

**Monroe County Housing Coalition
Emergency Shelter Subcommittee – March 18, 2009**

The Goals of the Monroe County Housing Coalition:

The Monroe County Housing Coalition will have a membership of key stakeholders to:

- Collaboratively identify, prioritize, and address housing gaps with practical solutions
- Engage and assist policymakers in addressing community housing needs
- Create community awareness of housing issues, coalition activities and our impact

Subcommittee Previous Activities

- Associated app for emergency shelter grant
 - Homeless prevention fund
 - Know by end of April
 - 3 agencies \$50K each
 - Emergency shelter: Families First
 - Prevention/Permanent setup: CouleeCap
 - Transitional housing/ Domestic Violence: Brighter Tomorrows
- *Collaboratively identify, prioritize, and address housing gaps with practical solutions*
- Outlined continuum of care
- *Collaboratively identify, prioritize, and address housing gaps with practical solutions*
- Starting to pull together for housing resource directory
- *Create community awareness of housing issues, coalition activities and our impact*
- Considered mentoring 2 homeless families
 - Learned from Catholic Charities (Win-Win Program)
- *Collaboratively identify, prioritize, and address housing gaps with practical solutions*
- Communicating and relationship building
- *Membership of key stakeholders*
- Emergency shelter
 - Moved from idea of physical purchase to more of a service idea
 - Challenge of housing needs for those coming out of correctional system
 - Ex.) sexual offenders
 - Considered a focus on homeless students
 - Legality/age issues
 - Move to a family focus identified with homeless students
- *Collaboratively identify, prioritize, and address housing gaps with practical solutions*

Project Ideas for Next 5 Years

Public Awareness

Homelessness Dinner/Event (like La Crosse)

Publish Housing Resource Guide/Directory

Recognize Homelessness Week

Community Awareness and Support

Community Awareness – articles, newspapers, night events, etc.

Have county and city officials understand there is a homeless problem in Monroe County

Policy on Healthcare

Resource Development

Apply for more grants

Try for more grants with more agencies involved.

Support

Mentoring program for families

Ongoing case management for families once they find housing to prevent homelessness from happening again

Shelter/Housing Options

Homeless Shelter (non-motel)

Emergency shelter for homeless families

Emergency and transitional housing

Meet with policy makers to put up emergency shelter.

Have enough resources to never turn away someone in need of emergency shelter.

Resources in transitional housing

Formal network of faith-based shelters

Housing for those with criminal backgrounds

Data

Gather and maintain homeless statistics and share with community

Defining and categorizing homeless populations – i.e. students, transient, etc.

Serve all populations

Goals

Reduction in number of homeless county residents

Reduce homelessness by 50%

Other

More good low-income housing

Living wage jobs

Action Planning

- **Publish directory**
 - Need to acquire money to publish
 - Could be a tool for mentoring/case management
 - Prevent repeaters
 - Who/Timeline
 - Katy B. and Cathy
 - Develop contact info and service details together by August/September
 - August/September Subcommittee Mtg – generate sponsor ideas to pursue

- **Shelter/Transitional Housing**
 - All populations
 - Pending grant applications
 - Who/Timeline
 - Ongoing discussion of potential opportunities at subcommittee mtgs

- **Make recommendation at MCHC March Meeting**
 - Homelessness event mid-November
 - Where does data conglomeration belong?
 - Statistic gathering
 - Service Pt
 - Coulee Cap Point in Time
 - School district #

- **Mentoring**
 - Salvation Army, Catholic Charities, Interfaith Caregivers (Faith in Action)
 - Explore how to work together to bring mentoring to county
 - Who/Timeline
 - May Subcommittee Meeting
 - Ed invite Salvation Army
 - Kim invite Catholic Charities
 - Cathy invite Faith in Action
 - Program ideas
 - 1 year commitment from volunteers
 - Need structure to support mentors for a year
 - Probably families identified through school district
 - 5 mentors ready to go and trained by January
 - November training