

Gallia-Jackson-Meigs Continuum of Care

**10-YEAR PLAN
To Address Homelessness
2007 – 2017**

December 2006

Revised November 2007

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I. GEOGRAPHIC AREA

The Gallia-Jackson-Meigs Continuum of Care has identified its service area as the three counties in southeast Ohio that comprise the catchment area for Woodland Centers, Inc., and the Board of Alcohol, Drug, Addiction, and Mental Health Services which includes Gallia, Jackson, and Meigs counties. This rural 3-county area covers 1318 square miles with a population of approximately 90,000.

There are 29 counties in Ohio designated as part of Appalachia. The GJM C of C catchment area lies in this 29-county region. The 20 Ohio counties with the lowest median household income are all in this region, and 19 of the 20 have the highest poverty rates in Appalachia (Children's Defense Fund-Ohio, 2001, p. 4). In Gallia County, 35% of adults over 25 years of age did not graduate from high school (Institute for Local Government Administration and Rural Development, 2001, p. 5). To dramatize these issues even further:

	Below Poverty	Unemployment Rate	Median Household Income	35% of MHI
State of Ohio	10.6%	6.1%	\$40,956	
Gallia County	18.1	7.8	\$30,191	\$10,567
Jackson County	16.5	9.3	\$30,661	\$10,731
Meigs County	19.8	15.0	\$27,287	\$ 9,550

(2001-2002 PCSAO Factbook, 5th Edition)
(Ohio Quick Facts, June 2004)

With regard to affordable housing, the PCSAO reported that 41% of renters statewide in Ohio cannot afford a two-bedroom apartment. In Gallia, that number is 49%; in Jackson, 50%, and in Meigs, the number is 69%.

In summary, this is a rural Appalachian area where the lack of housing is further exacerbated by conditions that often characterize the region including poverty, unemployment, lower high school graduation rates, the absence of public transportation, and limited resources. In fact, except for the domestic violence shelter in Gallia County which serves women and children only, none of the three counties has a homeless shelter. The only homeless shelter in the area that served adult males, which had been in Meigs County, closed in June 2004.

The lack of homeless shelters and the Appalachian culture itself contribute to another challenge faced by the GJM C of C. Homeless people will often find refuge with friends and family, even if the housing is well below sub-standard, over-crowded, and temporary. Or they will occupy abandoned RV's, trailers, and farm buildings without electricity, heat, or plumbing. Finding and identifying the homeless in these situations is critical, especially for special populations including people with physical, mental, and developmental disabilities.

II. CONTINUUM OF CARE MEMBERSHIP

There is broad representation across the three-county catchment area from service providers, housing organizations, and local government. The group has identified the need to increase membership from the private sector and business community as well as law enforcement and the courts, ministerial associations, and veterans organizations.

III. CONTINUUM OF CARE DEVELOPMENT

The Gallia-Jackson-Meigs Continuum of Care (GJM C of C) held its first formal meeting on October 21, 2004. Its current membership represents over 20 community partners. In 2005, the C of C developed its mission/vision statement which was revised in September 2006:

The mission/vision of the Gallia-Jackson-Meigs Continuum of Care is to create a strong coalition of community partners who collaborate to maximize federal, state, and local resources and establish linkages to support the planning, funding, and development of housing options and comprehensive supportive services for at-risk populations living in the three-county area one person at a time.

Woodland Centers has been identified as the fiscal agent for the Continuum. In early 2006, the group moved from an informal structure (Steering Committee) to a more formal structure utilizing an Executive Committee as the core group to guide its ongoing efforts. Members of the Executive Committee represent all three counties and include organizations that are already actively engaged in housing activities:

- Hilda Stotts, Executive Director, Serenity House and Co-chair of the Executive Committee
- Pat Pletcher, Deputy Directory, GJM ADAMHS Board
- Keith Romine, Housing Director, Gallia-Meigs Community Action
- Karen Sprague, Gallia County Administrator, Gallia County Commissioners
- Nina Keller, Assistant Director/Director of Planning, Area Agency on Aging District 7, Inc.
- Mary Jo Frank, Compliance Director, Woodland Centers, Inc. and Co-chair of the Executive Committee
- Louella Stover, Fiscal Officer, Woodland Centers, Inc. and Treasurer of the Continuum

The Executive Committee also serves as the Continuum's planning committee for purposes of the RHISCO project and continues to use consensus as its primary decision-making method.

