



**KANSAS STATEWIDE  
HOMELESS COALITION**

## Making it Crystal Clear: Homelessness in Kansas

**12<sup>th</sup> Annual Summit on Homelessness & Housing**

**April 12-13, 2011**

**Ramada Conference Center, Hutchinson**

**April 12, 2011**

**BoS Technical Assistance, Part 1 9:00 am – 12 noon**

*LaTonia Wright, Agatha Gutierrez, James Chiselom, and Joe Coburn*

**BoS Technical Assistance, Part 2 1:30-4:00 pm**

*LaTonia Wright, Agatha Gutierrez, James Chiselom, and Joe Coburn*

**School District Homeless Liaisons In-Service 1:00-4:00 pm**

*Tate Toedman, Kansas State Department of Education*

**Membership Meeting 4:30-5:30**

**All attendees of the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Summit on Homelessness and Housing are invited to the membership meeting of the Kansas Statewide Homeless Coalition.**

**Community Reception 5:30-7:00**

**Join fellow participants and the host committee for hors d'oeuvres, music and networking in the Endeavor Ballroom!**

**Afterwards, enjoy dining and conversing with conference attendees at one of Hutchinson's great restaurants!**

**See the registration table for a list of local restaurant choices!**

**April 13, 2011**

**Registration 8:00 -9:00**

**Be sure to join us for Coffee  
and a morning chat with the Information Fair vendors!**

**Welcome and Opening Remarks 8:30-8:45**

*Endeavor*

**Randy Crandall**, Chair of the Board of Directors, Kansas Statewide Homeless Coalition & Deputy Director Homeless Services, Eastern Kansas Healthcare System, Veterans Administration

**Cindy Proett**, Mayor of Hutchinson

**Shara Gonzales**, New Beginnings, Inc

**Opening Plenary 8:45-10:15**

*Endeavor*

**Kansas Point-in-Time Partnership**, Members present the results of the January 26, 2011 Point-in-Time Homeless Count in the 5 Kansas Continua of Care.

**Remarks** from U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, National Alliance to End Homelessness, Veterans Administration, Kansas State Government officials

**Break and Information Fair 10:15-10:45**

**Visit our vendors and information tables while enjoying a morning snack!**

**Break Out Sessions: Series One 10:45-12:00 noon**

**1 Replicating What Works: Incorporating a Project Homeless Connect Style Event to Enhance a Point-In-Time Homeless Count**

*Luella Sanders, Ph.D., Director of Community Impact, United Way of the Plains; Chair, Wichita-Sedgwick County Continuum of Care Coordination Team*

The Wichita-Sedgwick County Continuum of Care's 2011 Kansas Point-In-Time Homeless Count (WSC-KPIT) incorporated a Project Homeless Connect type event into the community's traditional point-in-time information gathering process. Project Homeless Connect is a Best Practice model recognized by the U.S. Interagency Council on

Homelessness as an effective strategy for ending homelessness. Combining a one-day, one-stop Project Homeless Connect type event with the one-day point-in-time count maximized the resources that would be needed for either one, if conducted separately. The strategy used to enhance the annual point-in-time count was successful in reaching people experiencing homelessness. When compared to the 2009 KPIT Homeless Count results, there was a 110.3 percent increase in the number of contacts made during the 2011 WSC-KPIT and a 65.1 percent increase in the number of people surveyed who were experiencing homelessness. The 2011 WSC-KPIT Count was also successful at leveraging new resources at a ratio of more than three dollars of leveraged services/contributions for every dollar spent and better utilized the traditional in-kind resources, including volunteer time and effort. At a time of shrinking resources and a need for cost efficient ways to provide services and supports, this project stands out as a successful model for helping communities identify people experiencing homelessness and connecting them to needed resources. Learning Objectives include:

- Identify at least three benefits of incorporating a Project Homeless Connect strategy to enhance a point-in-time homeless count
- Understand the key factors used in making decisions during the planning process for a Project Homeless Connect style event
- Recognize how the lessons learned in the Wichita-Sedgwick County project could be used to inform planning of a Project Homeless Connect style event in your community

## **2 Tour of Hutchinson**

*John Eberly New Beginnings Inc., and Emily Hurst, Interfaith Housing Services, Inc.*

Join the staff of New Beginnings and Interfaith Housing for an informational bus tour of projects addressing homelessness and housing options in Hutchinson. Meet in the lobby. Participants will gain:

- Knowledge of New Beginnings and Interfaith Housing projects
- On-site viewing capabilities
- Overview of both organization's unique Hutchinson housing solutions

## **3 Education and Collaboration: the Key to Ending Homelessness**

*Peg McFadden, USD 290 of Ottawa and Tabor Medill, USD 453 of Leavenworth*

Two Kansas School Homeless Liaisons will provide an overview of their work and challenges. PowerPoint lecture will be presented and a documentary will be shown to demonstrate the plight of Kansas youth who are facing the outcomes of homelessness. Participants will be able to:

