

**Winona County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council**  
**Jail & Jail Alternatives Meeting**  
**January 29, 2013**

**Present:** Justin Green, Latrisha Green, Kalene Engel, Vic Souders, Steve Buswell, Jerry Obieglo, Amy Moe, Matt Hudson, Alisha Lager (CARE Intern)

**Minutes by:** Kalene Engel

**Call to Order:** 1:35 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes from Prior Meeting:** Minutes from the December 18, 2012 were approved without changes.

- **CARE Updates:** Alisha Lager, CARE Intern, started January 14<sup>th</sup> and will be working at CARE through May. She eventually wants to have a career in jail programming or juvenile corrections. At the end of last quarter, there were three graduates of the CARE Program and 53 clients who carried over into the current quarter. Two more have been added since that time and there are currently four additional applicants. Concerns about communication (type/frequency) were brought to the attention of CARE Staff so several changes have been implemented to improve communication including the following: (1) dividing the client caseload so that each CARE Coordinator is primarily responsible for half of the caseload; (2) distributing a calendar of CARE Team Meetings and always holding those meetings as scheduled; and (3) maintaining and regularly distributing to CARE Team Members an “at-a-glance” status update chart on CARE clients. CARE Coordinators are continuing to hold regular hours and monthly classes at Fresh Start. Yesterday, Deb McClellan from Express Personnel held a job search class. As a result of the class, CARE received applications from four individuals interested in the program.
- **ACH Review:** Vic will be circulating a letter seeking members for a workgroup to review the Advanced Correctional Healthcare Program. This review was one of the strategic planning goals identified by this Committee.
- **Pretrial Services Update:** County Administration has indicated that all key stakeholders must be supportive of a pretrial services program before a funding request can be made to the County Board. One of the concerns expressed by stakeholders previously was the cost and availability of GPS monitoring. Since earlier this month, in addition to its regular vendors, the jail has been offering GPS through a company (Camsystems) providing lower costs and faster hookups. Jail staff is undergoing training on the Camsystems software and reportedly likes the product. It is felt that establishing a comfort level with this system will help secure buy-in from reluctant stakeholders. Additionally, since the beginning of the year, Kalene has been collecting data on release orders/conditions and bail on incarcerated individuals as well as gathering additional information on pre-trial processes in the jail. Some issues that need to be addressed include making release orders readily accessible to law enforcement officers and determining what type of enforcement the judges expect with respect to release orders

(i.e. do they expect law enforcement to immediately detain individuals who have violated the orders or do they expect reports of violations or something else).

- **Jail Furloughs:** Jail staff recently met with the judges to discuss furloughs. The attorney for the Minnesota Sheriff's Association raised concern about the use of a Furlough Committee to decide furloughs for sentenced individuals (as has been done in Winona County since the judges requested to have a furlough committee decide the issue). The attorney felt that the use of a committee subjected the Sheriff's Department and furlough committee to liability if the released inmate committed damage/further crimes while out on release. Judge Thompson disagreed with this assessment. The Jail then asked whether the judges would be willing to sign a blanket order, similar to that used by drug court, that would authorize the committee to make the decision, but also have the judge make that decision become a court order. The jail is waiting to hear back from the judges on the issue.
  
- **Jail Programs Update Including GPS:**
  - **GPS:** The new jail GPS Policy was implemented on January 7, 2013. It requires that anyone who is out of the facility for an unsupervised release must be on GPS. If it's a short term furlough, the jail does the hookups and monitoring with Camsystems devices and the cost is \$7/day. If it is a longer furlough, the inmates are given a choice of three vendors: Midwest Monitoring, Camsystems and Watchguard. Camsystems has the lowest daily price at \$8 per day and also offers same day hookups. Overall, the program is going very well. Jail staff just had training on the software and find it easy to use. If a released person on GPS is not where they are supposed to be, an officer is dispatched to pick them up
  
  - **Other Jail Programs:** The jail currently offers the following jail programs:
    - Narcotics Anonymous: Mondays starting at 6:30 p.m.
    - Celebrate Recovery: Tuesdays starting at 6:30 p.m. (currently not active due to lack of participants)
    - Alcoholics Anonymous: Wednesdays starting at 6:30 p.m.
    - Bible Study: Thursdays starting at 6:30 p.m.
    - Christian Service: Sunday at 1:30 p.m.
    - GED Classes: Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.
    - Wenden CD Program: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1:30 to 3:30 or 4pm.
    - Jail nurse: Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays for four hours (varies depending upon the day)
    - Counseling services with Darrell Warnke: Tuesdays and Fridays for two hours each day

**Adjournment:** 1:00 p.m.

**Next Meeting:** February 26, 2013 noon at Kensington Banquet Room.

**Winona County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council**  
**Jail & Jail Alternatives Meeting**  
**February 26, 2013**

**Present:** Justin Green, Latrisha Green, Kalene Engel, Vic Souders, Matt Hudson, Alisha Lager (CARE Intern), Amy Moe

**Minutes by:** Kalene Engel

**Call to Order:** 1:35 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes from Prior Meeting:** Minutes from the January 29, 2013 were approved without changes.

- **CARE Updates:** The new client tracking system is working well. As a result of the system, CARE Staff had identified approximately 7 clients who cannot be located and whose cases will be closed. There are 6 applicants who will become clients upon signing of their CARE Plan as well as two pending clients from drug court and an additional applicant to be interviewed. Referrals are being received from the jail, Fresh Start and Second Chance. Amy Moe stated that it would be helpful to identify any CARE clients who also had WCCS (Winona County Community Services) Case Managers. After discussion, the committee recommended adding WCCS Case Managers to the tracking sheet in the same column currently used to identify probation agents. Vic is working with Winona Community Education to see if GED services currently provided by Arvid Mortenson on a contract basis through CARE could be funded through Community Education. CARE forms and the CARE Policies and Procedures Manual have been revised to include required civil rights notifications.
- **Jail Furloughs:** Deferred until a jail representative could be present to provide an update.
- **ACH Review:** The ACH Review has been on the JJA's strategic planning list for two years but other projects took priority. The initial concern about the decision to change jail healthcare providers appears to have subsided such that a simple survey (as opposed to a workgroup) should suffice for the review. Committee members decided that the survey should be done through Survey Monkey and should be given to representatives from Jail, Prosecution, Defense, WCCS and DOC. A different survey would be administered to former inmates in person. Justin will prepare a draft for review.
- **Pretrial Services Update:** No new updates.
- **Other:** Kalene noted that the Winona Daily News now has a Crime Map on its website.

