



# HSC Updates

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3rd Quarter Updates

April 2008

## Point in Time Count

The Homeless Services Coalition conducted their annual Point in Time count on January 30, 2008. HSC staff visited the Hope Faith and Kansas City Community Kitchen, passing out as many surveys as possible.

All homeless service/housing provision agencies were given a chart to fill out to make the process faster and easier. We would like to thank all of the agencies who participated in the count this year and hope that more agencies will be

willing to take part in this count next year!

Results for this count will be published once all agencies have turned in their information. If your agency participated in the count this year and have not turned in your information, please do so.

This count is done in coordination with the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development. All states participate in this count. This information is used in the application our

Continuum of Care (CoC) submits and is also used for research purposes.

Last year, HSC also conducted a summer count to compare the numbers from the January count. This count was done in July of 2007. The CoC has not yet decided if a summer count will take place this year.

Information from past counts may be found on our website:

<http://www.hscgkc.org>



Mohart Multipurpose

Center

3200 Wayne, Suite 209

Kansas City, MO 64109

816.924.7997

[www.hscgkc.org](http://www.hscgkc.org)

## Joe's Farewell

With my time here at the Coalition I have organized information for several charts. The first is a city comparison chart which is looking at similarly sized cities throughout the U.S. and their Continuum of Care programs and funding trends. The second is the beginning of a large project called "Living in the Shadows" which will provide an in-depth look at the number of homeless in the Kansas City metropolitan. The information I am organizing is the client and financial stats from Continuum of Care programs. With a solid base of the CoC

programs finances, the project will move into best practices, examination of existing services, and characteristics of homelessness.

I have also organized a legislative handout that is looking at bills revolving around homelessness as defined by the National Coalition to End Homelessness. I participated in critiquing the Emergency Shelter Grants submitted to the city. Also, I participated in advocacy efforts for the Missouri Housing Trust Fund and spoke to legislators about increasing this fund which

provides foreclosure/eviction assistance and home repair.

I have enjoyed my time here at the Homeless Services Coalition and have learned a great deal about the managing of a mezzo and macro level organization. The experience gained will help guide me through the real world as I graduate in May.



## Did You Know?

- ...that our Continuum of Care received 7.5 million dollars in funding for our homeless programs in the 2007 application.
- ...that there are only 33 agencies that are members of the while there are more than 80 agencies that participate in Homeless Services Coalition.

## A Letter from the Board

### HSC Membership Meetings

#### January

2008 Point-in-Time; HSC's Transitional Housing Guidebook!

#### February

Youth Programs Panel

#### March

2 New Services:  
Christine Parrish, KC Medicine Cabinet ; Janeen deVries and Charley German, KCMBA

Membership of the Board is almost at capacity and what strikes me as unacceptable is the board's failure to initiate a meeting and dialogue with the membership. That will soon be corrected because a priority of this board is to have regular dialogues with membership agencies. It is important that the board and membership be in mutual agreement concerning strategic plans so when HSC completes its strategic plan a consensus will have been reached.

Advocacy will be a strategic goal and a recent case in point was the opposing views over the City budget with the Mayor and some Council people considering closing or privatizing the City Jail. The City Jail houses a high percentage of homeless, mentally ill, drug and alcohol challenged inmates and could be described as the second largest

behavioral health facility in the region. It could be argued that any disruption of rehabilitative services would negatively impact this vulnerable population. The board initiated a letter writing, e-mail campaign to the Mayor, City Council, City Manager and the Kansas City Star and meetings with some Council members to prevent this action. Numerous other organizations and individuals joined the effort and the city Jail was saved.

This is only one example of what can be achieved for the organizations belonging to the Homeless Services Coalition. You will hear from the board soon, so please begin thinking of suggestions for how we can work together.

*Anne Lesser,  
Board Chair*

## Cynthia in D.C.

Cynthia Larcom, HSC's Executive Director had the opportunity to conduct Advocacy visits during her March trip to Washington DC.

HSC has public education and advocacy as a high priority. In order to meet this goal, it is vital that the metropolitan legislative contingent be aware of legislative issues that impact homelessness.

As the appropriations cycle began, it was vital that our representatives in Washington have a clear understanding of how their fiscal decisions will impact the direct service agencies are able to

provide.

This was an opportunity to visit with staff from Rep. Moore, Rep. Cleaver, Senator McCaskill and Senator Bond's offices making certain they have current statistics regarding homelessness in the metro area; as well as ensuring they are aware of the various legislative issues before them that impact homelessness and homeless prevention.

Legislators understanding of the direct impact policy has on client services is critical — small changes can have dramatic impacts on funding levels and the ability to serve various populations.



Joe passing out surveys to clients at Kansas City Community Kitchen for the Point in Time count

## City Comparison

The City Comparison Chart looks at similarly sized cities throughout the U.S. and their Continuum of Care (CoC) programs and funding trends. The goal is to analyze general revenue funds going directly towards housing and homeless services compared to Kansas City.

The cities selected for this chart were decided based on who the Kansas City's Mayor's Office considers comparable cities primarily based on population size. The cities include Arlington/Fort

Worth, TX; Houston, TX; San Antonio, TX; Dallas, TX; Indianapolis, IN; St. Louis, MO; Denver, CO; Minneapolis, MN; Oklahoma City, OK; Tulsa, OK; Des Moines, IA; and Wichita, KS.

Thus far in the project, all the CoC data has been collected except for the city and county of St. Louis'. The next phase includes analyzing the CoC dollars compared to total number of homeless individuals and families served.