

**REPORT OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ON THE**

**PROGRESS REPORT ON THE
VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF
HOUSING AND COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT'S TRAINING
INITIATIVE**

**TO THE GOVERNOR AND
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF VIRGINIA**



HOUSE DOCUMENT NO. 20

**COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
RICHMOND
1998**



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

George Allen
Governor

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Robert J. Stolle
Secretary of
Commerce and Trade
Warren C. Smith
Director

November 25, 1997

TO: The Honorable George F. Allen, Governor of Virginia

and

Members of the Virginia General Assembly

The 1997 General Assembly, through House Joint Resolution 487, requested that the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development "be requested to provide training on collaborative approaches to serve the homeless and to make this training available to all its emergency shelter grantees".

Enclosed for your review and consideration is the report which has been prepared in response to this request.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. C. Smith".

Warren C. Smith

**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 487
PROGRESS REPORT ON
THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT'S TRAINING INITIATIVE**

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I. Authority for Report

The 1997 General Assembly enacted House Joint Resolution No, 487 which provides that, “the Department [of Housing and Community Development] shall submit a progress report on its training initiative to the Commission on Youth by November 30, 1997, and to the Governor and the 1998 Session of the General Assembly as provided in the procedures of the Division of Legislative Automated Systems for the processing of legislative documents.”

II. Executive Summary

In fiscal year 1997, the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development offered two training sessions focused on collaboration and cooperation for nonprofit and local government providers of shelter or services to the homeless through its Division of Housing. Flyers announcing the training sessions were disseminated to all providers of shelter or services who receive funding through the Department and to all other known providers in the Commonwealth.

The Department will offer another session focused on collaboration and cooperation to meet the needs of the homeless at the 1997 Governor's Conference on Housing. A workshop concerning data collection and reporting, with a concentration on centralized intake of homeless persons seeking shelter and services and computer software programs for that purpose, is planned for the Summer of 1998.

The Department will facilitate the development of a Statewide Continuum of Care Plan through the compilation of regional Continuum of Care Plans, organized on a Planning District basis. Southwest Virginia will be the focus of the Department's initial efforts to facilitate the development of a regional Continuum of Care Plan. Subsequently the preparation of other regional Plans will be facilitated by the Department.

III. BACKGROUND

In 1996, House Joint Resolution No. 181 directed the Virginia Commission on Youth and the Virginia Housing Study Commission to study issues affecting homeless children in the Commonwealth. One of the charges of the study resolution was to examine barriers to comprehensive service delivery to these children. The study identified a number of causes of child homelessness, demonstrating the need for comprehensive service delivery to effectively intervene in the lives of homeless families and children. In addition, the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development requires Consolidated Planning and Continuum of Care planning from jurisdictions and shelter and service providers applying for federal funding to assist the homeless.

The House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, requested the Department to provide training on collaborative approaches to serve the homeless and to make this training available to all its emergency shelter grantees. The Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development has a training institute, the Housing Training Center, that provides training on a variety of subjects to nonprofit organizations, for-profit organizations, and local governments. The Housing Training Center was used as the vehicle for offering training to nonprofit and local government providers of emergency shelter and transitional housing for the homeless in the Commonwealth. The Division of Housing's Shelter and Supportive Services unit was given the responsibility to design and present the training sessions.

A collaborative approach to meeting the shelter and service needs of homeless persons and families includes a centralized intake system which is designed to refer homeless persons to shelters with available bed space and to the appropriate service providers. A well-designed system coordinates the needs of the homeless with the available resources, avoiding duplication of services and making it possible for homeless persons to call or visit one facility to arrange the shelter and services they require. All shelter and service providers in a jurisdiction or region should fully participate for such an approach to be effective.

A Continuum of Care Plan identifies housing and service needs for the homeless population and facilitates a coordinated and comprehensive community-based response to the needs of homeless persons and families. The Plan must determine the winter shelter, emergency shelter, transitional housing, permanent housing and service resources present in the jurisdiction or region, the housing and shelter resources needed, and the gap between those available and those needed. Nonprofit and local government shelter and service providers, housing developers, lenders, private industry, and others concerned with the needs of the homeless should participate in the development and implementation of the Plan.

IV. TRAINING OFFERED IN FISCAL YEAR 1997

Two workshops addressing the need for collaboration and cooperation among those concerned with the housing and service needs of homeless persons were presented in fiscal year 1997.

The first workshop, "Development of a Local or Regional Continuum of Care Plan", was held on April 10, 1997. A Continuum of Care Plan identifies housing and service needs for the homeless population and facilitates a coordinated and comprehensive community-based response to the needs of homeless persons and families. Twenty-seven persons registered for the workshop. This workshop was designed to provide quality technical assistance on the development of a Plan and to give participants the benefit of the experience of others in identifying and dealing with the barriers to collaboration they had encountered, from both regional and urban perspectives. Speakers included John Baker, Homeless Services Coordinator, Virginia State Office, United States Department of Housing and Urban Development; Gary Christie, Executive Director, Rappahannock-Rapidan Planning District Commission; and Les White, Housing Development Administrator, City of Virginia Beach.

Mr. Baker is involved with the Continuum of Care competitive funding and is the Division of Community Planning and Development's expert on the development of comprehensive Continuum of Care Plans.

Mr. Christie became involved in developing a regional Continuum of Care Plan in response to the interest of two shelter providers, Samuel Aitken, Culpeper Community Development Corporation, and Bruce Jamison, Fauquier Family Shelter Services. These two organizations submitted a successful application for the SHARE Homeless Intervention Program's competitive funding round, serving Planning District 9. This productive effort demonstrated the need for collaborative approaches among all shelter and service providers in the Planning District.

Mr. White was instrumental in the development of the City of Virginia Beach's Consolidated Plan and its Continuum of Care Plan. He was able to bring an urban perspective to the workshop, as well as identifying barriers to collaboration encountered in the production of a successful, comprehensive, Continuum of Care Plan.

The second workshop, "Integrated Systems and Collaborative Approaches to Serve the Homeless", held on June 19, 1997, was attended by fifty persons. This workshop was designed to showcase model programs for centralized intake of homeless persons and coordinated service delivery. Speakers included Peg Reese, Executive Director, UNITY for the Homeless, New Orleans, Louisiana; Anne Davis, Executive Director, HomeBase of the Virginia Peninsula, Hampton; and Joe Speidel, Virginia Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation, and Substance Abuse Services.

Ms. Reese's organization was created after a three-year community-wide strategic planning process. UNITY for the Homeless is a clearinghouse agency set up to track the needs and resources available to the homeless in New Orleans. This organization has received national recognition.

Ms. Davis' organization provides crisis intervention, shelter screening and placement, and service integration to address the multiple needs of homeless persons and families. This integrated service system promotes interagency collaboration and coordination and makes the most appropriate and effective use of available resources.

Mr. Speidel administers the ACCESS program. This federally funded program offers centralized intake of homeless persons who have a disability including serious mental illness, substance abuse disorder, or HIV/AIDS. Using an intensive case management model, the program coordinates services such as outreach, housing, mental health and substance abuse treatment, health care, and vocational and legal assistance.

V. TRAINING IN FISCAL YEAR 1998

At the 1997 Governor's Conference on Housing to be held on November 23-25, 1997, the Department will again offer a session focusing on collaborative approaches toward serving the homeless. The session is designed to showcase a model program for centralized intake and coordination of services and models of local government response to the need for such coordination. This workshop will concentrate on integrated systems and collaborative approaches. Speakers will include Anne Davis, Executive Director, HomeBase of the Virginia Peninsula, Hampton; Donna Spangler-Norvelle, Human Development Coordinator, City of Roanoke; Dale Matusevich, Homeless Youth Coordinator, Villa Heights Education Center, Roanoke, Virginia; and Dale Johnson-Raney, ACCESS Services Program Manager, Richmond Behavioral Health Authority.

Ms. Davis will present centralized intake methods and coordination of services and resources. Ms. Spangler-Norvelle and Mr. Matusevich are members of the City Manager's Commission on Homelessness in the City of Roanoke and will speak about an integrated systems approach to meeting all the shelter and service needs of the homeless. Ms. Johnson-Raney will represent the City of Richmond Task Force on Homelessness' efforts to replicate models for centralized intake. The moderator for this session will be Joseph K. Aversano, Director, Community Planning and Development Division, Virginia State Office, United States Department of Housing and Urban Development. This Division is responsible for administering federal funding for the homeless.

In the Summer of 1998, the Department plans to offer a workshop dedicated to data collection, including centralized intake methods, and generating reports of pertinent information regarding the homeless from the data collected. Representatives of the Prince William County Department of Social Services and the Virginia State Office of the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development will assist in designing the workshop and in selecting the types of computer software to be presented.

VI. CONTINUUM OF CARE PLANNING

In fiscal year 1998, the Department will initiate an effort to produce Statewide Continuum of Care Plans. These Plans, concentrating on regional needs and resources, will be organized on a Planning District basis. The Department will launch its efforts to facilitate a coordinated, locally driven strategy to provide a comprehensive response to the needs of homeless individuals and families in Southwest Virginia and will continue until all Planning Districts have been completed. The Department will work with service providers, local governments, housing providers and developers,

and other interested parties in the development of the Plans. The emphasis will be coordination among all who provide winter shelter, emergency shelter, transitional housing, and affordable permanent housing, as well as the supportive services needed to assist the homeless as they transition into self-sufficiency.

Appendix A

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 487

Requesting the Department of Housing and Community Development to provide training on collaborative approaches to serve the homeless and to make this training available to all its emergency shelter grantees.

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, February 20, 1997

Agreed to by the Senate, February 19, 1997

WHEREAS, House Joint Resolution No. 181 (1996) directed the Commission on Youth and the Virginia Housing Study Commission to study issues affecting homeless children in the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, one of the charges of the study resolution was to examine barriers to comprehensive service delivery to these children; and

WHEREAS, the study determined that in 1995 there were approximately 15,800 children under 18 years of age served in homeless shelters, another 19,000 children served by domestic violence programs and another 6,888 teenagers arrested as runaways; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development requires consolidated planning from jurisdictions applying for community development block grant funds as well as other funding programs to assist the homeless; and

WHEREAS, the study identified a number of causes of child homelessness, demonstrating the need for comprehensive service delivery to effectively intervene in the lives of homeless families and children; and

WHEREAS, there are models of integrated, comprehensive service delivery for the homeless that can be adapted to local practice; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Housing and Community Development has a training institute available for local jurisdictions; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the Department of Housing and Community Development be requested to provide training on collaborative approaches to serve the homeless and to make this training available to all its emergency shelter grantees.

All agencies of the Commonwealth shall provide assistance to the Department in developing the training initiative, upon request.

The Department shall submit a progress report on its training initiative to the Commission on Youth by November 30, 1997, and to the Governor and the 1998 Session of the General Assembly as provided in the procedures of the Division of Legislative Automated Systems for the processing of legislative documents.

Mailing List for Workshops

- 1. “Development of a Local or Regional Continuum of Care Plan”**
 - Providers of emergency shelter and transitional housing who receive funding through the Department
 - Other providers of emergency shelter and transitional housing known to the Department
 - City or County Manager for all jurisdictions in Virginia
 - Planning District Commissions
 - Virginia Interagency Action Council for the Homeless
- 2. “Integrated Systems and Collaborative Approaches to Serve the Homeless”**
 - Providers of emergency shelter and transitional housing who receive funding through the Department
 - Other providers of emergency shelter and transitional housing known to the Department
 - School divisions participating in the Homeless Education Program as provided by the Commission on Youth
 - Providers of services to mentally ill homeless persons as provided by the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation, and Substance Abuse Services
 - Virginia Interagency Action Council for the Homeless

Registrants for Workshops

1. “Development of a Local or Regional Continuum of Care Plan”

Rick Howard
Alexandria Department of Human Services/Office of Economic Opportunity
Alexandria, Virginia

Carolyn Lincoln
Baby Steps Inc.
Norfolk, Virginia

Roy Brown
Barrett Haven Inc.
Chesapeake, Virginia

Roscoe Brown
Barrett Haven Inc.
Chesapeake, Virginia

Sam Aitken
Culpeper Community Development Corporation
Culpeper, Virginia

George Davies
Elizabeth River Properties, Inc.
Portsmouth, Virginia

Robert Thomas
Fairfax County Office of Administration - Contracts
Fairfax, Virginia

Joel Ford
Freedom House
Richmond, Virginia

Elizabeth Palen
Henrico Community Housing Corporation
Richmond, Virginia

Sue Van Dyne
Loudoun Office of Housing Services
Leesburg, Virginia

Lyn Sebesta
Loudoun Transitional Housing
Leesburg, Virginia

Thomas Daniel
Lynchburg Community Action Group
Lynchburg, Virginia

Tracy Brown
Mercy House
Harrisonburg, Virginia

Janice Russell
Rappahannock-Rapidan Planning District Commission
Culpeper, Virginia

Dee Johnson
Richmond AIDS Ministry
Richmond, Virginia

Therese Filthaut
Samaritan House
Virginia Beach, Virginia

Robert Wynne
SRO Housing of Richmond
Richmond, Virginia

Linda Grasewicz
St. Joseph's Villa
Richmond, Virginia

Carolyn Lamparella
St. Joseph's Villa
Richmond, Virginia

Melissa DeDomenico-Payne
Warren County Council on Domestic Violence
Front Royal, Virginia

Tim Moses
Waynesboro Redevelopment and Housing Authority
Waynesboro, Virginia

Department of Housing and Community Development Staff
Robert Richards
Candice Streett
Robbie Campbell
Shannon Girouard

2. “Integrated Systems and Collaborative Approaches to Serve the Homeless”

Joann Barron
ACTS
Dumfries, Virginia

Virginia Moore
AIDS/HIV Services Group
Charlottesville, Virginia

Suzette Barclay
Alexandria Department of Human Services
Alexandria, Virginia

Susan Miller
Arlington Public Schools
Arlington, Virginia

Carolyn Lincoln
Baby Steps, Inc.
Norfolk, Virginia

Bernard Cherry
Baby Steps, Inc.
Norfolk, Virginia

Skip Stanely
Chesterfield County Community Services Board
Chesterfield, Virginia

Jill Fischer
Chesterfield County Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation
Chesterfield, Virginia

Bruce Jamison
Fauquier Family Shelter Services
Warrenton, Virginia

Allison Tibbs
Fauquier Family Shelter Services
Warrenton, Virginia

Joyce Allman
First Step, Inc.
Harrisonburg, Virginia

Kurt Ebersole
Friends of the Homeless
Newport News, Virginia

Lyman Eddy
Good Shepherd Alliance, Inc.
Sterling, Virginia

Charlotte Lewis
Good Shepherd Alliance, Inc.
Sterling, Virginia

Joy Cipriano
Hampton-Newport News Community Services Board
Newport News, Virginia

Elizabeth Palen
Henrico Community Housing Corporation
Richmond, Virginia

Susan Kowalske
Judeo-Christian Outreach Center
Virginia Beach, Virginia

Richard Powell
Judeo-Christian Outreach Center
Virginia Beach, Virginia

Sherell Smith
Lynchburg Community Action Group
Lynchburg, Virginia

Tracy Brown
Mercy House
Harrisonburg, Virginia

Chris Harvey
Miriam's House, Inc.
Lynchburg, Virginia

Amanda Griffith
Montgomery County Community Shelter
Christiansburg, Virginia

Frederick Peterson
New Land Samaritan Inns
Lynchburg, Virginia

Linda Johnson
Northern Virginia Family Services
Dale City, Virginia

Lois Ferguson
Portsmouth Area Resource Coalition, Inc.
Portsmouth, Virginia

Tracey Moore
Portsmouth Area Resource Coalition, Inc.
Portsmouth, Virginia

Rosemarie Poe
Portsmouth Area Resource Coalition, Inc.
Portsmouth, Virginia

Annie White-Guertin
Portsmouth Area Resource Coalition, Inc.
Portsmouth, Virginia

Kay Ackerman
Prince William County Department of Social Services
Manassas, Virginia

Shirley Gray
Rappahannock Refuge/Hope House
Fredericksburg, Virginia

Bonnie Knotts
Rappahannock Refuge/Hope House
Fredericksburg, Virginia

Hylan Carter
Richmond Behavioral Health Authority
Richmond, Virginia

Ruth Clarke
Richmond Behavioral Health Authority
Richmond, Virginia

Stephen Frankel
Richmond Community Action Program
Richmond, Virginia

Brenda Johnston
Rural Development
Richmond, Virginia

David Gilbert
Salvation Army
Charlottesville, Virginia

Barbara Brown
Salvation Army
Williamsburg, Virginia

Capt. Mark Cook
Salvation Army
Williamsburg, Virginia

Annette Mensah
Save Our Youth
Heathsville, Virginia

Barbara Cole
SERVE, Inc.
Fredericksburg, Virginia

Marilyn Boyd
Serve, Inc.
Manassas, Virginia

Maggie Johnson
Serve, Inc.
Manassas, Virginia

Michelle Scott
Serve, Inc.
Manassas, Virginia

Sheila Hunter
Threshold
Warsaw, Virginia

Frank Linton
Total Action Against Poverty
Roanoke, Virginia

Lynn Carruth
Virginia Beach Department of Housing
Virginia Beach, Virginia

Joyce Askew
Virginia Beach Public Schools
Virginia Beach, Virginia

Mary Cartledge
Virginia Beach Public Schools
Virginia Beach, Virginia

Michael Shank
Virginia Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation, and Substance Abuse Services
Richmond, Virginia

Joe Speidel
Virginia Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation, and Substance Abuse Services
Richmond, Virginia

Sadye Hodges
Virginia Peninsula Council on Domestic Violence
Hampton, Virginia

Sallie Baskerville
West Petersburg Vicinity
Petersburg, Virginia

Pauline Bonner
West Petersburg Vicinity
Petersburg, Virginia

Dianne Phinney
YWCA
Lynchburg, Virginia

Department of Housing and Community Development Staff

Robert Richards
Candice Streett
Robbie Campbell
Shannon Girouard
Debra Danieleley
Kimberly Golden