**Adjournment:** 12:45 p.m.

**Next Meeting:** March 26, 2013 noon at Kensington Banquet Room.

**Winona County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council**  
**Jail & Jail Alternatives Meeting**  
**March 26, 2013**

**Present:** No meeting was held as several but updates were provided via e-mail.

**Updates by:** Kalene Engel

- **CARE Updates:** At the beginning of this quarter there were 53 clients. Four clients will have successfully completed the program at quarter end and 11 clients will be dismissed from the program. The large number of dismissals is largely due to the newly implemented tracking system which has allowed CARE to more easily identify non-participating clients. One client died. Ten new clients were added this quarter and five clients are pending either CARE Plan development or signing. Once the pending clients are added, there will be 54 active clients.
- **GED Services:** Chris Dahlke, Adult Literacy Coordinator for Winona Public Schools met with CARE Staff on March 26, 2013 to discuss his proposal for filling a gap in the GED Program. Currently, GED classes are offered at the Alternative Learning Center in six week blocks. Individuals wanting GED classes must wait until a new session starts before beginning classes. This creates gaps for people who have started GED services in jail or who are required to attend GED services as part of their corrections' case plan (such as Drug Court participants). Arvid Mortenson had been providing services, pursuant to a contract with the CARE Program, but is no longer providing those services. Mr. Dahlke has proposed that similar services be provided in space allocated to the Adult Literacy Program at the Southeast Technical College. He requested input regarding appropriate times/days to hold the classes and hopes to begin offering these classes in early April.
- **Drug Testing:** Chris Cichosz from the Sheriff's Department (also on the Drug Court Team) has located a vendor for drug testing kits (and confirmation tests) that is more cost effective than MedTox. A meeting was held on March 26, 2013 to discuss a possible switchover to the new vendor (Redwood) by Winona County for all testing performed by the County (Sheriff, Drug Court, WCCS, Probation (misdemeanor and gross misdemeanor). Kelly Anderson will collect information on the amount of test kits used by the County and will negotiate with vendors.
- **ACH Review:** Justin will circulate a draft survey for the ACH Review project.

**Next Meeting:** April 23, 2013 noon at Kensington Banquet Room.

**Winona County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council**  
**Jail & Jail Alternatives Meeting**  
**April 23, 2013**

**Present:** Latrisha Green, Kalene Engel, Vic Souders, Alisha Lager (CARE Intern), Judy Gilow

**Minutes by:** Kalene Engel

**Call to Order:** 12:04 p.m.

**Approval of E-Minutes from Prior Meeting:** Minutes from the March 26, 2013 were approved without changes.

- **CARE Updates:** CARE currently serves 46 clients with 4 pending clients. Vic is revising how jail bed days and bookings are calculated because he now has access (through the jail) to more accurate statistics and easily accessible information on jail stays. CARE is working very closely with the Drug Court Team—in fact all existing Drug Court participants are also CARE clients. CARE is getting a lot of positive feedback during Drug Court and has been able to provide community support services (i.e. transportation, housing assistance, etc.) that are not covered through Drug Court grant funds.
- **ACH Review:** The ACH Review has been on the JJA's strategic planning list for quite some time. Justin Green provided a rough draft of the survey and it was distributed to committee members for review and comment. Vic would like input by no later than May 2, 2013, at which time he will finalize it for distribution. Vic will also check to see whether ACH has done any internal reviews of the Winona County Program.
- **Pre-Trial Services Update:** Efforts are currently underway at County Administration to bring a program proposal before the Board of Commissioners which would group together some of the preventative programs that have been created or are in the process of being created relating to criminal justice concerns. Three of the programs which would be included in this proposal are Pre-Trial Services, Drug Court and CARE. Grouping these related programs under one "umbrella" would allow for increased coordination and oversight, as well as create efficiencies with data collection and exchange.
- **Review of Strategic Planning Goals:**
  - CARE Oversight & Sustainability: on target with goals; see above.
  - Pretrial Services Program: on target with goals; see above.
  - Release from jail (Huber, STS): In January the jail implemented a new policy requiring all non-supervised releases to be monitored on GPS. This program has been working very well, with zero reported violations since its inception.
  - ACH Review: on target with goals; see above.
- **Agenda Items for Next Meeting:** Given the success of Drug Court, the committee proposed the formation of a Weight Court, whereby participants would be held

accountable for their caloric consumption through regular journal reports to the presiding judge, weekly weigh-ins at the bench and sanctions (which could include loss of elevator privileges, increased treadmill incline, in-court workout sessions led by the presiding judge and higher weekly required pedometer counts). The committee also discussed formation of a Procrastination Court, but decided to defer any action at this time.

**Adjournment:** 12:32 p.m.

**Next Meeting:** May 28, 2013 noon at Kensington Banquet Room.

**Winona County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council**  
**Jail & Jail Alternatives Meeting**  
**May 28, 2013**

**Present:** Latrisha Green, Kalene Engel, Vic Souders, Matt Hudson, Abby Olsen, (CARE Intern), Laura Pettersen, Justin Green, Amy Moe

**Minutes by:** Kalene Engel

**Call to Order:** 12:04 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes from Prior Meeting:** Minutes from the April 23, 2013 meeting were approved without changes.

- **CARE Updates:** There are currently 48 clients and two applicants pending completion of CARE Plans. CARE graduated three clients at conclusion of the last reporting period—all graduates had apartments and jobs and were starting to pay back debts. There are two more candidates for graduation this quarter. Communication between CARE and Drug Court has been improved. The Drug Court Team suggested that CARE purchase a YMCA family membership to use as a reward. Vic is drafting a letter to the YMCA seeking a donation from the YMCA for the membership. Kalene attended an Office of Justice Programs funding meeting recently where new monies for re-entry programs was mentioned as a priority consideration. OJP recently released requests for proposals and CARE is looking into submitting an application.
- **ACH Review:** No update.
- **Pre-Trial Services Update:** The proposal to create a Community Stabilization and Integration Unit in Community Services will come before the CJCC Main Council on June 5<sup>th</sup> and before the County Board on June 25<sup>th</sup>. Questions were raised about the structure of the new unit and, specifically, how the pretrial services program would be staffed. Kalene stated that the CJCC Executive Committee will meet on Friday to discuss the issue.
- **Assisted Outpatient Treatment:** Steve Buswell received information on Assisted Outpatient Treatment from the Minnesota Sheriff's Association which he thought would be helpful in stabilizing people with mental illness who end up in jail. He shared the information with Judge Buytendorp who also wanted to discuss the matter in the Courts Committee. Questions were raised about how the program differed from civil commitment and the number of people who might be served through the program. Further discussion was deferred pending the next Courts Committee meeting.

**Adjournment:** 12:40 p.m.

**Next Meeting:** June 25, 2013 at noon at Kensington Banquet Room.

**Winona County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council**  
**Jail & Jail Alternatives Meeting**  
**June 25, 2013**

**Present:** Latrisha Green, Kalene Engel, Vic Souders, Abby Olsen, (CARE Intern), Justin Green

**Minutes by:** Kalene Engel

**Call to Order:** 12:04 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes from Prior Meeting:** Minutes from the May 28, 2013 meeting were approved without changes.

- **CARE Updates:** Three clients graduated this quarter. The CARE Team will be considering the termination of several clients who have not been actively participating or are not in need of CARE services, so the total client numbers will decrease. The YMCA will not be donating a membership to CARE. A grant application is in the works for continued funding of CARE through OJP.
- **ACH Review:** Vic completed a draft of the SurveyMonkey survey and will circulate that to Justin and Kalene for review.
- **Pre-Trial Services Update:** The proposal to create a Community Stabilization and Integration Unit in Community Services will come before the County Board tonight.
- **Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT):** Justin attended the Courts Committee Meeting where the AOT idea was discussed. Those in attendance were generally supportive of the concept, but questioned whether a re-examination of county commitment policies would accomplish the same purpose.
- **GRH:** As of July 1, Group Residential Housing Funds will no longer fund housing unless the recipient has a mental or physical disability. Additionally, incarcerated individuals cannot submit a combined application until after they are released from jail, so there is no pre-approval process. It takes between 2 weeks and one month to process a Combined Application, which can create a period of homelessness for those transitioning into the community. Absent funding, transitional housing will become a big issue for CARE, DOC, Drug Court and other similar programs. The Fresh Start Board of Directors has asked for a meeting with County representatives.

