

LETTER FROM THE COORDINATED ENTRY WORK GROUP:

July 19, 2017

Dear Community Partners,

We understand that navigating the housing system can feel like a maze for individuals experiencing homelessness. Trying to determine who to talk to, how to get there, and where to begin can seem confusing and overwhelming.

As frontline service providers – food pantries, meal programs, workforce development sites, health care providers, schools, or the multitude of other organizations that impact the lives of those experiencing homelessness – we also know that you are often asked how families and individuals can get help.

To help those experiencing homelessness – and those providing services – find appropriate resources, the Greater Kansas City Coalition to End Homelessness (GKCCEH), the Continuum of Care for Jackson and Wyandotte Counties, has **implemented a new Coordinated Entry system**, which was launched July 17, 2017.

Coordinated Entry establishes a system where housing placement isn't a matter of talking to the right case manager, at the right agency, at the right time. Instead, Coordinated Entry represents standardized access and screening for all individuals, through a coordinated referral and housing placement process to ensure that people experiencing homelessness receive appropriate assistance with long-term housing and service needs.

To help families and individuals experiencing homelessness access this new system, **we need your help.**

Attached you will find two documents:

- Kansas City Coordinated Entry Pre-Screen Tool: To help our community better understand the needs of this population, we are asking you to complete this form for each family or individual that self identifies as homeless.
- Once completed, please send your forms to the GKCCEH office, details included on the form. We are working with other partners, such as Harvesters, to create additional form collection sites.
- The data collected from these forms will help our community better identify opportunities to better help our neighbors. All data will be shared quarterly.
- Coordinated Entry Screening Sites & Emergency Resources: Once a family or individual has been pre-screened, please provide them a copy of the Coordinated Entry Screening Sites & Emergency Resources document.
- For those experiencing domestic violence, or who are veterans or youth, please direct them to reach out to the hotlines provided at the top of the Emergency Resources section.
- If families or individuals need emergency shelter – those who do not have access to any form of shelter, such as staying with family/friends or in a hotel –refer them to an appropriate shelter listed on the Emergency Resources section. Please note, referral does not guarantee a bed. Feel free to call any shelter listed for more information about their services.
- To access the Coordinated Entry system, families and individuals must visit a screening site, known as a hub. Hours for screening are listed, as well as additional contact information. The screening takes 40-60 minutes, and individuals will be screened on a first come, first serve basis. No services or program enrollment will occur during the screening.

Updated versions of these documents can be found at www.endKCHomelessness.org under the Coordinated Entry tab.

Coordinated Entry is a process, with different populations and resources being phased in over time. Currently, our work is focusing on providing permanent supportive housing to those who are most chronic and veterans. As we progress, this system will include families, youth, rapid rehousing, transitional housing and emergency shelters.

The Greater Kansas City Coalition to End Homelessness holds monthly meetings the 3rd Wednesday of every month, 9:15 AM – 10:30 AM, in the 5th floor conference room at the Central branch of the Kansas City Public Library, located at 14 West 10th Street in Kansas City, Missouri. Guests are welcome to attend.

For questions or additional information, please visit www.endKCHomelessness.org or contact Amy Bickford, Program Specialist, Greater Kansas City Coalition to End Homelessness, at 816-924-7997 or abickford@hscgkc.org.

Thank you for your support. **Together we can end homelessness in Kansas City.**

Greater Kansas City Coalition to End Homelessness Coordinated Entry Work Group:

- Amy Bickford, MPA, Program Specialist, **Greater Kansas City Coalition to End Homelessness**
- Starla Brennan, Operations Director, **Metro Lutheran Ministry**
- Cord Cochran, Director of Men's Ministries, **City Union Mission**

- Amy Copeland, M.S., LPC, Affordable Housing Consultant, **State of MO
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- Dani de León, Case Management Specialist, **Catholic Charities of Northeast
Kansas**
- Traci Francis, MSW, Chief Quality Officer, **Hope House**
- Beau G. Heyen, CFRE, President/CEO, **Episcopal Community Services**
- Kimberly Jackson, LPC, Housing Resource Manager, **Truman Medical Centers**
- Alexandra Kuestersteffen, LPC, Clinical Program Manager, **reStart, Inc.**
- Erin Pullen, LMSW, Director of Housing Programs, **Kim Wilson Housing**
- Sondra Robinson, LMSW, LCSW, Homeless Program Coordinator, **Kansas City
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- Lu Ann Ross, Case Manager, **Hillcrest Transitional Housing**
- Kelly Welch, Executive Director, **Sheffield Place**
- Julie Wilber-Parks, LMSW, Director of Housing and Economic Advocacy, **Rose
Brooks Center**