

Chronic Homelessness Policy Academy  
Mississippi Action Plan  
Revised 04-11-03

**1. Consumer Involvement**

**Goal: Increase consumer involvement in policy and program development**

**Strategy #1:** Create forum of involvement of current or formerly homeless consumers in mainstream services statewide, including policy and program development.

Action Steps:

- 1-1 Identify mainstream services that include or are supposed to include consumers (mandated to or not). *Use of three Continuums.*
- 1-2 Identify best practice models for successfully involving consumers.
- 1-3 Provide training for consumers to empower.
- 1-4 Find ways to provide support for involvement (i.e., stipends travel and/or access to computers, etc).
- 1-5 Try to have more than one consumer on the policy academy. (completed)

**2. Case Management/Outreach**

**Goal: Eliminate duplication and enhance coordination of case management/outreach services.**

**Strategy #1:** Establish and operationalize a subcommittee – Inter-Agency Coordinating Council (ICC) on case management.

Action Steps:

- 1-1 Identify and convene meeting with current case management provider agencies (ICC) and outreach groups (to be completed by the Academy Group-AG).
- 1-2 Establish consensus on a definition of case management.
- 1-3 Conduct gap analysis.
- 1-4 Conduct quarterly meeting to strategize about removing barriers.
- 1-5 Determine how to tap into existing resources and models.

**3. Housing**

**Goal: Increase adequate affordable, available and accessible housing and ensure access to housing.**

**Strategy #1:** Conduct an inventory of existing housing stock.

Action Steps:

- 1-1 AG will identify existing resources—task them to bring to next meeting.
  - VA inventory
  - MDA
  - HomeCorp
  - PHA
  - HUD
  - ECD
  - Municipalities
- 1-2 Compile directory and establish clearinghouse (Home Corp).
- 1-3 Update directory on an on-going basis.

**Strategy #2:** Partner with/public and private agencies to facilitate linkages between mainstream services and housing.

Action Steps:

- 2-1 Identify agencies including mainstream services providers. (AG and 3 CoCs)
- 2-2 Provide education for AG about housing options/resources
  - meeting w/external consultant
  - meeting w/local agencies
- 2-3 Identify incentives for “buy-in”.
- 2-4 Create joint resolution for partners to sign.
- 2-5 Explore/Identify barriers to accessing housing.

**Strategy #3:** Explore capital resources

Action Steps:

- 3-1 Identify all existing job training programs and compile a list (used/unused).
- 3-2 Contact VA about foreclosed properties (Paul Matens).
- 3-3 Check TAC website [www.tacinc.org](http://www.tacinc.org) about utilization of Section 8 vouchers.
- 3-4 Become knowledgeable of National Housing Trust Fund as a model. Contact external consultants for technical assistance.

**Strategy #4:** Developing a list of existing and new means of increasing housing for the homeless.

Action Steps:

- 4-1 Establish a subcommittee.

**4. Coordination and Collaboration:** Create coordinated statewide service system

**Strategy #1:** Advisory Council of Homeless Providers/Consumers

Action Steps:

- 1-1. Coordination of three Continuums; (MOUs, referral systems, etc.)
- 1-2 Identify/Recruit members form DOC, MDA, Employment & Training Division, State Health Officers/Consumer, Aletha Burge (3<sup>rd</sup> Continuum) Faith Based Representative.
- 1-3 Executive Order (After report submitted)
- 1-4 Set date for next meeting (February 21, 2003 – 2:00 p.m. – Jackson Medical Mall)

**Strategy 2:** Coordination of three Continuums; (MOUs, referral systems, etc.)

Action Steps:

- 2-1 Schedule meeting of three continuums
- 2-2 Develop and execute MOU.
- 2-3 Explore possibility of Joint HMIS.
- 2-4 Formal presentation to Advisory group.
- 2-5 Compile demographic information.

**Strategy 3:** Increase coordination and Collaboration between mainstream and targeted service systems;

Action Steps:

- 3-1 Identify stakeholders with authority (e.g., DHS, mental health, health department, DOC) particularly with statewide applications. MS primary health care assoc. (MPHCS)
- 3-2 Work w/ hospital association to determine # of homeless using emergency services.
- 3-3 Memorandum of cooperation at joint funding, removing barriers, etc.,
- 3-4 Get letter from Governor.
- 3-5 SSA involvement
  - contact Paul Barnes about local representative to present at a meeting about SSA or for literature data;
  - explore grants from SSA for outreach w/homeless population
  - get SSA data on transient populations receiving SSI

**Strategy 4:** Review and remove internal and external access to barriers.

**5. Establish an information management system.**

**Strategy #1:** Create or identify a secure and accessible statewide HMIS system.

Action Steps:

- 1-1 Schedule meeting with three Continuums in state to discuss creating a statewide system.
- 1-2 Evaluate existing data tracking systems – ROMA, Service Point, Mental Health, etc. across the state.

**6. Increase education and awareness among policy makers and general public.**

**Strategy # 1:** Conduct a cultural sensitivity training for mainstream providers and public.

Action Steps:

- 1-1 Identify agencies most likely to come in contact with homeless individuals.
- 1-2 Establish a training tool for each group on sensitivity issues.
- 1-3 Expand Academy to include criminal justice representation.
- 1-4 Create a statewide website linked with/to a credible source.

**7. Prevention of Chronic Homelessness**

**Strategy #1: Create prevention programs.**

Action Steps:

- 1-1 Develop a list of current entities involving prevention.
- 1-2 Provide education and awareness training.

**8. Increase employment opportunities and actual employment for homeless individuals**

**Strategy #1:** Access existing Employment Programs

Action Steps:

- 1-1 Research existing job training programs in the state.
- 1-2 Contact Jim Lott from Employment & Training to join task force.

- 1-3 Look at best practices of job training, placement & retention programs to determine what best works for homeless population.
- 1-4 Channel WIN and other employment resources to homeless individuals through outreach and awareness.

**Strategy #2: Develop job training program for homeless.**

Action Steps:

- 2-1 Customize existing training programs to fit the needs for the homeless.
- 2-2 Develop an employment curriculum to be used by agencies that provide mainstream services for the homeless.