- Demonstrate increased knowledge of the federal legislation and homeless service provision in the Kansas Education system.
- Begin discussion / plans to address homeless issues for families
- Identify the effects of homelessness on academic outcomes

#### **4 VA Women Veterans Programs and Services for Veteran Experiencing Homelessness**

*Kathy Zima-Sauer, LISW; Randy Crandall, Deputy Coordinator VISN 15 Homeless Services, VA Eastern Kansas Health Care System (EKHCS)*

Services currently being offered to Veterans and their families throughout the State of Kansas, programs and services offered to address the needs of Veterans and their families affected by homelessness and special programs for women veterans are highlighted in this session. Services designed to address the unique needs of women Veterans will be a feature of this panel presentation. Nationally, there are 23 Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN) that comprise "regions" of the nation served by the VA medical centers and outpatient clinics. VA hospitals in KS, MO, Southwest Illinois and Northwest Kentucky comprise the VISN 15 catchment area. The 7 medical centers in this region provide services to Veterans; including women Veterans and those impacted by homelessness. Attendees will:

- Learn how to refer a veteran or family/concerned other to find additional information about VA services.
- Increase awareness of some of the challenges facing Women Veterans including those returning from recent deployments.
- Gain knowledge of VA programs and services generally available for Women Veterans.
- gain knowledge about programs and access points for services being provided for veteran experiencing homelessness
- View current trends and successful strategies in addressing the needs of women Veterans and the recent efforts to end homelessness among veterans

#### **5 Homeless Prevention & Rapid Re-housing (HPRP) in a Kansas Demonstration Project: A look at year one outcomes and the lessons we have learned**

*James Glenn, Kim Wilson Housing, Inc., Brad Schmidt, Prairie View*

A panel of Kansas HPRP experts will present an overview of how HPRP evolved, and the outcomes and findings from the first year of providing Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-housing services throughout the state . The panelists will also share "lessons learned" and compare outcomes to the national data on this nation-wide demonstration program.

- HPRP outcomes from year one of the KS demonstration program
- Lessons learned-how HPRP should be tweaked & used in the future (with a specific focus on the challenges/differences in rural and urban HPRP services)
- How HPRP data influences trends in federal funding and future programming

**Lunch and Keynote 12:00 noon-1:30**

*Endeavor*

**Nan Roman**, Executive Director of the National Alliance to End Homelessness

## **6 The Missing Links**

*Kar Y. Woo, Artists Helping the Homeless*

Artists Helping The Homeless is a non-profit 501c3 public charity organization that seeks to reduce the need and cost of homeless care in several ways. The BE THE CHANGE Van provides transportation and assistance in accessing resources to get off the street. Two meal programs, one in Kansas City, another in Olathe, each serve one night a week. Our goal is to serve the homeless in their environment, a setting more comfortable to them.

We raise money through Art to help individuals who need a new beginning. Attendees will learn about:

- Transportation with Advocacy (a Missing Link) - How the BE THE CHANGE van filled a gap in service and saved our community over \$1,000,000 or over \$5 for each \$1 spent.
- Importance of Collaborations...leveraging community resources by working with, not duplicating existing services
- Aged Out Youth (a Missing Link) – Discussion of challenge, issues, approaches for youth that age out of foster care and child services to find themselves on the street, although still in high school.
- Seamless Transitions (a Missing Link) - Discussion of challenge, issues, approaches to prevent individuals from having to return to the street while waiting for a bed in the next step of their recovery.
- Social Entrepreneur – a growing approach to addressing local homeless issues

## **7 Facilitating Healing through Trauma-Informed Care**

*Christine Young & Sam Demel, WSU Center for Community Support & Research*

According to the National Center for Trauma-Informed Care (created by SAMHSA's Center for Mental Health Services), "trauma is now understood to be an almost *universal* experience of public mental health and substance abuse and social service consumers."

This presentation will highlight the prevalence of trauma in the lives of many people who access social service systems (such as mental health, substance abuse, foster care, or legal) and will explore some of the core elements in creating healing partnerships based on collaboration, choice and consumer/survivor perspective. Participants will learn:

- Rationale for trauma informed service delivery including the issues of re-traumatization: Trauma informed vs trauma specific services, Data, Trauma's universality (ACE Study)
- The differences between a traditional service paradigm and one which is trauma informed.
- The core elements necessary in creating healing partnerships with consumers and survivors based on choice, trust and voice.

## **8 Working with Homelessness and Individuals who are Dually Diagnosed**

*Megan Toal and Stephen Osborn, Heartland Regional Alcohol & Drug Assessment Center*

In this presentation one will learn tips for working with individuals who carry the dual diagnoses of substance abuse and mental health disorder. In addition, we will examine how the strength based model can benefit you and your clients. The presenter will give a breakdown of how to work with clients who suffer from chronic addiction and the key elements in designing a plan for recovery. Participants will learn:

- How case management can reduce the utilization of costly services in the community.
- How using a strength based model can be beneficial both the client and the practitioner.
- The importance of getting to know your individual community resources and how to best access and utilize them.