IV. DATA COLLECTION

In October 2004, it was determined that a written survey would be used to establish a base line for the Continuum in terms of identifying needs and developing an inventory of resources. The survey was distributed to 28 community agencies and organizations in December 2004. There were 16 responses to the survey or 57%.

- Primary characteristics of homeless population
 - Substance abusers
 - Homeless/transient men
 - Homeless/transient families
 - Runaway youth
 - Homeless/transient women
 - Homeless/transient single parents
 - Battered women
 - Ex-offenders
 - Emotionally/mentally ill
 - Single parents

- Top three barriers to housing for these populations
 - Income
 - Availability of affordable housing
 - Lack of supportive services
 - Disabilities, substance abuse, criminal history

- Most prevalent reasons a person may be homeless
 - Same as previous list

- What programs are needed to address those reasons/barriers
 - Rental assistance
 - Utility assistance
 - Shelters
 - Supportive housing
 - Financial assistance for supportive services
 - Transitional housing
 - Improvements/repairs of homes

- Ranking of housing needs
 - Rental housing rehabilitation
 - Emergency funds for rent or deposits
 - Housing for special needs populations
 - Emergency home repair
 - Transportation
 - Supportive living (housing with on-site staff)
 - Employment/vocation services
 - Rental subsidy/operating subsidy for housing

Additional information was obtained through the Point-in-Time Homeless Count conducted in January 2005.

HEADCOUNT REPORT
February 16, 2005

Category	Single Adult Males	Single Adult Females	Children (under 18 years of age)	Families
Victims of Domestic Violence		3	2	1
Physically handicapped				
Mental/emotional disability	12	2		
Developmental disability				
Veteran				
Elderly (60+)	2	12		
Substance abuse	2			
Unspecified Other Homeless	14	11	14	7
TOTAL	30	28	16	8
Of this total, how many might be considered chronically homeless?	2 (Elderly)	12 (Elderly)		

The total number of homeless persons in the Gallia-Jackson-Meigs area during the 24-hour period of January 25, 2005 was 82. The majority of homeless persons were single adult males, followed closely by single adult females.

V. IDENTIFY AND PRIORITIZE GAPS, TARGET POPULATIONS, AND RESOURCES

Of all the populations identified in the survey, the one for whom there are no housing supports in the 3-county area is single adult males. There is no homeless shelter in any of the counties for this population, nor is there any transitional housing. While the group agreed that there are, indeed, shortages of housing options for all of the identified populations, single adult males have no mechanism to move them along a housing continuum from homelessness to a shelter to transitional housing to permanent housing.

Related issues include the lack of transportation in this rural region, the lack of job training and employment opportunities, and sub-populations within the single adult male group including substance abuse and mental/emotional disabilities.

A second, but equally important, priority is the need for more available, affordable housing, particularly one-bedroom apartments. This need was underscored by the representative from the Metropolitan Housing Authority who stated that she is unable to find decent housing for her current waiting list of people with Section 8 vouchers. There is currently a waiting list of 200 for the voucher program and 100 on the waiting list for public housing.

The Continuum also discussed what housing programs and related services are currently available. That inventory includes emergency rent and utility assistance, rental subsidies and start-up grants and loans, emergency home repair and rehabilitation. These services are available from multiple agencies at different levels and with different qualifying criteria. There is also one shelter that serves homeless women and homeless women with children including those who have been victims of domestic violence.

Finally, the Continuum considered available facilities that might be used for housing, particularly to create a shelter and/or transitional housing. Three sites were discussed: the Extended Care Wing of Veterans Memorial Hospital in Pomeroy; the Children's Home in Gallipolis; and the Kennison School in Jackson. All three buildings are currently vacant. Woodland Centers has already had preliminary discussions with the Meigs County Commissioners about the Veterans Memorial Building and have secured a preliminary commitment from them to use the building for some combination of services including housing. Details of the other buildings were reviewed including determining whether the building owners are willing to consider use of their buildings for Continuum of Care programs. If more than one facility is available, the Continuum may consider one main location with satellites in each county.