**Adjournment:** 12:40 p.m.

**Next Meeting:** July 23, 2013 at noon at Kensington Banquet Room.



**Winona County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council**  
**Jail & Jail Alternatives Meeting**  
**July 23, 2013**

**Present:** Latrisha Green, Kalene Engel, Vic Souders, Amy Moe, Justin Green, Al Rothering (Second Chance), Jessica Schultz (Second Chance)

**Minutes by:** Kalene Engel

**Call to Order:** 12:04 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes from Prior Meeting:** Minutes from the June 25, 2013 meeting were approved without changes.

- **CARE Updates:** After graduating 8 clients, obtaining 8 new clients and unsuccessfully dismissing 9 clients, CARE was left with 39 clients to begin the quarter. Many of the dismissals were due to clients who returned to prison, but who can reapply for CARE upon release. Total jail bed days for clients who have participated in CARE for the same were 8,724 pre-CARE versus 4481 post-care. CARE Team meetings are going well. The grant application was submitted and we expect to receive results in August or September.
- **ACH Review:** Vic reviewed the ACH survey during the meeting, making changes as recommended by committee members. A preliminary distribution list was created which includes jail, defense attorneys, prosecutors, department of corrections, judges, Community Services, Hiawatha Valley Mental Health Center, Wenden and Community Memorial Hospital. Justin will write a cover letter to accompany the survey and it will be distributed prior to next meeting.
- **Transitional Housing:** The majority of the meeting was spent discussing transitional housing for individuals leaving jail/prison. Although GRH had been used as a funding source for some of these individuals, it was not and is not appropriate in all cases as it is intended for people who are disabled and unable to work. Two primary issues were identified for a workgroup to address: (1) to identify existing resources for housing and develop processes to ensure that those resources can be accessed in a timely manner by qualified individuals; and (2) to explore and advocate for additional transitional housing resources which better meet the needs of individuals transitioning from jail or prison to the community. Latrisha Green will chair the workgroup. Invitations to the first workgroup meeting will be sent to CARE, Fresh Start, Second Chance, Corrections, Community Services, Jail and at least one public member.

**Adjournment:** 12:40 p.m.

**Next Meeting:** August 27, 2013 at noon at Kensington Banquet Room.

**Jail and Jail Alternatives Meeting**  
**Winona County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council**  
**August 29, 2013**  
**Noon at Kensington Banquet Room**

Present: Judy Gilow, Amy Moe, Victor Souders, Kalene Engel, Justin Green, Latrisha Green

- Called to order at 12:05 p.m.
- Transitional Housing Workgroup Update: The Transitional Housing Workgroup met immediately prior to the JJA meeting. It was well attended with good representation from stakeholders and excellent discussion. SEMCAC representatives provided information and answered questions about SEMCAC's new grant-funded transitional housing program as well as other housing programs offered through SEMCAC. Other attendees provided information on Group Residential Housing, Section 8 Housing and transitional housing with programming (i.e. Fresh Start and Second Chance). Gaps were identified and solutions were solicited. At the next meeting, area legislators will be invited to participate.
- CARE is awaiting word on its Office of Justice Programs grant application. At its next meeting, the CARE Team will review CARE Policies and Procedures.
- ACH Evaluation: The survey is completed and will be distributed once all e-mails of some additional survey participants are received.
- Pretrial Services: The Personnel Department will be working on job descriptions and classifications for both a pretrial services coordinator and Community Stabilization and Reintegration Supervisor. Kalene met with representatives from the County IT Department to discuss data collection/flow of information issues relative to a pretrial services department. She also travelled to La Crosse County with Samantha Carter, Drug Court Coordinator, to examine the software used by the Justice Sanctions Program.
- Strategic Planning: The committee is either working on or has completed the tasks it set out to do. Furlough issues appear to have been resolved and the furlough form is being used by the judges. CARE, Pretrial Services and Transitional Housing will continue to be on the strategic plan for next year. Committee members discussed and agreed to undertake a Process Flow Evaluation of the entrance into and exit from jail.
- Next Meeting: September 24, 2013 at noon

Adjourned: 12:35 p.m.

**Jail and Jail Alternatives Meeting**  
**Winona County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council**  
**September 24, 2013**  
**Noon at Kensington Banquet Room**

Present: Judy Gilow, Victor Souders, Kalene Engel, Justin Green, Latrisha Green

- Called to order at 12:05 p.m.
- Approval of Minutes: Minutes from August 29, 2013 meeting were approved without changes.
- CARE: CARE did not receive the OJP Grant. There are currently 37 clients. CARE Staff will be implementing some new strategies for recruiting new participants. Stats are being compiled for the next reporting period. The CARE Team has started a review of the Policy & Procedure Handbook and it will continue to be an ongoing agenda item.
- ACH Review: The survey has been approved and will be sent out shortly.
- Transitional Housing Workgroup Update: The first meeting of the Transitional Housing Workgroup was very well attended. The next meeting will be held on October 10<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. at the Kensington. Area legislators will be invited and invitations will also be extended to others who may have an interest in the subject, such as Home and Community Options. We did learn that an existing Drug Court client is the first participant in SEMCAC's new Transitional Housing Program.
- Jailhouse Treatment Program: Information about a Jailhouse Treatment Program in Sherburne County was distributed with the agenda. After discussion, the committee agreed that the program was worth looking into. Latrisha will follow up with Sherburne County and report back at the October meeting.
- Pretrial Services: Pending the hiring of a CSI Supervisor and Pretrial Services Coordinator, the committee would like to move ahead with the development of the pretrial services program. The agreed upon first step would be to conduct a process flow evaluation of the jail intake procedure and then reconvene the previously formed workgroup. Victor Souders agreed to start the process flow evaluation.
- Strategic Planning: Goals for next year include the following:
  - CARE Program oversight and sustainability
  - Develop pretrial services program
  - Special releases from jail issues (furloughs, transports, STS/work release)
  - Process Flow Evaluation
- Next Meeting: October 22, 2013 at noon; Meetings will be scheduled monthly, but starting in December, every other meeting can be converted to an e-meeting, at the Chairperson's option.

Adjourned: 12:55 p.m.

# **CRIMINAL JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL JAIL & JAIL ALTERNATIVES COMMITTEE**

*This update is provided in lieu of the October 22, 2013 meeting.*

## A G E N D A & E-MINUTES

*"The Jail and Jail Alternatives Committee will recommend alternatives to incarceration for the criminal justice system to consider. The Committee will research, evaluate and recommend programming designed to facilitate change in the individual and thus prevent future involvement in the criminal justice process".*

### 1. CARE Staff & Team Updates

CARE Staff/Team

- CARE has 42 clients entering Quarter 17
- CARE Staff is starting a more proactive recruitment program, paying special attention to "frequent flyers." Future plans include a recruitment letter to all jail inmates, visiting prospective clients in jail (to put a "face" on the program before the invite is invited to participate) and attending first appearances.

