

Great Start Collaborative-Oakland

Basic Needs, Economic Security & Child Safety Subcommittee

Meeting Notes

July 9, 2009
 9:30-11:30 AM
 Oakland County Child Care Council

Attendees: Chandra Jones (Parent), Sherry Scruggs (4C), Leslie Roach (LCFS), Velvet Savage (MDHS-O), Pamela Barckholtz (GSC-O)
 Guest: Angela Thompkins, Legal Aid & Defender

Recap: Chandra Jones provided a recap of previous meetings and a summary of our work to date.

BASIC NEEDS, ECONOMIC SECURITY & CHILD SAFETY Families of infants and young children are economically stable. Infants and young children live in safe families.					
OBJECTIVE/ACTION STEP	RESOURCE NEEDS	ROLES/ RESPONSIBILITIES	TARGET DATES	PROGRESS MEASURES	STATUS
Goal BN/ES/CS1: <i>Increase awareness of available community resources and referral & resource systems.</i>					
Strategy BN/ES/CS1.A: Promote the use of 211.					
Supportive BN/ES/CS1.A.1 - Increase the public awareness of 211.	Outreach Materials Time	GSC-O Staff	9/30/09	Inclusion of 211 materials at every GSC-O event. 12-11-08 Worked on final letter detail. Members can still review letter and offer edits, but letter will be sent by end of month. 1-8-08 Approved final letter to 2-1-1. Letter will be signed by	Ongoing

				Committee Chairperson, Chandra Jones	
Strategy BN/ES/CS1.B: Gain an understanding of the current resource and referral systems (including 211, Oakland Helplink, and other community resource guides) and what community organizations and families are using to access service information.					
Supportive BN/ES/CS1.B.1 - Research the status of Oakland Helplink.	Access to information Time	GSC-O Staff Oakland Schools Staff	1/31/09	A status report will be presented to the subcommittee. Documentation of meeting notes. 6-11-09 Oakland Helplink is being slowly updated and there are plans to link this with the YA Resource Directory. 2-1-1 has also requested access to the Oakland Helplink to update their databases.	Completed
Lead # 2 BN/ES/CS1.B.2 - Research summer lunch programs availability and promote expansion where possible.	Access to information Time	Basic Needs Subcommittee GSC-O Staff Other Potential Partners	1/31/09	Compilation of programs and recommendations for expansion completed and shared with subcommittee and potential partners. 10-9-08 Reviewed questions generated at last meeting. Add: How does a site qualify as a summer lunch program? Can the program be mobile? Can it be other places besides churches or schools 12-11-08 Summer lunch programs sponsored by OLHSA in Pontiac were presented by Jerry Sedick. See notes at end of action agenda. Decision	Completed

				<p>made to focus on further development of these programs immediately so that we can improve Oakland County coverage in 2009.</p> <p>1-8-08 Continued review of feasibility of increased summer lunch programs in Oakland County. Research regarding St. Paul Lutheran in northeast Pontiac reveals this will be a logical site that fulfills a need. Pam will connect Jerry Sedick to representatives of St. Paul and initiate discussions regarding this possible site. We will prioritize outreach to school districts/schools with greater than 50% receiving free and reduced lunches. Each committee member accepted outreach assignments. Summer lunch program manuals have not yet been received but training is planned for April, 2009. We will continue to focus on expansion of this needed program during our next meeting.</p> <p>2-12-09 Reported summer lunch program contacts and frustrations experienced. Set more realistic goal of adding 1</p>	
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				<p>Pontiac site and one other county site this year. Sherea may be able to help us in Royal Oak Township. Will continue to make contacts and promote this program.</p> <p>5-14-09 No report to date regarding any additional sites. Pam will attempt to obtain this information for next meeting</p> <p>6-11-09 As far as we know only 1 Pontiac site has been added. No additional sites are listed on the state website.</p>	
<p>Lead # 6 BN/ES/CS1.B.3 -Convene a workgroup to develop recommendations regarding the feasibility of merging various resource manuals, such as Helplink, OLHSA, Youth Assistance manuals</p>	<p>Access to information Time Agency buy-in and information about how they update their systems</p>	<p>Basic Needs Subcommittee GSC-O Staff Other Potential Partners</p>	<p>1/31/09</p>	<p>Provide recommendations to GSC-O Strategic Leadership.</p> <p>5-14-09 Pam will investigate the status of 2-1-1 and the interest of other parties in the merging of the resource manuals.</p> <p>6-11-09 See 1.B.1. This is being worked on by other groups in the county and region</p>	<p>Completed</p>
<p>Lead # 3 BN/ES/CS1.B.4 - Research community resources in specific townships/municipalities</p>	<p>Access to information Time</p>	<p>Basic Needs Subcommittee GSC-O Staff Other Potential Partners</p>	<p>3/31/09</p>	<p>Communicate with townships/municipalities regarding their resource networks</p>	
<p>Strategy BN/ES/CS1.C: Assist early childhood services and support in connecting their information to the 211 Database.</p>					
<p>Supportive BN/ES/CS1.C.1 - Research the feasibility of</p>	<p>Access to information</p>	<p>211 Basic Needs Subcommittee</p>	<p>6/30/09</p>	<p>Report to Strategic Leadership on the feasibility of a</p>	