VI. SHORT AND LONG TERM GOALS, STRATEGIES, AND ACTION PLANS

In order to provide an understanding of the population that the GJM C of C intends to serve, we revised our operational definition of homelessness as follows:

Those who lack a fixed, regular, adequate nighttime residence, including persons whose primary nighttime residence is a

- supervised public or private shelter designed to provide temporary living accommodations;*
- a time-limited/nonpermanent transitional housing arrangement for individuals engaged in mental health and/or substance abuse treatment;*
- a public or private facility not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation ; or*

- *substandard housing including dwellings not fit and/or intended for human habitation.*

Homeless also includes “doubled up” – a residential status that places individuals at imminent risk for becoming homeless – defined as sharing another person’s dwelling on a temporary basis where continued tenancy is contingent upon the hospitality of the primary leaseholder or owner and can be rescinded at any time without notice. (adapted from SAMHSA NOFA TI 04-001).

As part of the RHISCO (Rural Homelessness Initiative of Southern and Central Ohio) planning process, the GJM C of C has identified the following focus areas derived from our mission/vision statement:

- 1) Community Partners and Linkages
- 2) Advocacy and Outreach
- 3) Housing Options and Availability
- 4) Homelessness Prevention Systems

There are goals and objectives for each of the focus areas as follows:

Goal #1 – Create/expand community partners and linkages. (Corresponding RHISCO themes: (3) Building community and political education and involvement; and (4) Improved coordination among all providers)

- Meet with commissioners in each county to secure support and participation by agencies which report to the commissioners.
- Hold a key stakeholder luncheon in each county.
- Develop public will.
- Identify a “champion.”
- **Outcomes** for this goal include:
 - Hold stakeholders luncheons in each county (3).
 - Schedule face-to-face meetings with county commissioners (3).
 - Increase coalition membership with at least one (1) representative from each county from DJFS, MHA, and/or commissioners’ office.
 - Engage at least one (1) state-level advocate to be a voice for southeastern Ohio in Columbus.

The Continuum has had considerable discussion about the need to have several key stakeholders at the table who are not currently participating in the Continuum or the planning process. Several of these community partners have existing programs that are critical to addressing the systemic issues that contribute to homelessness including employment and transportation. An example of this group is the county Departments of Job and Family Services. Other partners have different primary missions and may not recognize homelessness as a concern, such as the schools and law enforcement.

In order to reach these potential partners, there needs to be a multi-pronged approach including (1) direct face-to-face appeal to key stakeholders; (2) ongoing community education and awareness that helps develop the public will to make homelessness and

housing a priority; and (3) a credible spokesperson who has the knowledge, charisma, and personal drive and commitment to be the housing champion for our region.

This goal represents an ongoing strategy that will continue throughout the ten years of this plan and beyond as each sub-population of homeless and at-risk persons is addressed and each housing issue resolved.

Goal #2 – Increase advocacy and outreach. (Corresponding RHISCO themes: (1) Prevention; (3) Building community and political education and involvement.)

- Develop website as a “one stop” information and referral tool.
- Develop housing “hotline.”
- Conduct periodic “Point-in-Time” homeless counts.
- Increase public awareness through community education.
- **Outcomes** for this goal include:
 - Increase responses to requests for homeless count information by 25% (from 13 organizations to 16 organizations).
 - Hold one (1) advocacy event in each county each year.

This goal is really a necessary part of achieving all the other goals in this plan, particularly Goal #1. Part of our advocacy efforts will be to actively participate in regional and national activities including NAEH so that rural homelessness is recognized as unique and different from urban homelessness. Therefore, we will continue to advocate for changes in the HUD definition of homelessness which affects funding opportunities. We have already modified our local definition to more accurately reflect the populations that we serve. We hope to link with other rural Continuua in pursuing this and other advocacy efforts in this region through our legislative representatives, etc.

The purpose of the website and hotline is to increase coordination of services and improve access to services by decreasing the fragmentation and duplication of effort in serving the homeless population. In addition, there is a lack of awareness in some areas of what services are available and what the eligibility criteria are to access those services. The website will provide a “one stop” resource where providers can identify which housing and housing-related services the presenting client may qualify for. The hotline will accomplish much the same thing, although the hotline will be easily accessible by consumers as well as providers.