### 2. ACH Review

Vic Souders

The 10 question ACH survey was distributed to thirteen individuals on 9/31/13 via an email linking the website [www.surveymonkey.com](http://www.surveymonkey.com). A "please complete by" date was given and supervisors were asked to distribute the web link to subordinates who would have interactions with ACH. It was expected another ten to fifteen people would answer the survey through the forwarded emails. After the "please complete by" date passed with a poor response rate, separate emails were sent to those individuals asking them to please complete or forward the survey to those subordinates with interactions with ACH. As of today, 10/21/13, one survey has been completed. We are now looking at the possibility of using hard copies of the survey in an effort to make the process a little easier.

### 3. Transitional Housing Workgroup

Latrisha Green

See the attached Transitional Housing Workgroup Minutes. A follow-up meeting with Linda Bedtka of Winona HRA is set for Thursday, October 31, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. in the Kensington Banquet Room

**Transitional Housing Workgroup Meeting**  
**Jail & Jail Alternatives Committee**  
**Criminal Justice Coordinating Council**  
**October 10, 2013 at Noon at Kensington Banquet Room**

**Attendees:** Samantha Carter, Kalene Engel, Latrisha Green, Duane Hebert, Rena' Patterson, Vic Souders, Warren Green, Rep. Gene Pelowski, Linda Bedkta

**Minutes by:** Kalene Engel

**Chaired by:** Latrisha Green

**Approval of Minutes:** Duane Hebert's last name was misspelled; with that corrections, minutes of August 29, 2013 meeting were approved.

**What Are We Looking For In Transitional Housing?:** The workgroup was originally convened to discuss/develop housing options in Winona County for individuals leaving jail or prison, i.e. transitional housing. Group members discussed what they would like to see for transitional housing. Criteria discussed included the following:

- Temporary housing, no longer than 6 months
- Somewhere where someone who does not have a place to go can get "back on their feet"
- Somewhere that would allow the individual to save money for a security deposit and rent on another facility
- Somewhere that provides structure and programming, to provide accountability and oversight so that the individual wants to (or has to) eventually leave the facility for something better.
- Not just a place where the person receives a free handout or place to live with no strings attached; provide true transitional services to get them from temporary housing to more stable housing.

**Possible Pilot/Model Site:** Duane Hebert stated that we already have a lot of the pieces of the puzzle in place in our community with the programs that we have created, despite a depressed economy. However, many of the individuals leaving jail have significant barriers to overcome such as housing, mental health issues and lack of education and work experiences. Without a supportive environment, the dollars that were spent on that individual in jail do not end because these people (and/or their families) end up in community services. One of the pieces of the puzzle that is not yet there is transitional housing, which is a most basic need. This need is not just specific to our area—it is a need throughout Minnesota. By coming up with a local solution that could be widely replicated, we could help others throughout the state. One option would be to look at each individual to determine what they need, as opposed to looking at each program to see what program that person would fit into. Rep. Pelowski stated that he was leery of pilot programs because of sustainability issues. You don't want to fund the creation of a great program, only to have it end due to lack of ongoing funding.

**Funding Outlook from the State:** Rep. Pelowski noted that the state raised a record amount of taxes last session which went back to the schools or local government. He stated that the legislature wanted to know how that money that was invested in our counties, cities or program was being used. He requested a report on the investment made by the State. He also noted that there will be no new spending in February, but that could change after the November election. He stated that the State wants to know how and where the money was spent, as the best reason to invest more money is to show that past investments were wise. He noted that the legislature would be looking to the statewide organizations (such as AMC) to bring forth ideas in a concerted way, rather than piecemeal requests by individual groups or counties. This does not mean that you should be afraid to do things locally, but get the statewide organizations on board, too. If resources are not being used appropriately, the legislature would look at relocating them. This includes statewide mandates that the legislature will be looking to eliminate. Winona County CJCC is hosting an outreach event in January, ideas for mandate elimination/alternate spending should be submitted by February 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Current State Funding:** There is currently no known state funding for true transitional housing. The GRH (Group Residential Housing) funds are currently used for people who are "long term unemployable"—not merely unemployed. GRH Funds are meant to provide stability for people who cannot support themselves, usually because of some sort of disability. One idea is to create a subcategory of GRH funding for true transitional services. Thus, instead of requesting additional monies, re-allocate the monies already set aside for GRH.

**Public Housing in the City of Winona:** Linda Bedkta, Executive Director of the Winona Housing and Redevelopment Authority, provided information on public housing possibilities for individuals leaving jail or prison. She noted that individuals with a felony conviction during the last five years would be disqualified at the initial screening. However, there is an appeals process for requesting a higher level review (by her) of the application. She noted that many people do not pursue the appeals process or do not get her the additional information required in the appeals process. However, those people who do appeal and who have a case manager working with them (such as a DOC agent, CARE Coordinator or Drug Court Coordinator) would definitely be considered for residency. If a person was placed in public housing after an appeal, she would provide them with a list of things that they would have to do to remain in the housing. She is willing to meet with area case managers to provide more information about the process and what she is looking

for in an appeal. She noted that placing single individuals is difficult, but that her current waiting list for two and three bedrooms is very short. The rental amount is income based. The minimum amount of rent that must be paid by a person on public assistance is \$50, and if the individual secures employment, HRA does not count income for the first year when calculating rent. The HRA Board is also considering adding transitional housing. HRA would also like to be able to communicate better with the County to keep closer tabs on dual clients.

**Fresh Start:** Warren Green stated that when he was allowed to have programming in his facility, the residents were getting jobs and moving on within three months. However, when the programming stopped, the good results stopped. He lost a significant amount of money every month due to lack of funding for the residents who were staying there. He also noted that he had plans to expand his facility to women and children.

**HCO Experience:** Dennis Theede of Home and Community Options was ill and unable to attend the meeting to discuss his experience with funding streams. However, he did provide some information about this experience to Latrisha Green, who passed it onto the group. HCO had a particular funding source that was coming to them that did not work towards the transitional component of their housing. They were able to get an amendment to the existing funding stream to make sure that they could continue programming which was in line with their mission statement. This would be similar to what was proposed earlier regarding a proposed “transitional housing” component for GRH. Dennis also noted that HCO is integrating more technology to have more accountability—surveillance and monitoring.

Next Steps:

- Notify CJCC that the legislature is seeking a list of mandates to eliminate;
- Put together a chart of what we currently have for transitional housing and identify gaps;
- Gather information about three or four programs that we have had success with to show the legislators that the money invested in Winona County is money well spent;
- Identify 3 or 4 areas for the upcoming Legislative Outreach Event in which the County would like some action, including the barriers that are preventing us from achieving the goals.
- Schedule a meeting with Linda Bedtka and area case managers/social workers to discuss public housing options and the possibility of local transitional housing through the HRA.
- Schedule next meeting around the first week of December

**Jail and Jail Alternatives Meeting**  
**Winona County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council**  
**November 26, 2013**  
**Noon at Kensington Banquet Room**

Present: Judy Gilow, Victor Souders, Kalene Engel, Justin Green, Latrisha Green, Michele Rudnik, Mary Bronk

