



PHASE III EXIT STRATEGY

## Grantee Convening Executive Summary

### The Osteopathic Heritage Foundations

On Wednesday, April 21, 2010, the Osteopathic Heritage Foundations hosted a convening of county coalitions that have been involved with the Rural Homeless Initiative of Southeastern and Central Ohio (RHISCO) since 2005. The goal of the RHISCO convening was to present information regarding the Foundation's Phase III Exit Strategy and Request for Proposal for the final phase of funding, to offer opportunities for peer-to-peer learnings and to provide an update on State and Federal Funding as it impacts rural communities.

#### 1. Welcome & Introductions

Kerry Shaw of the Osteopathic Heritage Foundations welcomed everyone to the grantee convening and introduced the following people involved with RHISCO Phase III:

- Terri Donlin Huesman, Osteopathic Heritage Foundations.
- Jonda Clemings, COHHIO
- Laura Milazzo, with the Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Affairs at Ohio University. Laura has been a consultant with the Foundation for the past few years, working primarily on the School Wellness Initiative, and more recently assisting the Foundation with its outcomes framework approach to grantmaking. Laura will be providing technical assistance to applicants for Phase III of RHISCO.
- Tom Albanese, has worked in the homeless arena for many years as a provider, with the Community Shelter Board, and is now a consultant working with the Foundation on reporting and evaluation.
- Keith and Nick McCormish, with Public Service Consulting, have provided assistance to the Foundation in terms of analyzing and compiling Phases I and II and providing additional support.

#### 2. Exit Strategy & Phase III RFP

The Osteopathic Heritage Foundations recently commemorated 10 years of grantmaking, with investments totaling \$110 million, in osteopathic medical education, medical research and community health. Through community health, the Foundations focus on a number of funding priorities in 18 counties in southeastern and central Ohio, including homeless prevention, obesity prevention, oral health and community support. RHISCO falls under the homeless prevention funding priority.

Kerry Shaw thanked the county coalitions for being a part of RHISCO, which has been a significant part of the Foundation's 10 years of grantmaking. The Foundations have provided over \$2.7 million, through 4 phases that have spanned 7 years, in direct and indirect investments to positively impact local planning, service coordination and prevention of homelessness for at-risk individuals. Kerry provided an overview of the intent and focus of funding for each phase, culminating in the development and release of the Exit Strategy and Phase III Request for Proposal. The plan at the onset of RHISCO was to help build capacity at the local level through planning, and subsequently implementation funding over three phases, with the goal of funded efforts and strategies sustained and/or maintained within the local communities resulting in increased knowledge, networks

and capacity. With that, the final Phase is designed to support implementation of effective existing programs and system capacity transition efforts, related the one or more of the six (6) Key Elements of Highly Performing Rural Coalitions.

See the attached Power Point presentation, Phase III Exit Strategy and Key Elements of Highly Performing Rural Coalitions for more information. Materials can also be found on the Foundation's web site at [www.osteopathicheritage.org](http://www.osteopathicheritage.org).

### 3. Federal/State Policy and Funding Trends

Tom Albanese provided an update on the work that is taking place at both the state and federal level that could impact rural counties moving forward. Tom covered the following topics during his presentation: the shift in focus at both the state and federal level to targeted homelessness prevention; an overview of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-housing Program (HPRP) and the HEARTH Act; and the implications to RHISCO in terms of Phase III funding and the exit strategy. See the attached Power Point Presentation for more information. It can also be found on the Foundation's web site, [www.osteopathicheritage.org](http://www.osteopathicheritage.org).

The following points arose during the Presentation, regarding HEARTH that may help cultivate a clearer understanding of what is happening at the state and federal level:

- Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) will continue to come through the shelter system under HEARTH.
- The new Rural Homeless section under HEARTH is limited and will not apply to most communities in Ohio, as they will not be considered "rural enough" to qualify under this funding stream. Furthermore, if a community qualifies to use rural funding, it would be ineligible to receive funding under the Balance of State Continuum of Care.
- HEARTH funding is likely to be allocated in much the same way as HPRP funding, using 5 regions / 45 service areas in Ohio.
- The HEARTH Act changes the definition of homelessness to include characteristics more readily experienced by populations in communities without shelters. The proposed definition is available at <http://www.hudhre.info/hearth/>
- HEARTH Funds will continue to go through the Balance of State Continuum of Care process, so funds will be appropriated at the state level and then sub-granted to Ohio communities.
- The measurements to be used for performance outcomes will be developed through HUD. It is anticipated that they will most likely allow communities to show mitigating conditions, i.e. poor economy that makes it difficult to serve folks in terms of moving them through the continuum and/or stabilizing their housing situation. If a community can attribute poor performance to some outside factor, HUD may show some leniency.
- COHHIO will be organizing focus groups to comment on the new regulations. Contact Jonda Clemings at [jondaclemings@cohhio.org](mailto:jondaclemings@cohhio.org) for more information. COHHIO will be hosting a number of webinars on HPRP and HEARTH moving forward, and should be viewed as a technical assistance resource. Please go to [www.cohhio.org](http://www.cohhio.org) to get a list of upcoming webinars. Jonda reminded the group that COHHIO provides an array of technical assistance for rural communities, so if a coalition has specific needs it should contact her for support.