The GJM C of C has recognized the need to develop a better, more accurate point-in-time homeless count mechanism. We have recently attended training provided by RHISCO and by ODOD/OHCP to help us re-design our homeless count strategy, and we plan to utilize a more comprehensive form as well. We expect to conduct homeless counts at a minimum of every two years as required by HUD/ODOD. However, we have also discussed the need to conduct interim counts aimed at identifying other populations (such as emancipated youth), specific needs (such as supports for homeless families), as well as developing a reliable methodology for identifying persons who are chronically homeless

Finally, we expect to conduct a public awareness activity at least once a year. In the past we have had several front-page newspaper articles on homelessness, and we will continue to use the media as appropriate. However, we have also discussed activities modeled on what other communities are doing including homeless walks (Athens County), and setting up a soup kitchen in our community park (a strategy used in northern Ohio). It would be particularly effective to incorporate some of our citizens who have been homeless in these activities to put a more personal face on the issue of homelessness.

Goal #3 – Increase housing options and availability. (Corresponding RHISCO themes: (5) Liaison strategizing to build a network and potential funding and other resources and effecting policy; (6) Permanent and affordable housing development and housing placement strategies.)

- Create transitional housing for single men (Nextep and Agape’s Hope)
- Create transitional housing for families (Interfaith Hospitality Network and Agape’s Hope)
- Develop landlord and rental listings (Website)
- Partner with private developers and others to build or otherwise create additional low-income, one-bedroom apartments.
- Explore other funding resources for the development and/or rehabilitation of affordable housing units.
- **Outcomes** for this goal include:
 - Identify at least one (1) developer who is willing to work with the Coalition to create new housing units.
 - Increase shelter beds by 28; add 20 transitional beds; add 25 permanent housing units by 2016.

This will be our most challenging goal, in part because of the prevalence of the cultural norm to “make do” with whatever housing exists, regardless of how substandard that housing situation might be.

We need to encourage more active participation in the Continuum by two of our counties’ metropolitan housing authorities which, among other things, will help us establish and maintain an accurate count of affordable, available housing units.

To date, the most pro-active partners in terms of developing new housing units have been faith-based organizations, and the Continuum will continue to nurture those partnerships and support faith-based initiatives, especially those directed toward serving in-tact homeless families with children.

At this stage, it seems most appropriate to begin to explore what opportunities there may be for new construction and/or rehabilitation of existing housing units through other funding sources including HUD, SAMHSA, Veterans Administration, and private lenders. We also need to improve our collaboration with Habitat for Humanity (Jackson county only) and the United Way.

Goal #4 – Improve homelessness prevention systems. (Corresponding RHISCO themes: (1) Prevention; (2) Workforce and economic development.)

- Improve coordination of support services and referrals.
- Improve supportive services, employment options, and transportation availability.
- Seek additional funding to support transportation coordination.
- Partner with county One-Stop programs for job training and development.
- **Outcomes** for this goal include:
 - This goal is directly related to the Continuum's RHISCO grant application. See goals in proposal including 1) Budgeting classes to 60 participants in 2008; and 2) Responding to 250 hotline calls and making at least 90% linkages to services.

In 2007, Woodland Centers will hire a Housing Specialist who will be a member of the Continuum of Care and serve to improve the coordination of support services among community providers. This process will include strategies for improved discharge planning from correctional facilities, mental health facilities, etc. to facilitate rapid housing and the supports needed to sustain that housing. As the Continuum's initial needs assessment indicated, homelessness is only one problem in a *system* of problems that affects homeless persons. Unless that system of problems is addressed, simply putting a roof over the person's head will not ultimately solve the homeless issue.

Economic development in Gallia, Jackson, and Meigs counties is a challenge. Jackson County has several major employers including Luigino's (frozen foods), Pillsbury, and Merrilat (cabinetry). Gallia County has Holzer Medical Center, the University of Rio Grande, and the Gavin and Kyger Creek power plants. Meigs County has no major industry. Its primary employer is county government. While there is speculation that there will be additional power plants built in Meigs County, public meetings are still being held and no construction has begun. Telemarketing companies such as Infocision (Gallia) and Millenium (Meigs) are also important employers because the jobs do not have significant education or skill requirements.

The Continuum will consult with the offices of Economic Development in each county to explore opportunities for job creation and workforce training and development. In addition, the Continuum will partner with the DJFS One-Stop programs in each county.

Finally, there is a critical need for transportation in this area. If employment opportunities are created, people need to be able to get to those jobs consistently in order to sustain their employment. The Continuum needs to explore collaboration/coordination grants from the Ohio Department of Transportation; partnering with organizations who already provide transportation (such as Community Action and the Senior Centers); and other potential resources such as car donation for charity, and vouchers for car repair and maintenance.