- Called to order at 12:05 p.m.
- Approval of E-Minutes: E-minutes from October were approved without changes.
- CARE:
  - **Client Numbers**: CARE recently admitted 5 new clients and currently has 47 clients for Quarter 17.
  - **Review of CARE Coordinator Role**: CARE Staff has requested that the JJA, as the advisory group for CARE, provide input on the role of the CARE Coordinator with respect to clients who are also enrolled in Drug Court or under DOC supervision. The concern is that there may be duplication of services and or gaps if the work of the respective programs is not coordinated.
    - Latrisha Green provided an overview of the current screening and client qualification process for CARE. Part of the qualification process includes having the client sign releases which would authorize CARE Staff to obtain information from and speak to DOC and Drug Court.
    - The CARE Target Population criteria currently excludes Level 3 Sex Offenders—a self-imposed limitation, which is a carryover from the initial years of the grant when it was important to secure public support for the program. Michele Rudnik noted that her caseload includes such offenders and that it would be helpful for her to have assistance from CARE Coordinators when supervising those offenders.
    - CARE distributed a list of different services the CARE Coordinators offer to CARE clients (see attached).
    - CARE Coordinators noted that, because CARE is a voluntary program, it is difficult to enforce compliance. DOC, on the other hand, can enforce the terms of probation because it is part of the offender's sentence. In the past, CARE has been reluctant to report non-compliance to DOC as they felt it was important to build trust with the client due to the voluntary nature of the program. This may have created communication gaps between CARE and DOC.
    - Michele feels that communication is the key. She would appreciate having the assistance of CARE Coordinators to help her with tasks that she does not have the time/resources to complete but which will help the client with his/her case plan.
    - Currently, all CARE clients other than joint CARE/Drug Court clients receive CARE Case Plans. The CARE Plan format closely resembles the case plans that are done by DOC or Drug Court. When a client is a dual CARE/Drug Court client, CARE does not create a separate case plan, instead deferring to the Drug Court plan. Currently, if a client is a dual CARE/DOC client, there may be two separate case plans created. DOC currently creates case plans for high risk individuals. This may result in an overlap of services and confusion for the clients, particularly if the case plans conflict.
    - If a DOC case plan is created, it is created once an offender is released from jail/prison, when they are directed to report to their probation agent. CARE attempts to contact the offender prior to release from jail to determine both short and long-term needs post-release.

- CARE Team meetings have not been as consistent or productive as they were in the past. The original CARE program design called for the client and the CARE Team to jointly develop the case plan. This would allow buy-in from the client (who was involved in the development of the plan) as well as input from a multidisciplinary team. Mary Bronk felt that the meetings were more productive when the clients were present. She felt that the team got better insights and were able to do some teaching at the time of the conference. Michele noted that it would be helpful to have the probation agent who was supervising the individual present at the CARE Plan.
  - **Recommendations:**
    - In the absence of unusual circumstances, once CARE Coordinators receive a signed authorization from an applicant, they will initiate contact with DOC and Drug Court to determine whether that individual is a Drug Court client or under DOC supervision. The involved coordinators/case managers will determine whether they can the programs can work together to best serve the client's needs.
    - Kalene will contact the grant manager to determine if Level 3 Sex Offenders can be added to the target population for CARE.
    - CARE Coordinators will increase efforts to communicate with DOC and Drug Court, including reporting non-compliance on tasks on which CARE services have been enlisted by DOC or Drug Court
    - CARE will continue to serve as a recovery support services program for Drug Court and will defer to the Drug Court case plan.
    - Kalene will meet with Rená Patterson to further discuss the coordination of CARE with DOC. Consideration will be given to having CARE defer to the DOC case plan, if a DOC case plan is developed.
    - CARE Team meetings will continue and, whenever possible, will include the client. If CARE defers to both the DOC and Drug Court case plans, the frequency of CARE Team meetings may decrease.
- ACH Review: There has been an overall lack of interest/lack of cooperation in responding to the ACH survey.
- Transitional Housing Workgroup Update: Latrisha distributed two handouts on transitional housing. The first is a visual depiction of the housing resources available for individuals leaving jail or prison (attached). The biggest gap, as shown on the chart, is immediate housing post jail/prison discharge. She also provided a narrative summary of the housing resources. Although Winona has facilities willing to provide transitional housing, there is currently no funding available to fund that housing. The lack of housing presents a significant obstacle, because these individuals cannot be connected to resources unless they have a place to stay in the community. Gene Pelowski has previously noted that no new funding will be made available. One option might be to carve out a special subcategory for temporary or transitional housing from the existing Group Residential Housing funding. Dennis Theede of Home and Community Options has successfully lobbied for a reallocation of funding for some special housing needs for the clientele HCO serves. Latrisha will schedule another meeting of the workgroup and invite Mr. Theede to talk about his experiences.
- Next Meeting: December 23, 2013 at noon (if this is converted to an e-Meeting, notice will be sent out several days prior to the scheduled meeting).

Adjourned: 1:10 p.m.



CARE is a Goal-Task-Rewards based Case Management system.

#### General

- Assess individual's barriers through initial interview /w Motivational Interviewing and Trauma Informed Care
- Set realistic goals based on addressing those barriers, breaking them down to achievable tasks
- Creating a "check-list" using each identified goal to be used for accountability (progress monitoring) and conversation at every client check-in
- Provide practical rewards for client progress
- Connect the client to resources in the community relevant to the client's identified needs
  - Including making the needed referrals i.e., Volunteer Services voucher

#### Transportation

- Assist in finding out Driver's license issues and goals to become a legal driver
- Bus Pass, if on-task
- Connect with SEMCAC volunteer drivers
- With due notice or in extreme/emergency situations (not just poor planning) provide or refer transportation

#### Vocation/School

- Identification
  - If client is on task, CARE can provide assistance with obtaining Birth Certificate, or a State ID needed to apply for school or to obtain gainful employment
- Vocation interest inventory
- Assist with how to properly fill out applications (for work, school, or housing)
- Assist with resume creation
- Set realistic goals for job contacts, and keep accountable for follow up
- Mock interview / Etiquette
- Identify do's and don'ts on the job (How to maintain the job after it is secured)

#### Activities/Family

- Brainstorm pro social activities appropriate for the client
- Provide suggestions for fun, inexpensive activities with children
- Assist with parenting time/visitation issues

#### Mental Health/Chemical Dependency

- Provide "quick and dirty" assessment for referral
- Refer our "red flags" to other providers for more thorough follow up
- Assist other providers with follow through
- Be a listening board for client / Motivational Interviewing to reinforce Case Plan and goals

- In extreme or special circumstances CARE may provide short-term funding for medication, or diagnostic assessments
- Request medical records
- Transfer prescriptions to cheaper or more convenient pharmacies when relevant
- Help filling out Combined Application form, or other relevant forms
- Provide lists of groups (AA/NA/CR)
  - Follow up / Motivational Interviewing to maintain compliance

#### Housing

- Assist finding apartments within client means
- In extreme or special circumstances, and demonstration of CARE client goal progression, or an invested agent's referral, CARE **may** provide one-time funding for housing support
- Assist client placement or recommend housing resources appropriate for the client's needs and resources

#### Financial

- Identifying with the client (as a workshop) their financial means
  - Practical Budgeting within client's means
- Bank account (Checking/Savings) set up
- Educate about wants vs. needs