### 4. Key Elements of Highly Performing Rural Coalitions

In preparation for the convening, each coalition was asked to complete and bring a copy of the **Rural Coalition Indicator Survey**, which was distributed prior to the convening. Tom provided context for the intent and use for the survey, which was to identify coalition strengths and opportunities for development, to be used as a basis for system capacity transition support to be considered in Phase III. The Key Elements of Highly Performing Rural Coalitions were developed based on learnings from RHISCO as well as from information that has been distributed at the national level from sources such as the National Alliance to End Homelessness, such as "Critical Success Factors in High Performing Rural Continuums of Care" which can be located at: <http://www.endhomelessness.org/content/article/detail/2681>

Tom introduced the group discussion activity to provide an opportunity for coalitions to discuss survey results, challenges and/or strengths that surfaced, which relate to the Key Elements for Highly Performing Rural Coalitions and can be formulated into a request to the Foundation for funding for Phase III.

The following are reflections and challenges that arose during the Group Discussion:

#### Coalition Challenges

- Not having a lead agency involved.
- Community buy-in.
- Multi-county funding streams.
- Measuring outcomes.
- Participation from perimeter agencies that are not directly invested in housing or homelessness but have an impact on housing outcomes, and to keep stakeholders involved in a meaningful and relevant way.
- Determining when it is best to use the No Wrong Door versus the Single Point of Contact approach.

#### Provider Challenges

- Meeting the demands of new / changing needs of specific populations, such as homeless veterans.
- Appropriate provider allocation for funding the Coalition / Reporting staff.
- Training frontline staff on available resources across the county.
- Staff turnover.

#### HMIS/Data Challenges

- Agencies refusing to participate in HMIS that are not required by HUD funding.
- Extracting data, especially to inform resource planning.
- Lack of confidence in data quality.
- Lack of training on HMIS reporting.
- Determining how to include information on the population being served for example.
- Alternative ways to track data for multiple sources HMIS, HEAP, etc. with one tracking tool like OCEAN.

### **5. Phase III Application with Guidance and Examples**

Kerry reviewed the Phase III Request for Proposal details, along with the Phase III application. The details for the RFP are attached and can be found on-line at [www.osteopathicheritage.org](http://www.osteopathicheritage.org). Questions on the application should be directed to Kerry or Laura Milazzo.

### **6. Wrap Up and Evaluation**

Terri Donlin Huesman asked coalition members to advise the Osteopathic Heritage Foundations on how to share knowledge and move local and state issues related to rural homelessness forward. Ms. Donlin Huesman thanked participants for attending and for their work to prevent and reduce homelessness in Ohio.

Attendee List:

Last Name	First Name	Affiliation
Albanese	Tom	Consultant
Baughn	Bambi	Fayette County
Blair	Christina	Fayette County
Carroll-Decker	Suzan	Washington and Morgan Counties
Clemings	Jonda	COHHIO
Dennis	Jason	Pickaway County
Donlin	Terri	Osteopathic Heritage Foundation
Edwards	Annelle	Washington and Morgan Counties
Edwards	Becky	Fairfield County
Elliot	Tiffany	Pickaway County
Fetzer-Rice	Beth	Delaware and Union Counties
Fox-Moore	Donna	Fairfield County
Frank	Mary Jo	Jackson and Meigs and Vinton Counties
Gillespie	Terri	Athens and Hocking Counties
Hammar	Martin	Athens and Hocking Counties
Hammond	Becky	Pickaway County
Harris	Joy	Knox County
Holt	Linda	Knox County
Jacques	Marian	Madison County
Kimmel	Melissa	Jackson and Meigs and Vinton Counties
McCormish	Keith	Public Service Consulting
McCormish	Nick	Public Service Consulting
Milazzo	Laura	OU Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Affairs
Minklei	Lisa	Licking County
Minshall	Lisa	Jackson and Meigs and Vinton Counties
Morrow	Patti	Fairfield County
Oaks	Cheyenne	Washington and Morgan Counties
Otto	Jim	Licking County
Pfaff	Diane	Athens and Hocking Counties
Rauch	Dawn	Washington and Morgan Counties
Rice	Diana	Madison County
Shaw	Kerry	Osteopathic Heritage Foundation
Skilliter	Pat	Perry Housing Coalition
Smith	Patti	Perry Housing Coalition
Stevens	DeLaine	Madison
Stover	Louella	Jackson and Meigs Counties
Tegtmeyer	Deb	Licking County