VII. IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING

Progress to date:

Goal #1 – The October 2006 meeting was held at NeXtep, an alternative housing facility using the Gallia Children's Home. NeXtep opened in September 2006 as a housing option for single men. (Recently, single women have also been accepted.) The Continuum sponsored the meeting which included the Gallia Commissioners, the municipal court judge, Family and Children First Council coordinator, Job and Family Services, and other key partners. A catered lunch was provided. (This also addresses Goal #3 regarding transitional housing for single men and women.)

Goal #2 – A bid for developing and maintaining a website is being sought. Agencies who already operate 800 numbers are being considered for the housing hotline with a unique number such as 1-800-HOUSING. A brochure has been developed to use at stakeholder luncheons and to assist in advocacy and outreach activities (Goal #1).

Goal #3 – Nextep Alternative Housing opened September 18, 2006 for single men, and more recently, single women. NeXtep will admit/rent to men and women who are referred by any community agency that is willing to sponsor that person. NeXtep does not accept violent offenders or sexual predators. A speaker from the Interfaith Hospitality Network also attended the October 2006 meeting. The IHN is intended to serve homeless intact families.

In addition, both Gallia-Meigs Community Action and Woodland Centers received grant funding for 2007-2008 for Direct Housing (ODOD). This will enable these organizations to provide rental assistance to individuals and families who are homeless or at risk of homelessness who meet eligibility criteria. The Direct Housing funding for CA is new this year and will provide a new housing stream for persons who do not have a mental illness.

Goal #4 – With the new grant funding received by Woodland Centers for 2007-2008, there is now the opportunity to hire a Housing Specialist who will focus on the coordination of housing services across the three counties. The position will be advertised in January 2007.

See attached worksheets for specific Goals, Objectives, Action Plans and Timetable.
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10-YEAR PLAN
Goals, Objectives, and Action Plans

Goal #1 – Create/expand community partners and linkages.				
Objective	Action Plans	Person(s) Responsible	Target Date	Status
(1) Meet with commissioners in each county to secure support and participation by at least one key agency which reports to commissioners.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify Cof C representative to meet in each county. Schedule appointments after website and brochure are completed. 	Executive Committee	Spring 2007	
(2) Hold one key stakeholder luncheon in each county.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gallia luncheon held to introduce Nextep and IHN speaker Meigs luncheon with keynote speakers Jackson luncheon with keynote speakers (D. Tener on community partnerships and J. Tatum on homelessness) 	K. Sprague/ M. Frank K. Romine H. Stotts	10/18/06 1/17/07 2/28/07	Completed as planned.
(3) Develop public will.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plan an event in Nov/Dec 2007 around “Hunger & Homeless” month and/or “Project Connect” 	M. Frank to research Project Connect materials at usich.gov	Annually 2007 through 2017	
(4) Identify a “champion.” Engage at least one state-level advocate to be a voice for SE Ohio in Columbus.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss with J. Tatum 	Exec. Comm.	Jan. 07	

10-YEAR PLAN
Goals, Objectives, and Action Plans

Goal #2 – Increase advocacy and outreach.				
Objective	Action Plans	Person(s) Responsible	Target Date	Status
(1) Develop website as a “one stop” information and referral tool.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bid requested and received. 	Executive Committee	Spring 2007 with ongoing maintenance and updating through 2017	Consultant hired October 2006
(2) Develop housing “hotline.”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include in website and brochure. • Determine need for separate phone line. • Develop marketing plan 	Exec. Comm.	December 2007	
(3) Conduct periodic “Point-in-Time” counts. (4) Improve methodology to capture previously unaccounted for populations. Increase responses to PIT count by 25%.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend Mansfield meeting • Plan strategy • Implement 	D. Tener Exec. Comm.	11/28/06 12/13/06 Jan. 07 and ongoing	
(5) Increase public awareness through community education.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold one advocacy event in each county each year. 	Executive Committee	Annually 2007 through 2017	