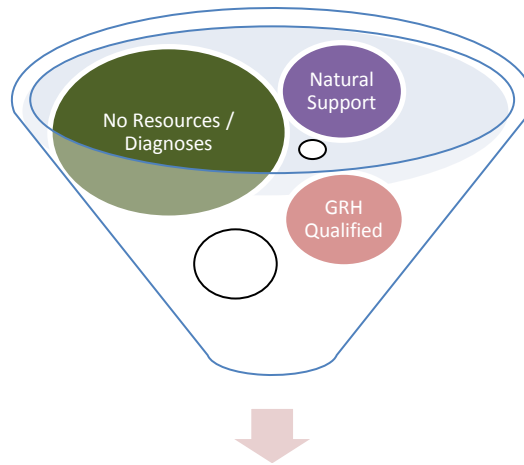
#### Classes

- When a more in-depth need is identified, classes on any of the above topics can be offered to clients with similar needs, (Budgeting, Pro-social Skill building, Work Readiness...)
- Thinking For Change

# Housing Resources

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**THE POPULATION OF PEOPLE EXITING CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES CAN BE BROKEN DOWN INTO SMALLER GROUPS BASED ON THEIR EXISTING RESOURCES, AND NEEDS.**



Total Target Population

Some will return to pre-existing apartments, houses and families. **Those who** do not have natural supports and **need immediate placement after exiting a correctional facility have few options.**

There are resources in place through various programs to help prevent homelessness. However, many of those resources are a one-time financial aid. They exist to create a buffer for individuals who are already financially stable, yet need help maintaining their housing situation, or need a jump-start with initial costs for housing. However, the applicants are expected to be able to maintain subsequent payments that housing. The client would need to be gainfully employed, or otherwise financially stable at the time of their release.

**The majority of the people exiting correctional facilities do not have pre-existing resources or supports.** They are not employed, and cannot become employed unless they have a housing placement. Much of the population exiting correctional facilities, who would benefit from community resources created to combat homelessness, cannot draw upon many of the services offered.

**There is an immediate need for structured, accountability-based temporary housing in order to allow those exiting correctional facilities to gather skills and resources in to obtain initial stability.**

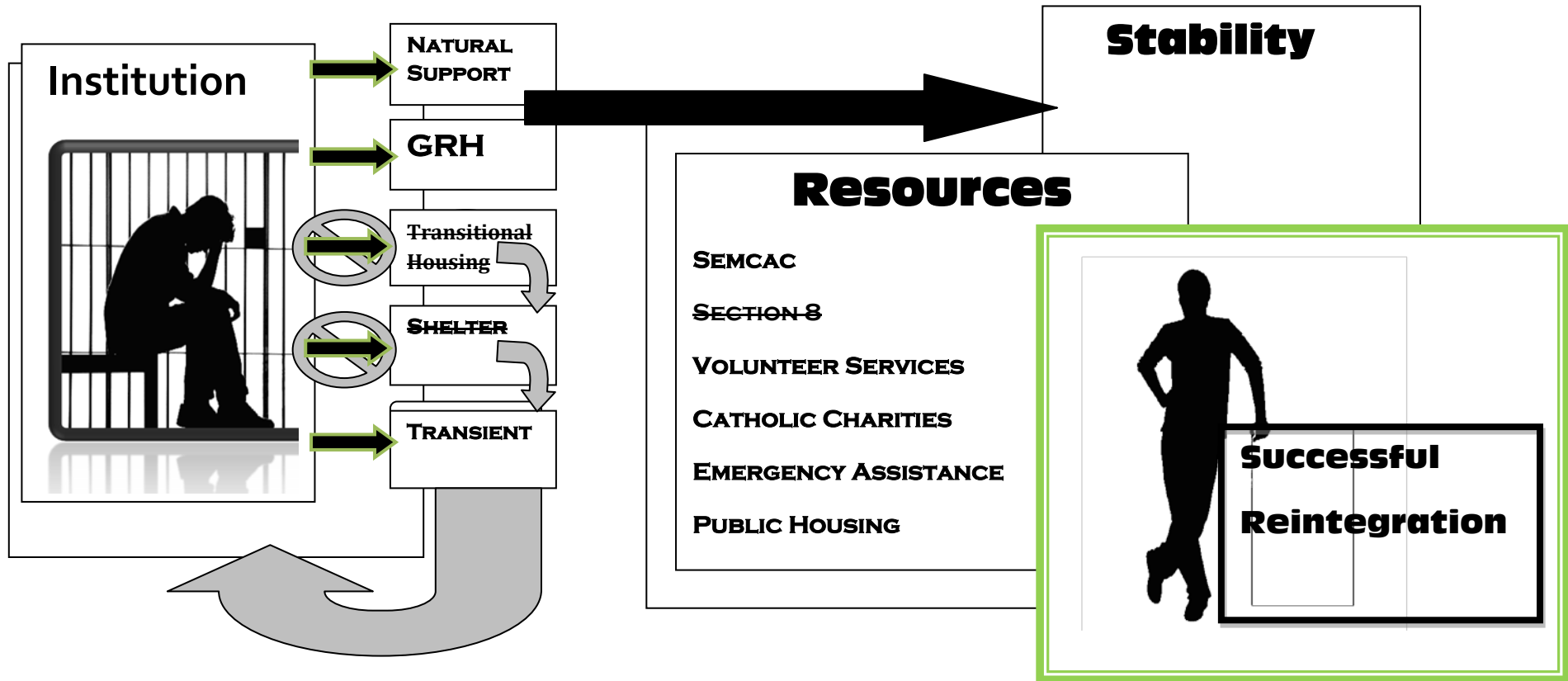
## Current Options for our Target Population without Natural Supports:

SEMCCAC ([www.semccac.org](http://www.semccac.org))

- ❖ *Transitional Housing Program:* The THP would cover the security deposit and the 1<sup>st</sup> month's rent, thereafter the client would have to pay 25% of his/her income and THP would pay the rest. There is very limited availability. Applicant must be homeless by HUD definition and be at or below 50% of the area median income. Eligible clients must also be on a case plan with goals and must be working towards those goals. **THP is a limited funding source, not a tangible structure. Applicants must qualify and find an affordable place to stay.**
- ❖ *Family Homeless Prevention and Assistance Program:* This program is designed to decrease homelessness by providing one-time assistance with a rent or mortgage payment for households that need a short-term "bridge" until their financial situation is expected to stabilize. Participants must meet program and income guidelines (income must be 2x as much as rent and they must qualify for Emergency Assistance) and be able to financially sustain their housing payment after Semccac's assistance. Participants also agree to follow up visits. Funding provided by Minnesota Housing Finance Agency. **FHPA is a limited funding source, not a tangible structure. Applicants must already have an affordable place to stay in order to qualify.**
- ❖ *Rural Housing Assistance and Stability Program:* This program provides information, referral, advocacy and first month's rent and/or security deposit assistance to homeless persons. Participants must meet the HUD definition of homelessness and be able to financially sustain their rental housing after Semccac's assistance (income of 2x of rent). This is intended for new housing for a person. **RHA is a limited funding source, not a tangible structure. Applicants must find an affordable place to stay in order to qualify.**
- ❖ Section 8 ([www.semmchra.org](http://www.semmchra.org); [www.winonahra.org](http://www.winonahra.org)) has no foreseeable openings
- ❖ Volunteer Services:
  - ❖ *Rent Assistance:* Offers limited rent and mortgage assistance on a one-time basis to qualifying families and individuals to cover housing costs in times of financial crisis. **RA is a limited funding source, not a tangible structure. Applicants must find an affordable place to stay in order to qualify**
  - ❖ *Shelter:* Helps transient and/or homeless individuals make arrangements with local and out-of-area shelters for temporary lodging when the individual has no available resources. **Currently Volunteer Services may allow for a few nights voucher at a placement. More time is needed to be able to obtain stability.**