## **9 Homelessness and Housing Solutions in Hutchinson**

*Shara Gonzales, New Beginnings, Inc., and John Scott, Interfaith Housing Services, Inc.*

An overview of New Beginnings and Interfaith Housing Services approaches to homelessness and successful housing solutions including IDA in Hutchinson will be discussed in two separate 45 min presentations by each respective organization's leadership within the 90 minute framework. Attendees will learn about

- Homelessness and Housing issues in smaller communities
- How Interfaith Housing and New Beginnings approach these issues
- How both organizations utilize Individual Development Accounts

## **10 Safely Housing Offenders**

*Valori Sanders, Kansas Housing Resources Corporation, and Erika Niles-Plumlee*

Two professionals working with the criminal justice/corrections population will describe ongoing work, initiatives, partnerships and models being used to safely prepare offenders for returning to communities after incarceration, and for addressing the housing needs of offenders in the community, including high-end special needs offenders. Participants will be informed about:

- Strategies used by corrections agencies to help prepare offenders for release and to be better tenants
- A model for supportive housing being developed by corrections and partners for effectively and safely housing high-end-special-needs offenders
- Benefit to public safety of making safe housing available to returning offenders

## **11 SOAR Across Kansas: Addressing System Barriers**

*Tami Hurley, COMCARE of Sedgwick County*

*Brandi Clarke, Division of Human Services at Sedgwick County*

*Leslie Lykes, South Central Mental Health Center*

*Chad Ingram, Social Security Administration*

*Walter Rivera, Disability Determination Services*

*Ruth Arensdorf, Kansas Department of Social Rehabilitation Services, Economic & Employment Supports*

*Christy McMurphy, Kansas Department of Social Rehabilitation Services, Disability and Behavioral Health Services, Mental Health Services*

SOAR Across Kansas began in 2009 and since, the Kansas SOAR trainers have trained case managers from the Kansas Community Mental Health Centers, homeless service providers, school homeless liaisons, Veteran's Administration, Department of Corrections, local jails, Independent Living Centers and other service agencies across the state. This workshop is designed for people who have received SOAR training but are having difficulty with implementing the approach. A panel of resource people will be available to answer questions and address systemic barriers SOAR Case managers may have as they submit SSI/SSDI applications. The panel will include SOAR trainers from Sedgwick County/ComCare of Sedgwick County, SOAR Case Managers, Social Security Administration, Disability Determination Services, and the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services.

- Panelists and attendees will address systemic barriers to implementing SOAR Across Kansas.
- Panelists and attendees will discuss examples of successful efforts to coordinate SOAR Across Kansas.
- Panelists will respond to attendee's questions.

### **Break and Information Fair 2:45-3:15 pm**

**Visit our agencies and vendor tables one last time, while enjoying an afternoon snack!**

### **General Session-Strategizing for Kansas 3:15-4:30 pm**

**Participate in a listening and strategizing session to begin addressing the crisis of increasing homelessness in Kansas. You will have the opportunity to hear from some Hutchinson guests first hand, address the crisis by region and by specific needs, and make recommendations about the collaborative use of our resources.**

### **Wrap Up and Door Prizes 4:30-5:00 pm**

**Be sure to complete and return your summit evaluation form at the wrap-up session to get your raffle ticket for door prizes!!**

**We want your feedback and ideas in designing NEXT year's summit to be held in the spring, 2012!**

# Thanks to our Sponsors!!!



## Kansas Head Start State Collaboration Office



## Convention and Visitors Bureau



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To view the handouts for the workshops

presented at

the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Summit

on Homelessness and Housing,

please visit our website at

**<http://www.kshomeless.com>**

Kansas Statewide Homeless Coalition

501 SE Jefferson, Suite 30

Topeka, Kansas 66607

(785) 354-4990

**[info@kshomeless.com](mailto:info@kshomeless.com)**



## Speaker Bios for “Making it Crystal Clear: Homelessness in Kansas”

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**Nan Roman**  
*President and CEO*  
National Alliance to End Homelessness

**Nan Roman**, President and CEO of the National Alliance to End Homelessness, is a leading national voice on the issue of homelessness. The Alliance is a public education, advocacy, and capacity-building organization with a network of over 10,000 nonprofit and public sector agencies and corporate partners around the country. Under her leadership, the Alliance has developed a pragmatic plan to end homelessness within ten years. To implement this plan, Ms. Roman works closely with members of Congress and the Administration, as well as with cities and states across the nation. She collaborates with Alliance partners to educate the public about the real nature of homelessness and successful solutions. She has researched and written on the issue, is frequently interviewed by the press, and regularly speaks at events around the country. Her unique perspective on homelessness and its solutions comes from over twenty years of local and national experience in the areas of poverty and community-based organizations. Her areas of expertise include Press Calls, Housing Policy, Funding, and Hurricane Katrina

