

Western Massachusetts Network to End Homelessness Structure
Presentation to Leadership Council
April 27 2011

Introduction: as sanctioned by the Leadership Council on January 27th, the roles and responsibilities at all levels within the Network structure have been under review in order to inform and guide its governance, priorities and goals for the upcoming year(s). The charge at the last meeting was to review our structure in 3 categories: Leadership, Management, Operations.

Embracing our Mission Statement and Purposes:

The Network creates collaborative and innovative solutions to end homelessness through a housing first approach that prioritizes prevention, rapid re-housing and housing stabilization.

The purposes of the Network are:

- 1) To implement, through an open and inclusive process that values the diversity of our community, a regional system that strives to end family and individual homelessness through the provision of adequate housing and support services focused on the maintenance of housing; through prevention, diversion and rapid rehousing strategies; and through stabilization of at-risk households with community and consumer supports and economic and educational opportunity.
- 2) To create and maintain institutional, community and government support for systemic approaches that are evidence-based and are directed toward reducing and ending homelessness.
- 3) To use data and performance measurement tools to evaluate and improve our regional systemic and programmatic responses to homelessness.
- 4) To seek out and be responsive to guidance from people who are at-risk of, are experiencing, or have experienced homelessness.
- 5) To mobilize new partners to assist in our mission to end family and individual homelessness.

Governance Committee meetings February 17, 28; March 14; April 8

Members:

David Gadaire
Peg Keller
Charlie Knight
Andrea Miller
Suzanne Smith (withdrew March 14)
Liz Sullivan
Lynne Wallace

Steering Committee Strategic Planning Sessions March 31 and April 12

William Messner, Facilitator

Participants:

Fr. Stan Aksamit
Jane Banks
Dave Christopolis
Sylvia de Haas-Phillips
David Gadaire
Joanne Glier
Peg Keller
Charlie Knight
Gerry McCafferty
Andrea Miller
Pamela Schwarz
Suzanne Smith
Liz Sullivan
Lynne Wallace

Steering Committee update March 3: consensus to meet for facilitated planning/review

Insert April 2011 Network Structure: Improved focus, improved decision-making & Overlapping Spheres of Influence

Priority recommendations:

➤ *WMNEH function and role:*

- Capacity builder
- Advocacy
- Catalyst for systems change
- Convene and facilitate regional collaboration
- Influence public policy
- Ongoing evaluation and planning to meet mission

➤ *Funding:*

- Network will not pursue funding to provide services, rather will support funding availability through strategic prioritization:
 - Gap identification
 - Identify resources
 - Convene collaborations to secure resources
 - *Exception:* should a funding source (i.e., ICHH or other) require that funding be directed through Network to providers
- Network will seek funding to support infrastructure and staffing
- Support funding availability (i.e., letters of support) to decrease evictions, demand for shelter and increase housing opportunities

➤ *Ensure representation of geographically, socially, economically, and functionally diverse voices throughout the Network structure and committees taking into account:*

- Geographic parity, including representation from underserved areas (Berkshire, Franklin Counties) and decision-making that includes geographically-based criteria
- Diversity, including the voices of persons of color, young leaders, providers, faith-based, education, etc.
- Involvement by those most impacted, i.e., persons with a history of homelessness

➤ *Steering Committee Composition*

The composition of the Steering Committee shall not exceed fifteen voting members and will include:

1. Chair, Leadership Council
2. Vice Chair, Leadership Council
3. Conveners of the three Continua of Care (CoC's)
4. Chair, Western Mass. Interagency Council (WMIC)
5. Homeless or formerly homeless individual representative
6. Homeless or formerly homeless family representative
7. Chair/Co Chair or Committee representative from each Network committee

8. Non-voting members: Director of Regional Coordination, Regional Analyst and Fiscal Sponsor representative

The Steering Committee will be chaired by the Chair of the Leadership Council

➤ **Next Steps:** in order to act upon our priorities within the Network, it is necessary to continue to review the following:

Leadership Council:

- Orientation and recruitment of Leadership Council members
- Responsibilities for Chair, Vice Chair, creation of Secretary and Treasurer positions
- Resource Development: fundraising, fund development
- Public policy / advocacy

Steering Committee:

- Tasks and responsibilities for Director of Regional Coordination and Regional Analyst
- Establishment of Community / Consumer Advisory Board
- Staff hiring, supervision and performance evaluation processes
- Committees addressing functional and programmatic needs of the Network, determine composition, chairs
- Determine governance need for by-laws / charters, policy, procedure and practices

Management Committee:

- Composition of Management Committee and definition / delineation of duties