Catholic Charities: Offers limited rent and mortgage assistance on a one-time basis to qualifying families and individuals to cover housing costs in times of financial crisis. **CC is a limited funding source, not a tangible structure. Applicants must have an affordable place to stay in order to qualify.**

- ❖ Group Residential Housing (GRH): **The individual does NOT have to find placement if they qualify. There are tangible places that receive this funding.** GRH provides payments for room and board for eligible individuals who have a qualifying disability. The disability must be documented and must prevent the individual from working. A drug/alcohol problem could be a disability if the person is unable to work and not amenable to treatment. Otherwise, if an individual is amenable to treatment, the person should go to treatment. If an individual is on Social Security prior to incarceration, they would be able to get back on GRH upon release. Individuals can apply for GRH within 30 days of their release date from jail, provided they have a set release date. GRH does not cover people who are merely unemployed. Must be unemployable. In fact, if/when a person receives an income, the GRH funding is decreased.
- ❖ Public Housing: An appeals process is available for individuals with a felony conviction. There is consideration of accepting individuals who are working with a case manager. **This is not an immediate placement option.**
- ❖ Temporary Shelters: Temporary shelter for men is available when there are volunteers willing to work. Our one placement for women and families in Winona is, closed. The small facility for men has currently been re-opened. **Due to the voluntary nature of this program it is not a dependable resource.**



# **CRIMINAL JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL JAIL & JAIL ALTERNATIVES COMMITTEE**

*This update is provided in lieu of the December 23, 2013 meeting.*

## A G E N D A & E-MINUTES

*“The Jail and Jail Alternatives Committee will recommend alternatives to incarceration for the criminal justice system to consider. The Committee will research, evaluate and recommend programming designed to facilitate change in the individual and thus prevent future involvement in the criminal justice process”.*

### **1. CARE Staff & Team Updates**

CARE Staff/Team

- Client Numbers: CARE recently admitted 11 new clients and currently has 53 clients for Quarter 17.
- CARE Staff have begun working with DOC agents to better coordinate services
  - Were invited to present at DOC group about CARE services
- In response to feedback from a DOC representative on the exclusion of Level 3 Sex Offenders, the CARE Program is now permitted to provide services to Level 3 Sex offenders, as they are now a part of the Program’s approved Target population
- At Intake, CARE Staff requests release of information for DOC and other relevant services, explaining the importance of being about to have freedom to communicate between agencies.
- CARE Staff has increased visibility in the Jail providing
  - Early response to intake
  - Follow up
  - Recommendations and Referrals
  - Motivational Interviewing
  - Information about CARE
  - Services (life skills, research..)

### **2. Transitional Housing Workgroup**

Latrisha Green

See the attached Transitional Housing Workgroup Minutes as well as the “white paper” assembled for the January 11, 2014 Elected Official Outreach.

### **3. Pretrial Services**

Kalene Engel

The Community Services Supervisor position for the Community Stabilization and Integration Unit was posted on December 6, 2013. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

**Next Meeting: January 28, 2014 at noon at Kensington Banquet Room**

**Transitional Housing Workgroup Meeting**  
**Jail & Jail Alternatives Committee**  
**Criminal Justice Coordinating Council**  
**December 17, 2013 at Noon at Kensington Banquet Room**

**Attendees:** Samantha Carter, Justin Green, Kalene Engel, Latrisha Green, Vic Souders, Connie Kukowski, Peggy Shattuck, Dennis Theede, Roger White, Vicki Lopez Kaley

**Minutes by:** Kalene Engel

**Chaired by:** Latrisha Green

**HCO:** Dennis Theede of Home and Community Options spoke about some of the housing challenges facing the population they serve. In the 80s and 90s, the housing for disabled individuals changed from institutions to 3-5 person group homes. Currently, HCO has 19 sites in the county serving 75 people. Funding for the housing portion of the home comes from GRH (Group Residential Housing), while funding for the caretakers comes from Medicaid/Medicare. Medicaid/Medicare funding has been decreasing so HCO has had to come up with alternatives to the 24/7 care model. One trend is that families with disabled children are taken care of them well into adults—which can be good or bad, depending upon the circumstances. HCO recently established a SMART home equipped with advanced technology to meet the needs of the residents without full-time staffing. They have installed “call for help” buttons, pull stations in critical areas and a HIPAA compliant video conferencing system. Residents seem to appreciate the independence and the video conferencing works well for trouble shooting. HCO is currently writing a grant for a community response center with a similar format. Dennis has been unable to locate any good systems for funding. Unfortunately, the mental health and disability systems are operating in silos—rather than collaborating—on finding funding streams. In addition to GRH, some people receive HUD assistance, some use social security and some use earned income. Some people qualify for Minnesota Supplemental Assistance (Shelter Needy) Aid which comes out of the same pot of money as GRH. (See attached website excerpt).

**Winona HRA:** One of the ideas under consideration, per a report from Linda Bedtka at a previous meeting, was to convert an existing home at Maplewood into transitional housing. The HRA Board may be concerned about doing this because it may disrupt the “family atmosphere” they have created over the last few years. However, perhaps technology could be utilized to increase the monitoring options available at such a location

**Understanding GRH:** Navigating the GRH regulations has proved challenging for HCO. The parameters are not clear and there is regulation both at the state and county level, leading to confusion and misunderstanding in interpretation. He suggests that we enlist area legislators to get in touch with the right people in St. Paul who can clarify the rules/regulations and interpretations for the GRH and other possible housing options. Kalene noted that the issue of transitional housing will be discussed at the CJCC’s Elected Official Outreach on January 11, 2014. The information that Latrisha prepared for this group will be converted into a “white paper” for that event.

**Other options discussed:**

- Solicit a corporate sponsor, private donation or county funds to fund the monthly cost associated with running a facility like Fresh Start or Second Chance. The approximate monthly cost to run Fresh Start is \$7,000. This could be associated with a tax break (if it was a donation) or in exchange for work service provided by the residents.
- Have the legislature allocate a portion of existing GRH funds to structured, accountability based transitional housing where the housing provider is authorized to place limits and requirements on the residents as a condition of continued residency.

**Next Steps:**

- Participate in the Elected Official Outreach to bring awareness to the issue and begin the discussion with legislators
- Organize a meeting with state and county officials (perhaps using the legislators to put us in touch with the right people at the state) to talk about the state and local GRH (and other public welfare) funding

Adjourned: 1:10 p.m.



[DHS Home Page](#)[Forms \(eDocs\)](#)[County and Tribal Workers](#)[A-Z Topics](#)[About DHS](#)[Aging](#)[Partners & Providers](#)[Children](#)[Disabilities](#)[Economic Supports](#)[Health Care](#)[Publications](#)[Licensing](#)[> Economic Supports > Housing > Group Residential Housing](#)[Adult supports](#)[Child care](#)[Child support](#)[Diversionary Work Program](#)[Economic opportunity](#)[SNAP](#)[Housing](#)[Group Residential Housing](#)[Housing Resources ToolBox](#)[Minnesota Supplemental Aid - Shelter Needy](#)[MFIP](#)[Refugee assistance](#)

# Minnesota Supplemental Aid (MSA)

## Housing Assistance (formerly called Shelter Needy)

### What is MSA Housing Assistance?

Minnesota Supplemental Aid (MSA) Housing Assistance provides additional money to help people with disabilities have a choice about where they live.