developing a mechanism for inclusion in a separate resource database for those resources that do not meet criteria for inclusion in 211.	Time	GSC-O Staff Other Potential Partners		mechanism for inclusion in a resource database those resources that do not meet criteria for inclusion in 211.	
Lead # 7 BN/ES/CS1.C.2 -Assist ineligible resources with becoming eligible for inclusion in 211.	Access to information Time	211 Basic Needs Subcommittee GSC-O Staff Other Potential Partners	9/30/09	Will provide guidance to ineligible resources that are identified during a two month period of the calendar year.	
Goal BN/ES/CS2: <i>Raise awareness of the need for more low income, subsidized, affordable, safe housing and advocate for additional affordable housing resources for families with young children.</i>					
Strategy BN/ES/CS2.A: Connect to other collaborative groups with housing goals.					
Lead # 1 BN/ES/CS2.A.1 -Identify and designate one Great Start member to represent the 0-5 population on the OCTH.	Access to information Time	OCTH Basic Needs Subcommittee GSC-O Staff Other Potential Partners	12/31/08	One GSC-O member will represent the 0-5 population on the OCTH. 10-9-08 Pam has meeting scheduled with OCTH chairperson 1-8-08 Pam has met with OCTH and will continue to gather information regarding housing systems in Oakland County 2-12-09 Pam made contact with Regional Housing group. Will provide regional plan. 5- 5-14-09 Pam has requested information about their quarterly meetings and will attend.	
Lead # 9 BN/ES/CS2.A.2 -Work to understand the subsidized housing system and what is required to	Access to information Time	OCTH Basic Needs Subcommittee GSC-O Staff	9/30/09	Invite OCTH to participate in our meetings 10-9-08 Reviewed questions	

<p>increase the Section 8 vouchers in Oakland County</p>		<p>Other Potential Partners</p>		<p>generated for Housing Commission Visitor. Added: How is it determined where a housing commission is located? Do the housing commissions work with banks and foreclosures to assist with housing needs? 12-11-08 Decision made to hold our work on this issue until after we have worked on the Summer Lunch Program 6-11-09 See notes at end of Action Agenda</p>	
<p>Lead # 10 BN/ES/CS2.A.3 - Research the legislative and regulatory guidelines for subsidized housing in Oakland County</p>	<p>Access to information Time</p>	<p>MHSDA staff Basic Needs Subcommittee GSC-O Staff Other Potential Partners</p>	<p>9/30/09</p>	<p>Meet with MHSDA to discuss 5-14-09 Efforts to connect with Pontiac Housing Commission representatives have been frustrating and have failed to date. Speaker expected for April meeting unable to attend. Unable to contact for May meeting. Pam will attend Pontiac Housing Commission meeting on the 3rd Wednesday of May, 5:30 PM and attempt to engage this group so that we can be of assistance to them if possible. 6-11-09 See notes at end of Action Agenda 7-9-09 See notes at end of Action Agenda regarding Fair</p>	

