

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

HARRISON COUNTY 2030

Social Services Stakeholder Meeting

March 17, 2008 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Southern Mississippi Planning and Development District

Who:

Dr. Jennifer Evans-Cowley, The Ohio State University,
Christine Godward, Columbus Public Health,
Amber Cackler, The Ohio State University
Alicia Jackson, The Ohio State University
Amy Miller, The Ohio State University

**Dena Wittmann, PhD, Community
Empowerment
Back Bay Mission**

**Gaye Cosey, Area Social Work Supervisor
Division of Family and Children Services
Harrison County DHS**

**Amanda Breckenridge, Executive Director
South Mississippi AIDS Task Force**

**Malena Hamilton, Counselor
Office of Vocational Rehab. for the Blind**

**Kathy McDonald, LMSW, CRC, District
Manager
Office of Vocational Rehabilitation**

**Charlotte Newman, MSW, LCMHT, Case
Management Coordinator
Community Support**

**Deborah Colby, MEd., R.D, Executive Director
Gulf Coast Health Educators**

Key Services provided by each organization:

What are the current services being offered for the vulnerable populations?

Southern Mississippi AIDS Task Force

- Food pantry
- Free HIV testing
- Direct client services (depending on funding)
 - Rental
 - Mortgage
 - Utility assistance
 - Medication Assistance
 - Mental Health
 - Recreation Therapy
 - Substance Abuse Treatment

- Support Groups
 - Infected/Affected
 - Women
 - Mixed
 - Referral to 34 other agencies
- HIV/AIDS hotline
- Prevention Education
- Transitional Living Facility (funding by HUD)
 - Part of building
 - Biloxi Mall, Edgewater
 - Serves 8 people
- Future HUD Impact
 - End homelessness by 2012
 - Increase funding for housing
 - Decrease service money
- Case management
 - Kids
- 24 hour, 7 day a week hotline

Gulf Coast Mental Health Center

- Services 4 counties: Harrison, Hancock, Pearl River and Stone
- Medical Monitoring
- Psych Unit
- Group Homes
- Outpatient/individual therapy
- DNA treatment (inpatient/outpatient)
 - Groups
 - Outpatient/Inpatient
- Up to 2 years at the facility
- School based therapy for children
- Psycho-social program for chronically mentally ill
 - Day program for chronically ill
 - 24 hour crisis line
 - Walk-in crisis – during the noon hour
- EAP program through counseling center (by Edgewater Mall)
 - Counseling
- Case Management
 - 2 group homes
 - Harrison (Gulfport High School, Female only)
 - Hancock County (Storm hit, across the bridge, Male only)
- Work Activity Program

- MRDD population work, meaningful, assembly line, packaging (continuum)
 - Harrison County (Milner Stadium)
- Treatment based

Department of Rehabilitation and Vocational Rehabilitation

- Maintain employment or obtain
- Industrial parkway
- Disability to go to work
- Evaluation of vocational abilities
 - Job skills training
 - Academic training
 - Vocational training
 - Counseling
- Education going to college (identifying skills and abilities most appropriate)
 - Very individualized/specialized
- Financial assistance for those needing surgery
 - Prosthetics
- Home and van modifications
- Job site modifications
- Job placement assistance
- Specialized counselors (blind, deaf: Malena)
 - Supported employment
 - Sign language interpreter (staff)
- Supportive employment: cognitively impaired (ability works)

Office of Specialized Disabilities

- TDI
- Spinal cord injuries, etc: not able to work
- Attendant care services
- Home and vehicle modifications
- Most require Medicaid waiver

Vocational Side

- Addie McBride Center (REACH)
- 2 major total adjustment facilities
 - Blind or visually impaired
 - Activities of daily living (clean, cook, diet management, dorm, meet with counselors)
 - Population who need to learn to become independent (diabetes linked)
 - Addie McBride in Jackson
 - Orientation assistance
- Meet with counselors daily

- Newly visually impaired
- Highest rate of diabetic myopathy
- Literate teacher
 - Orient them to their home and workplace
- Would look at sight dogs as needed
 - Eligibility base
 - Process
- Case Management
- 2/3 way treatment for alcohol and drugs

Gulf Coast Health Educators

- Services Harrison, Jackson and Hancock
- Weight management, diabetes management
- Individual counseling
- Volunteers to interpret for Hispanics
- Interpreters for Vietnamese
- Clients of all ages
- Credentialed educators/volunteers
- Group presentations
- Clients: children to seniors
- Weight management – individually
- The organization is a year old
- Materials suited to all ages and levels
 - Food Models
 - Diabetes conversation map
 - Healthy eating piece pattern management
 - Helps with illiterate population
- Individual needs met with on a one to one basis
 - Examples: Silliac disease, Congestive heart failure
- Health issues not always covered by insurance
 - Covers diabetes only
 - Medicaid does not cover
 - Sliding scale fee based on household income
 - Financial health
 - Service fee: \$60 per hour for 1 hour of individual service
 - \$140 class fee for 4 hours
- Education based on maps/stages
 - General way eating
 - Healthy eating
 - Know how to eat
 - 1 month more education