### Who is eligible for MSA Housing Assistance?

To be eligible for MSA Housing Assistance, you must

- Be eligible for Minnesota Supplemental Aid (MSA)
- Be under age 65
- Have total housing costs that are more than 40 percent of your total income
- Apply for rental assistance, if eligible.

You must also:

- Be relocating to the community from an institution or an intensive residential mental health treatment program, OR
- Be eligible for Medical Assistance (MA) personal care assistance (PCA) services and have the ability (or have a parent or legal guardian with authority) to hire, fire, supervise and manage the PCA,

### Related Pages

- [DHS Public Funding Sources \(PDF\)](#)
- [Group Residential Housing Bulletins](#)
- [Housing Programs](#)
- [Housing Rights](#)
- [Living Arrangements](#)
- [Services in Your Home](#)
- [Web Resources to Locate Housing and Services](#)
- [What do you need?](#)

### Related Links

- [HUD Homes and Communities](#)
- [Working Group on Long-Term Homelessness](#)

OR

- Be getting services through an MA home and community-based waiver and be living in your own home or apartment.

### **What does MSA Housing Assistance pay for?**

MSA Housing Assistance increases the amount of your monthly MSA award by \$200 in 2013. The amount can change every year. The additional money can be used to help pay for things like:

- Rent
- Monthly mortgage, interest, insurance and property taxes
- Manufactured home lot rental
- Utilities like heat, air conditioning, electricity, water, sewer, garbage and telephone.

### **How do I apply for MSA Housing Assistance?**

If you are not on Minnesota Supplemental Aid (MSA), you can apply by filling out a Combined Application Form (CAF), or apply online at [applymn.org](http://applymn.org). You can get a CAF from your local county human service agency. If you are already receiving MSA, ask your financial worker to review your case for MSA Housing Assistance eligibility.

### **Where can I get more information?**

For more information, call the Disability Linkage Line® at 1-866-333-2466.

[+] [Report/Rate this page](#)



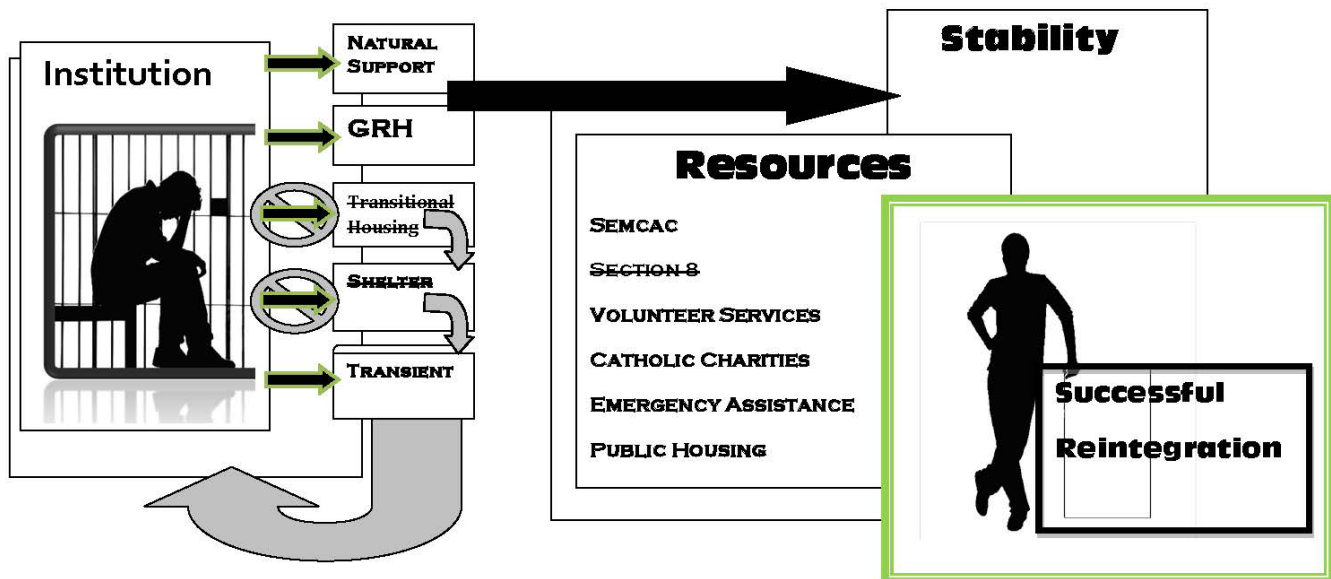
# TRANSITIONAL HOUSING FOR EX-INMATES

**ISSUE:** There is an immediate need for structured, accountability-based temporary housing in order to allow those exiting correctional facilities to gather skills and resources necessary to obtain stability.

**ANALYSIS:** The population of people exiting correctional facilities can be broken down into smaller groups based on their existing resources and needs. Some will return to pre-existing apartments, houses and families (natural supports). **Those who do not have natural supports and need immediate placement after exiting a correctional facility have few options.** There are resources in place through various programs to help prevent homelessness. However, many of those resources are a one-time financial aid. They exist to create a buffer for individuals who are already financially stable, yet need help maintaining their housing situation, or need a jump-start with initial costs for housing. Under these programs, the applicants are expected to be able to maintain subsequent payments for housing. The client would need to be gainfully employed, or otherwise financially stable at the time of their release. **The majority of the people exiting correctional facilities do not have pre-existing resources or supports.** Many are not employed and their criminal history will make it difficult for them to immediately obtain employment. Because of their criminal history, many ex-inmates are precluded from accessing access community resources created to combat homelessness (see opposite side) Some ex-inmates have become institutionalized and have never learned the skills necessary to care and provide for themselves through legitimate means. Without housing or employment, some will resort to past criminal behaviors in order to survive—at least until they are re-incarcerated.

**PROPOSED SOLUTION:** Allocate a portion of existing GRH (Group Residential Housing) funds to a dedicated fund for Transitional Residential Housing (TRH), to fund structured, accountability-based temporary housing for individuals returning to the community from jail or prison.

## Housing Options for Ex-Inmates



## Current housing options in Winona County for ex-inmates without natural supports:

SEMCAC ([www.semCAC.org](http://www.semCAC.org))

- ❖ *Transitional Housing Program:* The THP would cover the security deposit and the 1<sup>st</sup> month's rent, thereafter the client would have to pay 25% of his/her income and THP would pay the rest. There is very limited availability. Applicant must be homeless by HUD definition and be at or below 50% of the area median income. Eligible clients must also be on a case plan with goals and must be working towards those goals. **THP is a limited funding source, not a tangible structure. Applicants must qualify and find an affordable place to stay.**
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- ❖ Section 8 ([www.semmchra.org](http://www.semmchra.org); [www.winonahra.org](http://www.winonahra.org)) has no foreseeable openings
- ❖ Volunteer Services:
  - ❖ *Rent Assistance:* Offers limited rent and mortgage assistance on a one-time basis to qualifying families and individuals to cover housing costs in times of financial crisis. **RA is a limited funding source, not a tangible structure. Applicants must find an affordable place to stay in order to qualify**
  - ❖ *Shelter:* Helps transient and/or homeless individuals make arrangements with local and out-of-area shelters for temporary lodging when the individual has no available resources. **Currently Volunteer Services may allow for a few nights voucher at a placement. More time is needed to be able to obtain stability.**

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