

March 3, 2010



**KANSAS STATEWIDE
HOMELESS COALITION**

WELCOME HOME!

The (at least) Monthly Newsletter of the Kansas Statewide Homeless Coalition

Please plan to participate in the upcoming Balance of State stakeholders meeting on March 9 from 10:30 - 2:30 at the SRS conference room, 2709 Amherst, Manhattan, KS 66502. RSVP Diane at dew@kshomeless.com to confirm! Skim through HUD's [Rural Continuum of Care Guidebook](#) before the meeting.

If you want to participate via phone, please let Diane dew@kshomeless.com know by 3 pm Monday, March 8 so we can forward the conference call information to you via e-mail

A tentative agenda with meeting objectives follows:

AGENDA

10:30am	Introductions/Welcome/Objectives - <i>Diane, Simon, Mandy</i>
11:00am	Overview of the Balance of State Continuum of Care (BoS CoC) - History, Governance, Current Structure - <i>Christy & Diane</i>
11:30am	Use HUD's Rural CoC Guidebook to facilitate discussion of BoS Coc needs - <i>Simon</i>
12:15pm	Working Lunch - Tables continue discussing the needs of the BoS CoC and consider how we can best meet those needs. (SWOT)- <i>Diane, Simon, Mandy</i>
1:15pm	Present and Discuss examples of CoC governance structures - <i>Mandy</i>
1:45pm	Open Discussion to draft BoS CoC Stakeholders Vision and action plans- <i>Diane, Simon, Mandy</i>
2:15pm	Schedule next BoS CoC Stakeholder Meeting and any regional meetings
2:30pm	Adjourn

MEETING OBJECTIVES

Stakeholders will

1. Increase understanding of or review the HUD Tool and process of Continuum of Care
2. Review the history and current structure of the Kansas Balance of State Continuum of Care (BoS CoC)
3. Identify current status of the BoS CoC, including strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats
4. Identify immediate, mid-range and long-range needs of the BoS CoC
5. Review options for structure of BoS through HUD resources (i.e Rural CoC Guidebook, Building Effective Coalitions, other CoC examples)
6. Draft Vision Statement of the BoS CoC, draw up initial action plans, and identify next steps.

SOAR Training coming to Wichita!

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 from COMCARE and the Division of Human Services for Sedgwick County are holding SOAR Training in April. Registration is required. [See registration forms](#) 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.

April 1 & 2, 2010

Sedgwick County Administration Building

635 N. Main Street, Wichita, Kansas

**Trainers: Division of Human Services of Sedgwick County and
COMCARE of Sedgwick County**

Stakeholder Input on Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness

USICH Announces Website for Stakeholder Input on Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness

USICH has launched a new interactive website called [USICH Preventing and Ending Homelessness](http://fsp.uservice.com) - fsp.uservice.com. This is one element of the transparent process of developing the Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness. The HEARTH Act called for USICH to deliver to the Plan to Congress no later than May 20.

This site is not just a repository for ideas. Once an idea has been posted, anyone can vote and comment on the suggestions and the most popular ideas will be displayed at the top of the list. USICH Preventing and Ending Homelessness will be reviewed by USICH staff and the ideas that receive the most votes and comments will be assessed for possible inclusion in the FSP.

USICH strongly encourages you to forward this opportunity to any interested parties so they too can submit their input via the electronic feedback process. We have icons that your organization can add to your website if interested. Users will need to provide basic information to register in order to submit their responses.

Go to our [Resources Links](#) and add your organization if it does not appear yet on our website. We will officially upload it to our website within 48 hours!

**Diane Etzel-Wise
Executive Director
Kansas Statewide Homeless Coalition**