

**Chronic Homelessness Policy Academy**  
**Mississippi Action Plan**  
**(Revised 03-07-03)**

**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, whether 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 team.  
(completed)

**2. Case Management/Outreach**

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

**Strategy #1:** Establish and operationalize a subcommittee – 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 said 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 (Paul Matens)  
MDA (SAM)  
HomeCorp (Ben)  
PHA  
HUD (Don Connolly)  
ECD (Bill Biden)  
Municipalities (City of Jackson)
- 1-2 Compile directory and establish clearinghouse (HomeCorp).
- 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 funding sources 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:** Create 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)

**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.
- 1-3 Explore/research model programs in other states- Nashville, TN has clearinghouse, Shreveport, LA wrote a grant.

**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 Homelessness**

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

**Action Steps:**

- 1.1 Develop a list of current entities involved in prevention
  - State Emergency Shelter Grant
  - Department of Corrections Pre-Release Program
  - Haven House
  - Biloxi Women' Shelter
  - Gulf Coast ??
- 1.2 Provide education and awareness training
  - Housing Education Counseling

Money Management  
Post-home Ownership Training  
Mississippi Housing Initiative (Victoria Patton)  
Job-Training  
CETA (hard to reach youth)

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