- Pattern management
- Heart Health
 - Eat and physical activity
 - 3 months
 - Active and chronic
 - Lifestyle change
 - Self or doctor referred
 - Labs done
 - A1C
 - Finger Stick Cholesterol
- Monitoring
- Outcome
- Referral to Coastal Family Health
- Grant from MSDH: health disparities
 - 3 traditional grant
- Month of April
 - Power to end stroke
- Diabetes Grant
 - Received 2 year grant for Diabetes and Heart Health
 - 10-week program
- Weight Management
 - 58 million with pre-diabetes
 - Kids in the future: 1/3 with diabetes
- Offices
 - Pass Christian office
 - Various Harrison County locations

Backley Mission in Biloxi

- Serves the poor and marginalized
- Established in 1922 by the United Church of Christ
- 40-year old housing and rehab program
 - Historically: elderly and disabled
 - Code violations with the city
 - Work Campers
 - Come almost every week of the year
 - Rehab, unskilled and semi-skilled labor
 - Property up to code
 - Residents live in their home
 - Since Katrina
 - Major rehab and rebuilds
 - CDBG (3 new builds)

- Biloxi and Gulfport (Community Development)
- Emergency Assistance Program
 - 2 social workers
 - Food pantry, clothes closet
 - Prescription medication assistance (our Lady of Atama)
 - Purchase a portion and certain types
 - Transportation (CTA and Greyhound)
- Serves all 3 counties (lower counties)
 - Come from anywhere
 - Not required a FEMA number

Division of Human Services: Department of Abused and Neglected Children and Families

- Child welfare
- Adult protective services
- Direct service delivery
- Works with abused and neglected
- Use referral process
- Region 7
 - 1/3 of children in system are in Region 7
- WIC
 - Medicaid to get it
- Nothing for therapeutic
- Have to have a diagnosis
- Nearest facility to foster children in Alabama
- Foster care: people not opening their homes
- Less services than pre-Katrina
- Resource Manual not renewed

Barriers:

What are the greatest barriers for these populations to live independently?

- Can find employment but no transit
- “Donut hole” elderly on Medicare (financial limitations)
- Financial limitations
 - Cost of living increasing
- Gap in medical care (i.e. surgery, hysterectomy)
- Housing affordability (almost non-existent)
- Insurance
- Affordable rentals (biggest need)
 - Cities slow in rebuilding
- Barrier to living wage (service sector jobs)
- Food access

- Lack of technology skills for elderly (job application)
 - Lack of technology to navigate Medicare (phone and computer)
- Grandparents still in the workforce
 - Problem trying to place children
- Post-Katrina bureaucracy for homeowners
 - State programs (no phone numbers)

Needs:

What needs, including new or gaps in services should be provided for the vulnerable populations?

- Transportation (work services)
 - CTA: ADA curbside is not efficient
 - Alternatives (Ride sharing, community networking, disability vans to pick up people to go to work)
 - Exurban development
- Walk ability
 - Sidewalks
- Housing insurance
 - Rental
 - Wind damage
- Alternative housing (FEMA trailers)
- Sewage systems
 - Outdated, not give permits (above I-10)
 - Can't place children in homes with failing systems
- FEMA trailers (private citizens bought)
 - People have health issues
- Affordable healthy food
 - Cost, lack of options
 - Children eating all meals at McDonald's
- Co-op with farmers
- People don't know where to go
 - One location
 - Multi-resource location
 - Medication
- Info of yellow pages
- Referral System
 - Coordinate resources
- Cluster services (one site)
 - Churches used to do this
 - One day and time for medication and food services
- Lack of homeless shelters
 - Families: need for traditional families, large families

- Age requirement of children
- Disabled
 - Great need Katrina, transient increasing
- Lack of data
 - Need to work with school systems, schools required to track students who do not have address
 - Safe, sanitary and secure = housing
- Incorporating law enforcement
- “Couch hopping individuals” lost in the cracks
 - Identification system
- FEMA trailers closing and transitioning the population

Opportunities:

How would these programs be implemented?

- Everyone going after the same pool of money
- Mississippi Foundation money dwindling
- Access to large sum of money and resources
- National campaign of the need for help (marketing and branding)
- Grassroots networking, barter services, coordinate services
 - Churches, public and private partnerships (time is now)
 - Businesses
- Resource center
- Wal-Mart: Community involvement or Sam’s Club
 - Kiosk space (educational materials)
- Mississippi Center for Non-profits involvement
 - Education: grant writing
- Community involvement of businesses
 - Donate money and services
 - Example: green projects
- Gulf Coast Community Foundation
- Lack of operating funding, need for operations, support services

Christine Godward thanked participants for attending the meeting. The Healthy Communities Team will send contact information and notes from the meeting in the near future. The meeting adjourned at 3 p.m.