10-YEAR PLAN
Goals, Objectives, and Action Plans

Goal #3 – Increase housing options and availability.				
Objective	Action Plans	Person(s) Responsible	Target Date	Status
(1) Create transitional housing units for single men (Nextep and Agape's Hope) and families (Interfaith Hospitality Network and Agape's Hope).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nextep Alternative Housing opens in Gallia Children's Home. • Luncheon with ministerial association and other key stakeholders. • Guest speaker from IHN. 	<p>D. Tener/P. Hoover</p> <p>K. Sprague/M. Frank</p> <p>D. Lykins</p>	<p>9/18/06</p> <p>10/18/06</p> <p>10/18/06</p>	<p>Increased capacity by 32 units (transitional, emergency shelter, and permanent housing beds). Nextep closed March 2007.</p>
(3) Develop landlord and rental listings (website).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compile listings for all three counties. • Add to website 	L. Stover	<p>8/16/06</p> <p>Spring 2007</p>	
(4) Partner with at least one private developer and others to build or otherwise create additional low-income, one-bedroom apartments. (5) Explore other funding resources for construction and/or rehab. Outcome: 28 shelter beds 20 transitional beds 25 permanent housing units	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify potential funding resources. • Identify private developers. • Explore available property and/or buildings. • Determine feasibility of projects. • Secure funding. • Construction or rehabilitation. 	Executive Committee	<p>2007-2008</p> <p>2008-2009</p> <p>2009-2010</p> <p>2010-2011</p> <p>2011-2013</p> <p>2013-2016</p> <p>2016</p>	

10-YEAR PLAN
Goals, Objectives, and Action Plans

Goal #4 – Improve homelessness prevention systems.				
Objective	Action Plans	Person(s) Responsible	Target Date	Status
(1) Improve coordination of support services and referrals.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interagency contacts on website • Hotline to provide “one stop shopping” for housing information 	Executive Committee	Spring 2007	
(2) Improve supportive services, employment options, and transportation availability.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to attract DJFS member to incorporate “One Stop” program for employment. • Need to investigate TANF dollars for transportation support. 	Executive Committee	2007 2007 and ongoing	
(3) Seek additional funding to support transportation coordination.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See above for TANF dollars. • Also contact ODOT. 	Executive Committee	2007-2008	
(4) Partner with county One-Stop programs for job-training and development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include county DJFSs in stakeholder meetings (see Goal #1) 	Executive Committee	2007 and ongoing	

NOTE: This goal is directly related to the Continuum’s RHISCO grant application. See goals in proposal including (1) Budgeting classes to 60 participants in 2008; and Responding to 250 hotline calls and making at least 90% linkages to services.

VIII. OTHER ISSUES

Sustainability of this 10-year plan will be a by-product of strategy, commitment, and funding. More importantly is the issue of sustainability for households who receive housing assistance. The Gallia-Jackson-Meigs Continuum of Care needs to explore additional funding mechanisms. Included in that is a discussion of whether or not the GJM C of C should form its own 501(c)(3) with full or part time staff who could facilitate a single point of entry to housing services, coordination of resources, and support services for households designed to assist them to achieve self-sufficiency, thereby sustaining their housing placement.

Regionalism should be a priority in order to maximize scarce resources. While there is some coordination and collaboration in the three-county area, there is not as much as there should be. There are still “turf” issues in each county that need to be confronted and addressed. We are fortunate to have some collaborative efforts already in place including a strong relationship with the Veterans organization in Ross County.

There are already models in place of successful cross-agency, wrap-around services (e.g. children’s cluster in mental health) and the Family and Children First Council. We should be making an effort to share information with these programs and neighboring counties outside our catchment area and to learn from innovative programs already in place in other areas.

IX. CONCLUSION

The GJM Continuum of Care developed its own Five-Year Housing Plan in 2004. This Ten-Year Plan is an expansion of that original plan to include specific RHISCO/NAEH requirements. We continue to work on making our strategy to address homelessness in this region a more collaborative and inclusive process to close the gaps in services that contribute to homelessness and to being at risk of homelessness. We will continue to refine this plan to include other partners and providers so that we can ultimately provide a seamless housing system including additional advocacy, housing options, and supportive services to the citizens of our communities who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

This revised 10-YEAR PLAN TO ADDRESS HOMELESSNESS was adopted by the Gallia-Jackson-Meigs Continuum of Care Planning Group on November 14, 2007.

Steering Committee Signatures:

Hilda Stotts, Serenity House, Co-Chair _____

Robin Harris, GJM ADAMHS Board _____

Pamela Cox, JV Community Action _____

Nina Keller, AAA, District 7 _____

Keith Romine, Community Action _____

Karen Sprague, Gallia Commissioners,
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Representative from Ministerial
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Mary Jo Frank, Woodland Centers,
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