**Ruth Arensdorf** has been with SRS Economic and Employment Support division for almost 10 years. She worked in the Wichita SRS office as a TAF benefits and work program case manager, a work programs trainer, a certified trainer for Bridges Out of Poverty and a work programs unit supervisor. In November 2007, she accepted a position in Topeka as an assistant program manager in the EES division of SRS Central Office. She currently assists in the TAF work programs, GA discharge planning program for inmates, oversees the Employment and Training program for food assistance and monitors various service provider contracts and grants. She is also represents EES in several outside projects including SOAR. She is a graduate of and holds a BFA degree from Wichita State University.

**Valorie Carson** is community planning director of United Community Services of Johnson County (UCS). UCS is a nonprofit agency whose purpose is community planning to improve the human service system in Johnson County so that Johnson County residents, especially those facing challenges in daily living, have access to the services they need. As community planning director, Valorie provides project coordination and facilitation of the Johnson County Continuum of Care on Homelessness, a coalition of service providers and related organizations committed to improving the response to poverty and homelessness in Johnson County. She has spent much of her career in health promotion and community development and planning and has been at UCS since 2008. Valorie received her BA from the University of Kansas, and her master's degrees from the University of Illinois-Champaign Urbana and the Chicago Medical School, North Chicago. She returned to Kansas in 1998 to join the Work Group for Community Health and Development at the University of Kansas and pursue further studies in the application and evaluation of applied behavioral analysis principles to population behavior and public health issues.

**Brandi Clarke** is a member of the SOAR training team in Sedgwick County. She attended a local SOAR training and the four day SOAR Train-the-Trainer program. Brandi has co-facilitated SOAR training in Dodge City, Salina, and Wichita. She began her career at Sedgwick County as the Grant and Special Projects Coordinator for the Division of Human Services and is now the Employment Manager for COMCARE. Brandi has a Bachelor of Public Administration, Bachelor of Arts in Communication, and will finish her MBA in May 2011.

**James Chiselom** is a Program manager for Kansas Housing Resources Corporation. James has been in this position since June of 2008. James currently manages the Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG), The Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Rehousing Program (HPRP) and the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) of the Kansas Balance of State Continuum of Care.

**Joe Coburn** joined Mid America Assistance Coalition in July 2008 as a Systems Administrator and is responsible for assisting with HMIS implementations, support, database issues, and training for all MAACLink users, specifically overseeing the Kansas Balance of State Continuum of Care (CoC). Joe graduated with his Bachelor and Master of Social Work degrees from the University of Kansas. While completing his studies, Joe served internships with several nonprofit agencies in Kansas City. Today, he sits on several committees across several CoCs and works diligently to ensure HMIS integration and quality across Kansas.

**Randy L. Crandall** was a part of a work-group that formed the Kansas Statewide Homeless Coalition in 2000. Mr. Crandall served as the first Chair of KSHC and continues to serve in this capacity. Mr. Crandall started his career with the VA in 1976. Randy was selected to direct homeless services at the Topeka VA in 1996. A successful grant application provided the first national funding for homeless veterans at the Topeka VA in 1999 thus establishing the Health Care for Homeless Veterans program. In July of 07 Randy was selected as the Deputy Director for Homeless Services VISN 15. Randy was appointed to the Governor's Committee on Housing for the State of Kansas in 2001, he currently serves on the Kansas Interagency Council on Homelessness, and has served on the Governor's Committee for Mental Health, subcommittee for Homeless and Housing since 2000. He also served as Chair of the Shawnee County Homeless Task Force (HTF) from 1999 to 2002. Randy served on various HTF committees involved in

grant writing that successfully competed for over six million dollars in additional Federal and State funding to serve the Homeless throughout Shawnee County. Grant writing at both the VA and in the community has been a part of Mr. Crandall's responsibilities for a number of years.

**Sam Demel** graduated from the College of Santa Fe, Santa Fe, NM, earning a Bachelor of Business Administration and a degree in Public Administration, at the College of Santa Fe. Upon completing his degree he served two years teaching at an agricultural College in Lesotho, Africa, with the United States Peace Corps. He has worked at the Center for Community Support & Research (CCSR), Wichita State University for the past seven years. Providing training and support to nonprofit organizations in the following areas: trauma informed care, strategic planning, fund development planning, board training, policies & procedures, leadership development, collaboration, conflict resolution, grant writing, and learning working styles. In addition to his years at CCSR he brings nine years of Non-Profit Management and two years of economic development experience.