				Housing Presentation	
Goal BN/ES/CS3: <i>Raise awareness of the need for more transportation resources for very low income families with young children.</i>					
Strategy BN/ES/CS3.A: Understand what other groups are doing to address this need.					
Lead # 8 BN/ES/CS3.A.1 - Understand the transportation issues that 2-1-1 has encountered in Oakland County	Access to information Time	Basic Needs Subcommittee GSC-O Staff 2-1-1 Staff	3/31/09	Request 2-1-1 report on feedback received regarding transportation 5-14-09 Pam will request report	
Lead # 4 BN/ES/CS3.A.2 - Understand transportation issues with GSC-O partners	Access to information Time	Basic Needs Subcommittee GSC-O Staff GSC-O Partners	6/31/09	Meet with partners to discuss transportation issues and determine next steps	
Lead # 5 BN/ES/CS3.A.3 -Develop a research plan to better understand what others are doing to help Oakland County with transportation issues.	Access to information Time	Basic Needs Subcommittee GSC-O Staff Other Potential Partners	9/30/09	A report of what others are doing to help Oakland County with transportation issues will be available to Strategic Leadership. 10-9-08 Considered Survey Monkey questions generated last meeting. Added: Do you know of other transportation resources? What are they? Do you refer clients to services close to their homes? Is transportation considered for any referral? Have you had out of county transportation issues? Do you have estimates of how many miss appointments because of transportation issues? Do you know of school opportunities lost because of lack of transportation?	

				<p>5-14-09 Reviewed the transportation questions developed to date and added the following: Have you tried to use the SMART system? If so, does SMART work for you? Are you aware of the Red Cross transportation services? Do you know DHS will help with car repairs, car acquisition, etc? Are you aware of the MDCH MIHP provider website? Pam will put these questions together into a survey monkey and get ready to e-blast them soon. We hope for results to review at next meeting.</p> <p>6-11-09 Reviewed Transportation Survey. Pam will attend TA for HSCC that will include some other transportation initiatives and will seek additional ideas for the survey from those efforts.</p> <p>7-9-09 Finalized Transportation Survey. Will wait to allow members to add a question regarding housing and transportation. Results will hopefully be reviewed next meeting.</p>	
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Summary notes of presentation of Angela Thompkins, representing Legal Aid & Defender Fair Housing Unit (part of Civil Unit)

Completion of Fair Housing Rental Quiz by committee members. From this we learned that the following issues are protected by fair housing laws: sex, religion, presence of dependent children, color, marital status, age (exception for Seniors), race, national origin, disabled status. Issues that are not protected include pets, amount of income, sexual orientation, source of income, student status, or height/weight issues. However, when a non-protected issue is raised, LADA looks to see if some other protections have been violated.

The first federal law that made it unlawful to discriminate based on race for rental or the selling of housing was passed in 1866, to protect Italian immigrants. Studies in 1977 and again in 1989 confirmed that African American home seekers are provided less favorable information and/or treatment than white home seekers in 50% of the tests.

LADA conducts random survey testing. Steering toward a certain area, away from a unit, etc. has skyrocketed with the economic downturn.

Landlord/rental agents unlawfully discriminate against some homeseekers by being discourteous, stating that a person cannot obtain desired housing for a clearly unlawful reason, stating that a person is not qualified to rent when they are, losing or not forwarding an application, not returning phone calls, giving false information on the date of availability, giving false information about the length of a waiting list, quickly finding someone else to rent the unit to, giving false information about rental related issues or terms and conditions of rental unit, closing the office or not answering the door, encouraging the applicant to consider housing elsewhere.

Sometimes LADA finds that a practice is discriminatory although the written policy is not. This is unlawful. (considered neutral on its face in legal arena)

Real estate agents sometimes steer customers toward a certain area and that's unlawful if the consumer didn't ask for this. The consumer can ask any question of the agent and expect an answer. For example, if a consumer initiates a discussion about diversity, the agent has a duty and responsibility to answer honestly and to research if he/she doesn't know. Agents can be asked to research any issue by a consumer.

Reasonable accommodations include asking for rent to be paid at a later date after SSD, SSI, or SS check is received.

The rule about 2 heartbeats per bedroom does not meet fair housing standards. However, there may be local ordinances that allow this to be regulated.

Committee would like to educate and outreach to parents as much as possible to empower them to advocate for their rights. Committee would also like to assist LADA in their search for testers of young family situations.

Poverty Reduction

No updates

Year 3 Action Agenda Ideas

Committee would like to do something concrete, such as housing brochures, etc---something smaller than the Parenting Resource manual but something that can be distributed to families at GSC-O events. Would like to get survivors to tell about using the resources---what works and what does not work.

Pam reminded members to continue to think of ideas that could be included in our Year Three Action Agenda. Transportation survey results should be available next meeting.

Next Meeting: August 13, 2009, 9:30-11:30 AM, Oakland County Child Care Council.