchers, but we are only using about half because of lack of VA case management.

Q: As far as the working poor and their housing and transportation costs, they receive cheaper housing, but what about transportation to their jobs from the cheaper housing?

A: HUD does not do a good job addressing that, and there is no transportation cost included in assistance. Choice neighborhood grants do look at that, what routes are available, how can we supplement or augment that.

Q: How do you prioritize who gets assisted?

A: That is really up to housing authority. They can create preferences for homelessness, disability, pushing them up higher on the list. The Village at Oakwood is communities for those have transitioned out of a nursing home, and they can live at this residence.

Q. Where do families go while their neighborhoods are being renovated under the Hope VI and Choice Neighborhood programs?

A. Usually families receive vouchers and assistance finding housing.

Announcements

- Please be reviewing the Housing and Health position statement and the policy recommendations. We want a one page, front and back document within the next 2-3 months with a succinct message and policy recommendations.
- Next meeting: Thursday, September 27, 2012.