**John Eberly**, a native of El Paso, Texas, moved to the Hutchinson area in the early 1990's to raise a family and teach Art History at Hutchinson Community College. Later, he served as Director for both the Reno County Cultural Commission, and the Hutchinson Art Center, and as a Development Coordinator for several area non-profits. Currently he is Assistant to the Director at New Beginnings, Inc. He is the author of one book of non-fiction titled *Al-Kimia* (Sophia Perennis Publications, 2004), a book of poetry criticism *Love Is The Mirror* (Anamnesis Press, 2nd ed., 2006), several published articles, book reviews, bibliographies, glossaries, and indexes. His artwork has been exhibited around the world and has been used in poetry collections, comix, albums, CDs, and magazine and book covers. John's musicianship and songwriting are featured on many solo CD's, and albums with various groups such as Germany's Doc Wor Mirran. He has worked with the elderly and persons with disabilities, and his connection to the homeless stretches back to the mid-1980's when he first volunteered at a shelter in Wichita, Kansas.

**Diane Etzel-Wise** has served as the Executive Director of the Kansas Statewide Homeless Coalition since July 2009. She holds a BA and MA with 23 years of comprehensive experience in health care, mental health service delivery, therapeutic recreation, supervision, management, and program design and development. Transitioning from direct service delivery / management, Diane served as an Assistant Professor and Program Coordinator in Therapeutic Recreation at University of Central Missouri from 1997 to 2004. She entered the doctoral program in Social Work at the University of Kansas and has completed all coursework toward the PhD while serving as research assistant, strengths based case management trainer, project manager at an urban high school, and adjunct instructor at the undergraduate and graduate levels. Diane has served as president and/or other positions on professional and non-profit boards based locally, regionally, and nationally. Her leadership in addressing the needs of low income or high-need audiences has been her career-long mission in social work, recreational therapy practice, and academia.

**James Glenn** serves as executive director of Kim Wilson Housing. James joined the organization in July 2009. For 18 months prior, he was a consultant to Wyandot Center as the agency developed its housing component (Wyandot Housing, Inc.) renamed in memory of Kim Wilson, the first director of the program who died in May 2009. James is committed to carrying on Kim's legacy and spirit. From 1994

through June 2009, James worked with the Mental Health Association of the Heartland, leaving the organization as a senior vice president, housing and community services. In that role, James coordinated, developed and supervised eight programs including two supportive housing programs for persons with mental illness. Five of his initiatives were recognized as national “best practice” programs and received national and regional awards. James earned his bachelor’s degree in psychology from Kansas State University and his master of social work administration degree from the University of Kansas.

**Shara Gonzales** has a life long history of involvement in legal projects that champion individual and human rights, land and housing issues. She has been a Greenpeace coordinator between indigenous and environmental projects where in 1980 one such project forged a new type of development for native people that brought together their traditional way of living with solar technology and green construction. Her career has also taken her to Washington D.C. as the head of congressional offices that sought to revise a law that was to remove 10,000 Indian people from their ancestral land creating one of largest homeless populations from a self-sufficient people. Today, Shara uses these experiences and skills as President and CEO of New Beginnings, Inc., to help displaced and disadvantaged people while working on a model of services and sustainable building to create sustainable lives. New Beginnings has 97 units of transitional and affordable housing with another 25 under development, and an office complex that houses **11** non profit services in one location. Their Tierra Verde project was the first greenbuilt tax credit project in the State of Kansas and won an Ad Astra award this year for these innovations.

**Chad Ingram** is the Assistant District Manager in the Hutchinson KS office. Chad has worked for Social Security for almost 15 years and has been with the Hutchinson office for the past 2 years. He provided support to COMCARE of Sedgwick County in the initial SOAR training while he was stationed at the Wichita Social Security Office.

**Agatha (Aggie) Gutierrez** is a Senior Community Planning and Development Representative with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Community Planning and Development (CPD), in the Kansas City Regional Field Office. She began her tenure at HUD as a Federal Career Intern and is responsible for the administration and management of a variety of CPD Programs which include: Community Development Block Grant Entitlement and State Programs, HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME), Homeless Assistance Programs including Emergency Shelter Grants, Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS, Supportive Housing Programs, Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008 (HERA) Programs (NSP1 and NSP3), and American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act) Programs (CDBG-R and HPRP). Aggie holds a BSBA Degree with honors from Colorado State University – Pueblo.

**Emily Hurst** serves as Director of Development for Interfaith Housing Services in Hutchinson, Kansas. Ms. Hurst is also co-founder of the Central Kansas Tenants Association. She serves as the Board Chair for the Hutchinson Housing Commission and serves with the Central Kansas Landlords Association. Ms. Hurst serves through leadership programs and the Young Professionals of Reno County and continues as a speaker and task force organizer.

**Leslie Lykes** earned a BSED from Emporia State University. She worked at Cowley County Mental Health Center for 13+ years serving as an adult case manager, children's case manager, and crisis case manager. Leslie earned an M.A. in Criminal Justice from Wichita State University. She began working at South Central Mental Health Counseling Center in Augusta, Ks. in August, 2010, as a targeted case manager. She was promoted in January to develop the SOAR program at South Central Mental Health Counseling Center and began meeting with clients on March 1, 2011.

**Peg McFadden** is the Homeless Education Coordinator in USD 290 in Ottawa. Peg is extremely active in the Balance of State Continuum of Care process and is actively working toward improving services in Franklin County through faith-based and other partnerships. Peg is also the East Central Regional Coordinator for eight counties, working to coordinate strategies and activities necessary to plan effective collaboration between counties in identifying gaps in services for the region. Peg has also been instrumental in starting a non-profit organization called Project HOPE, Inc. in Franklin County. This organization's mission is to "Empower the Hidden Homeless and Those at Risk, One Individual or Family at a Time."

**Christy McMurphy** is the Community Integration, Housing and Homelessness Specialist at Social Rehabilitation Services Disability and Behavioral Health Services-Mental Health. She coordinates initiatives related to the 1999 Olmstead Decision, which requires States to provide community-based services for people with disabilities in the most integrated setting appropriate to their needs. Ms. McMurphy coordinates the PATH mental health homeless program and housing programs in Kansas. She worked for six years at Shawnee Community Mental Health Center's HOPE Connection as the Housing and Homelessness Specialist. She also worked as an advocate at Kansas Advocacy and Protective Services. Christy is one of the co-founders of Kansas Statewide Homeless Coalition and is a former Board member. She currently provides staff support for the Governor's Mental Health Planning Council's Subcommittee on Housing and Homelessness. Christy earned a bachelor's degree in public relations with a minor in photography and a master degree in Rehabilitation Counseling.

**Tabor Medill** is the Coordinator of At-Risk Student Services for the Leavenworth - USD 453 School District. He is the school district McKinney-Vento liaison and coordinates the services for the families and students eligible for the benefits of the program. He oversees the district Truancy program. He is the Director of the Credit Recovery program and the Educational program at the Leavenworth County Juvenile Detention Center. Additionally, Tabor serves on the National Board of Directors for the National Association of Educators of Homeless Children and Youth (NAECHY) organization. He is the Chairman of the 1st District Multi-Disciplinary Child Protection Team in Leavenworth County and serves on the Board of Directors for the 1st Judicial District Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA). He earned a Master's Degree in Education from Kansas State University.

**Dennis Mesa** is the new Executive Director of the Kansas Housing Resources Corporation. Dennis oversees KHRC's day-to-day operations and 55 member staff; provides leadership for the corporation's rental housing, homeownership, supportive services and asset management programs; and works to strengthen agency partnerships with developers, investors, lenders, community-based organizations,

housing advocates and service providers. Prior to joining KHRC, Dennis served twice as Mayor of Garden City and eight years as City Commissioner. During this time, Dennis partnered with the National Hispanic Council on Aging to bring low and moderate income housing to Garden City. Mira Vista Apartments offers 39 affordable, one-bedroom, cottage-style apartments to area seniors. In addition to managing a municipality, Dennis has served in leadership positions for numerous local, state and national civic organizations, including the Garden City Area Chamber of Commerce, Finney County United Way, Habitat for Humanity, Kansas State Historical Society, Leadership Kansas, American Cancer Society's Relay for Life, Western Kansas Community Foundation, St. Catherine Hospital and others. Recognizing his dedication to civic leadership, Dennis has received many public service awards, including the League of United Latin American Citizens' Community Leadership and Vision Awards, and the Kansas Jaycees' Outstanding Kansan Award. The Kansas Advisory Committee for Hispanic Affairs honored Dennis as City Government Elected Official of the Year, and he was inducted into the Garden City High School's Hall of Fame.

**Stephen Osborn** is an intensive case manager for Heartland Regional Alcohol and Drug Assessment Center (RADAC) where he has worked for the last 5 years. In this role he works with the homeless and individuals who are dual diagnosed with mental health and substance abuse disorders. Prior to providing case management services he was an assessment counselor with Heartland Regional Alcohol and Drug Assessment Center for four years. Stephen is certified as an alcohol and drug counselor by the State of Kansas and is working on his masters in social work at the University of Kansas.

**Walter Rivera** is a graduate of Washburn University with a BA in Psychology and he is Certified Public Manager through the University of Kansas. Walter has 20+ years of service to State of Kansas including 10 years at Topeka State Hospital as direct care staff. Walter has served as a Public Service Administrator II at the Kansas Disability Determination Services (DDS) since 1997. In this capacity Walter manages multiple projects and acts as a liaison to various community groups and interests groups.

**Luella Sanders** is the Director of Community Impact for United Way of the Plains in Wichita, Kansas. She holds a Doctorate of Philosophy in psychology with a dual emphasis in both clinical and community psychology. Luella worked for more than 10 years within the licensed community mental health center, Comprehensive Community Care (COMCARE) of Sedgwick County before her move to United Way in 2006. While with COMCARE she served as Program Director for the COMCARE-Homeless Program. Through her current work at United Way of the Plains (UWP), Dr. Sanders is Administrator of the Homeless Information Management System (HMIS) operated by UWP for use by homeless service providers and other community stakeholders. In 2010, she established and now oversees a permanent supportive housing program for chronically homeless individuals, which is operated in partnership with COMCARE-Homeless Program and Miracles, Inc. (a substance abuse treatment provider). UWP serves as the Lead Agency for the Wichita-Sedgwick County area Continuum of Care (CoC). Luella is Chair of the Wichita-Sedgwick County Continuum of Care Coordination Team (CCCT); member of the Planning and Development Committee that oversees the CCCT's 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness; and, leads the CoC's annual Point-In-Time Homeless Count. On a state level, Luella serves as Vice-Chair of the Kansas Statewide Homeless Coalition and represents the Wichita-Sedgwick County Continuum of Care on the Kansas Point-In-Time Homeless Count State Partnership group.

**Valori Sanders** is a Reentry Housing Specialist for the Kansas Housing Resources Corporation. Valori works with the Kansas Department of Corrections (KDOC), Kansas Housing Resources Corporation (KHRC), and other key partners to address housing needs of offenders at a system level. Some of her work includes developing partnerships with landlords, property managers and developers. Valori has a key role of providing information amongst various systems and working collaboratively with KDOC to safely house offenders. She also works with parole officers, and hands-on with offenders that lack housing plans once exiting prison. Valori comes to this position from the Missouri Housing Development Commission, where she administered a trust fund project that allocated funds to agencies seeking to build or rehab housing as well as provide services to vulnerable and low income populations.

**Brad Schmidt** is the Director of Adult Residential Services for Prairie View, Inc. During his 21-year career, he has authored and administered seven successful Tenant Based Rental Assistance grants, as well as numerous other housing related grants. Most recently, he has helped Prairie View secure funding under HUD's Supportive Housing Program to master lease 10 units of permanent housing for people who are experiencing mental illness and homelessness. Brad serves on the Board of Directors for the Kansas Statewide Homeless Coalition and is the current chair of the Housing and Homelessness Subcommittee of the Governor's Mental Health Services Planning Council.

**John Scott**, President of Interfaith Housing Services, Inc. has 20 years experience as President and Chief Executive Officer of IHS. In 2001, he also completed his certification as a Housing Development Finance Professional through the National Development Council. He has successfully envisioned, funded and implemented the programs operated by IHS. Under his leadership, IHS has grown in its ability to address housing needs in Reno County, in addition to assisting other communities throughout the State. John is knowledgeable in low-income housing issues, housing rehabilitation, housing repairs and housing construction. Before working with IHS, John was a builder in the Democratic Republic of Congo (formerly Zaire), Africa. While there, he designed and built three, 350 bed hospitals, involving a crew of over 250 men and managed financial accounts in five foreign currencies. John also worked closely with the graduate-engineering department of the University of Warrick in Coventry, England. Through them, he developed numerous appropriate technology projects designed for construction application in third world counties. John holds a degree in Business Administration from Bethel College and has many credit hours in Engineering and Computer Science. John is a member of the Association of Fundraising Professionals. He is a member of the Hutchinson Housing Commission and serves on the Kansas State University Reno County Extension Program Community Development Committee.

**Tate Toedman**, State Coordinator for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth, has been the Homeless Education Coordinator for the Kansas State Department of Education since 2006. He has worked in the Kansas school system since 1994, starting out as a teacher in the Topeka public schools. Tate moved to a counselor position in 2001, and in 2004 became the Athletics and Activities Director for Wetmore Academic Center. He holds a Masters of Education in Building Leadership from Washburn University, a Master's of Science in Educational Counseling from Emporia State University, and a Bachelors of Education in Elementary Education from Washburn University. He is a member of NAECHY

(National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth). He has been a Youth Mentor for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Topeka.

**Megan Toal** has over 23 years of experience working with nonprofit human service organizations in Minneapolis, Chicago and Kansas City. As a direct service provider, she worked with juvenile and female offenders, women in prostitution, and managed the largest emergency food shelf in the state of Minnesota. She has facilitated strategic planning and research projects for domestic violence programs, special needs adoption, welfare reform, community development, and a state-wide food shelf needs assessment and participant profile. While in Kansas City, Megan has coordinated grant making activities in Johnson County for the United Way, local Alcohol Tax Funded programs, and worked with community foundations to establish funding priorities. Most recently she has specialized in working with organizations to develop outcome measures and data utilization plans to improve services within multiple organizations. Currently, Megan is overseeing the collection and reporting of outcome data for an organization serving 76 counties in the state of Kansas in which she facilitates quarterly data review meetings with staff and administrators to review benchmarks and collection methods. She collects and reports outcome data for two statewide contracts and facilitates a semi-annual data review with all key stakeholders.

