

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Person County	2
Fair Housing Trainings	2
Save the Date	2
More Housing Resources	3
Did you know?	3

Orange County Project Homeless Connect 2008

Accessing supportive services can be very challenging for individuals living in homeless situations. In recognition of this, the Orange County Partnership to End Chronic Homelessness hosted its first Project Homeless Connect event in the Fall of 2007. Project Homeless Connect (PHC) is a one-day, one-stop center to connect individuals with a wide range of services. This service delivery model was developed in San Francisco in response to Hurricane Katrina evacuees who arrived in the city in need of a broad range of services. It enables service providers to efficiently reach many people in a single day and to coordinate their services together.

Orange County's PHC features services such as mental health care, medical and dental services, housing, employment, veterans' and social services, legal aid, voter registration, Social Security Administration, and grooming services like haircuts. Guests who attend

PHC are also offered lunch, gift bags, showers, coats, and other clothing. The event is targeted toward individuals who are currently homeless and those at risk of homelessness. Jamie Rohe, PHC Coordinator, said, "PHC makes a powerful impact on the lives of homeless persons by providing a wide range of assistance in one location and by the outpouring of respect and hospitality."

Last year, seven MH/DD/SA service providers participated in the event, as well as the OPC STAR and Customer Service departments. Kelly Ronnow, with Advanced Health Resources, offered services at last year's event. "I enjoyed last year. It was nice

to see citizens in the area taking advantage of the event. It was a good way for providers to get to know one another and network too. I think it was a win-win situation and it can only get better."

This year's PHC is taking place **Thursday, September 25, 2008 from 10:00-5:00pm at the Hargraves Community Center in Chapel Hill.** Once again, MH/DD/SA providers, and OPC's STAR and Customer Service departments will be on hand at the event. Providers are invited to bring individuals you work with who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness. If you or someone you know are interested in volunteering at the event, please contact Meredith Costa at (919) 923-2559.

CHECK IT OUT:

- **Link to Housing Resource Guides (by county) at NC Housing Coalition:**
http://www.nchousing.org/housing_assistance/housing_location/index_html
- **Link to Affordable Housing Search at NC Housing Finance Agency:**
<http://www.nchfa.com/Applications/HRG/HRGSearch.aspx>
- **Link to Affordable Housing Primer**
<http://www.nchousing.org/affordable-housing-primer/affordable-housing-primer>

Housing on the Horizon

Orange County will soon have fourteen additional units of affordable housing targeted for persons with disabilities. Two housing developers applied for and were awarded tax credits in 2008 through the NC Housing Finance Agency.



PROJECT HOMELESS CONNECT

ORANGE COUNTY

Tax credit developments are required to dedicate 10% of the units for persons with disabilities, and persons with low incomes, such as SSI.

OPC will serve as the Local Lead Agency for these units, which will ensure that individuals housed in these units have access to a full range of sup-

portive services. More information will follow as these units are built and become ready for occupancy. The new units will be located at Eno Haven and The Arbors at Winmore. Dobbins Hill, a 2007 tax credit award, will open 4 units at the end of 2008. Referral information coming soon!

TRAINING OPPORTUNITY—NC Housing Coalition

TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

The North Carolina Housing Coalition is offering trainings on the rights and responsibilities of tenants with disabilities. The training will include a review of Fair Housing laws, Reasonable Accommodations, and Landlord-Tenant Law.

The target audience for this training is advocates, persons with disabilities and service providers. The training is free! Pre-registration is required. Presenters at the trainings will be staff members from Legal Aid NC, Pisgah Legal Services, and Disability Rights NC. Certificates of attendance will not be provided. Additional trainings for landlords and property managers will be available at a later date.

Raleigh: August 26, 2008, 9:00 am – 12:30 pm

Durham: August 27, 2008, 9:00 am – 12:30 pm

Burlington: September 22, 2008, 9:00 am -12:30 pm

Fayetteville: September 11, 2008, 9:00 am – 12:30 pm

Morganton: September 25, 2008, 1:00 pm – 4:30 pm

Jacksonville: September 12, 2008, 9:00 am – 12:30 pm

Mount Olive: August 29, 2008, 9:00 am – 12:30 pm

Rocky Mount: August 28, 2008, 9:00 am – 12:30 pm

To register, contact John Niffenegger at jniff@nchousing.org. For more information, visit www.nchousing.org.

Special Thanks to Walter Vincent, Housing Specialist with NC DHHS, for conducting an in-service in June on Reasonable Accommodations for OPC Providers!

Person County Housing Collaborative

Safe, affordable housing is needed in all communities. Providers in Person County joined together several years ago to explore ways to address this need in the county.

David Forsythe, Director of Person County Group Homes and long-time member and host of the Person County Housing Collaborative says the following, "The Collaborative is a group of community service providers and advocates that meet regularly to assess, review,

and promote housing and housing service needs in Person County. Representatives from Orange Person Chatham LME, The Arc of NC, and the State Offices in Raleigh attend all of the meetings. Sometimes, we invite individuals to participate as guest speakers on topics related to housing issues. Examples of presentations are the Individual Development Accounts that are available for home ownership and business development, along with The Bureau of Indian Affairs

who manage Section 8 funding for the county. The coalition has been meeting for over two years and is an asset for Roxboro and Person County in relation to housing and housing services."

The Collaborative is very interested in hearing from providers, consumers and community members about the housing needs of the community. Please join us at the next meeting on September 18th from 10-12:00 at Orchard Apartments in Roxboro.

Upcoming Events

NC Homeless Conference

Save the Date!

When: November 17-18, 2008

Where: McKimmon Center, Raleigh

Hosted: NC Inter-Agency Council for Coordinating Homeless Programs.

More Info to come; Call 913-4139

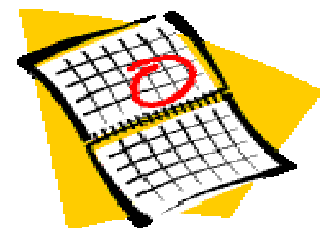
Local Housing Coalition Meetings

Orange: September 10, 2008 3:00pm at Chrysalis Foundation in Carrboro

Person: September 18, 2008 10:00am at Orchard Apartments in Roxboro

Chatham: August 27, 2008, 10:00am at Central Carolina Community College in Pittsboro

For More Information Contact : Vanessa Neustrom at vneustrom@opc-mhc.org or 919-913-4139



Mark you Calendar!



The Housing Herald

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ORANGE-PERSON- CHATHAM LME

Managing mental health, developmental disabilities and substance abuse services in Orange, