



**KANSAS STATEWIDE
HOMELESS COALITION**

FEBRUARY 15, 2010

Executive Director's Update: Diane Etzel-Wise

Be sure to add your organizations link under our Resources Page at www.kshomeless.com

Check out our new website design and posts..keep up with State and National Legislation.

Keep in touch! Let us know what you want in your newsletters!!

Diane

KSHC Events

**Eleventh Annual
Summit on Homelessness and Housing
October, 2010
Hays, Kansas**

details coming!!!

Interested in an information booth or a vendor exhibit??

**Contact Diane at dew@kshomeless.com
or call us at (785) 354-4990.**

Balance of State Stakeholders Meeting March 9

Manhattan, Kansas
SRS Conference Room
2709 Amherst, Manhattan, KS 66502

To All BoS CoC Stakeholders, Grantees, and Future Grantees:

The Balance of State Continuum of Care has not received new funding for two consecutive years. To get this process back on track, we want to meet and discuss the future of the BoS CoC, and are open to new proposals for structure and governance. As service providers we are all very busy, but it is most beneficial to meet in person to discuss our needs and agree upon a plan of action. HUD has released a [Rural CoC Guidebook](#) that offers great advice on how a rural CoC should function.

We could be doing so much more to support one another in the development of housing programs across the state, in mentoring each other, in assisting in the implementation and operation of programs, and in assisting in compliance. This meeting is an opportunity to understand and identify how we can take a more active role in ensuring this continuum. We urge you to strongly consider attending. Make plans to attend now by RSVP'ing Diane at dew@kshomeless.com.

Thanks for your commitment!

Mandy Chapman Semple, Manhattan Emergency Shelter
Simon Messmer, Mental Health America of the Heartland
Diane Etzel-Wise, Kansas Statewide Homeless Coalition

SOAR Trainings

Upcoming SOAR Training

SSI/SSDI, Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR) program was developed by Policy Research Associates (PRA) to address the common barrier that homeless people who have disabilities have as they try to gain benefit entitlements such as Supplemental Security Income or Social Security Disability Insurance. PRA reports that the national success rate on initial applications for SSI and SSDI for all applicants is 37% but only 11% of the homeless population is estimated to receive SSI. SOAR is a training program for direct service workers who, once trained, understand Disability Determination Services and Social Security Administration's requirements and the need for appropriate documentation, decreasing the time to issue determinations and reducing the need for appeals. Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services' Division of Disability and Behavioral Health Services-Mental Health (SRS DBHS MH) and PRA trained SOAR trainers are holding two SOAR trainings in March.

Registration is required. See registration forms linked below for submission information and deadlines. Each training is limited to 24 participants.

Kansas Statewide Homeless Coalition will notify you of other SOAR trainings scheduled throughout the year.

Parsons, March 4-5

Lawrence, March 10-11

Resources

National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC)

<http://www.nlihc.org/template/index.cfm>

TJ Cantwell at Gifts In Kind is reaching out to find organizations that can help spread the word that a major housing supply retailer has made available new indoor and outdoor lighting fixtures, from track lighting and wall sconces to motion-sensor lights and ceiling fans. He thinks this is an ideal opportunity for organizations that can use multiples of items, and perfect for nonprofits dedicated to building or refurbishing homes or community structures. Only 501(c)(3)s are eligible - "for any housing program that supports people or a community in need."

The fixtures could be used in new and renovated homes, shelters, offices and community centers, both indoors and out. TJ stresses that this particular offer does not require a Gifts In Kind membership fee. The only costs are shipping and handling. He implied that it only makes sense for relatively high volumes; however, groups of organizations in an area can organize to take advantage of the volume. I also think that there would be a need for an organization to have ample storage. For more information go to

<http://www.giftsinkind.org/lighttheway.htm>

KSDE Education of Homeless Children and Youth

Tate Toedman, Education Program Consultant, 785-296-6714,

ttoedman@ksde.org

<http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=372>

National Center for Homeless Education (NCHE)

www.serve.org/nche

National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth (NAEHCY)

www.naechy.org/index.html

National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH)

<http://www.endhomelessness.org/>

<http://www.endhomelessness.org/content/article/detail/2453>

(Read Secretary Kathleen Sebelius' interview Q & A on homelessness with NAEH!!!)

<http://www.endhomelessness.org/section/tools/housingfirst>

KidsCount from Annie E. Casey Foundation

<http://datacenter.kidscount.org/databook/2009/Default.aspx>

Our Partners

Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services

<http://www.srskansas.org/>

Kansas Housing Resources Corporation

<http://www.kshousingcorp.org/>