**Kar Y. Woo**, a native of Macao, received a BS in Psychology and a MS in Counseling from the University of Kansas, the culmination of studies at Waldorf College and the University of Iowa. Since February 2010, Woo has devoted his full attention to the *BE THE CHANGE* van which has assisted all segments of the homeless population in Kansas City. In its first year, the van saved the community over \$1,000,000 in ambulance, hospital, police and judicial fees. The van program is a collaboration of Artists Helping the Homeless, a charity founded by Woo, and the Saint Luke's Health System. It works with 7 area hospitals, law enforcement and most local homeless shelters and agencies. The program helps those who are homeless off the street and into full or transitional reintegration. The van provides an introduction and opportunity to learn each person's story and aims and provides advocacy. Much of Woo's career was in retail sales and art. He created and managed J. M. Porters, a gift, art and home furnishings store. As lead designer, he worked in many upscale homes throughout the Midwest, as well as major cities including New York, Miami and Phoenix. *Artists Helping the Homeless* was created shortly after Woo moved his store to the Plaza area and encountered the homeless on his commute and while walking his dog in a nearby park. On those walks, he saw some university students feeding the homeless and joined them. The students knew the names and stories of the individuals who were homeless and, in a short time, so did Woo. He was able to help meet their needs, including getting them shelter, through the charity that was formed to finance that effort. Woo received the Stuart Whitney Award of the Homeless Services Coalition of Greater Kansas City (2009) and the Professional Award from the Kansas City Chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (2010).

**LaTonia Wright** is the Balance of State Coordinator for the Kansas Statewide Homeless Services Coalition. She provides oversight and facilitation for the Kansas Balance of State Continuum of Care. She previously worked for the Unified Government in Kansas City, Kansas for 4 years, overseeing homeless assistance programs through the U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development including: the Emergency Shelter Grant, the Supportive Housing Program, the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-

Housing Program, and the Community Development Block Grant. LaTonia holds a Bachelor's of Social Work Degree from Washburn University and a Master's Degree in Social Work Administration from the University of Kansas.

**Christine Young** is a Certified Peer Specialist and a Peer Educator at the WSU Center for Community Support and Research. Prior to joining WSU's CCSR, Christine worked as a manager for a big box retail bookstore. Christine enjoyed training and developing the staff, so when corporate restructuring threatened her job security, Christine returned to school to focus her efforts on helping others. After attending a CPS 5 Day Basic Training put on by CCSR, Christine joined the Mental Health Association of South Central Kansas as a Peer Specialist. Christine enjoyed working one on one with her peers on their journey to recovery, and was drawn to CCSR by the promise of being able to provide positive impact to a greater range of people. Christine works on developing and implementing the CPS training curriculum, maintaining a database of Certified Peer Specialists, as well as providing peer support and training. Christine is also an instrumental contributor to the Trauma Informed Care team at CCSR.

**Kathy Zima-Sauer** has worked over thirteen years in the VA health Care system. She completed a Social Work Practicum at the Leavenworth VAMC then went on to work at Ohio, Nebraska, and Western Iowa VAMCs before returning back to Eastern Kansas Health Care System (EKHCS). During her time with the VA she has worked as a clinical Social Worker with and/or helped to develop many programs including: Contract Nursing home, HBPC, Hospice & Palliative Care, Primary Care, and OEF/OIF. Since December of 2008, Kathy has been the full-time Women Veterans Program Manager for VA EKHCS. Not only an advocate, she works to expand VA programming and services for Women Veterans, including implementation of Women's Health Primary Care services. Kathy earned a BA in Psychology and an MSW, both from the University of Kansas.

**Kansas Statewide Homeless Coalition extends a huge  
THANK YOU!!!**

**to the members of the Local Host Committee of Hutchinson:**

Shara Gonzales, New Beginnings, Inc.  
John Eberly, New Beginnings, Inc.  
Juan Gonzales, New Beginnings, Inc.  
Emily Hurst, Interfaith Housing Services  
Jim Kanady, New Beginnings, Inc.  
Jason Probst, The Hutchinson News

**And to....**

**Information Fair Vendors**

Artists Helping the Homeless  
Children's Mercy Family Health Partners  
Interfaith Housing Services  
Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services  
Kansas Housing Resources Corporation  
Kansas Legal Services and T-MAP (Topeka Moving Ahead Program)  
Kansas Parent Information Resource Center / Kansas Families & School Together  
Kansas Statewide Homeless Coalition  
Mid America Assistance Coalition  
NAMI Kansas  
New Beginnings, Inc.  
Unicare Health Plan of Kansas  
U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development  
Veterans Administration VISN 15

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### **Staff**

Diane Etzel-Wise, Executive Director  
LaTonia Wright, Balance of State Coordinator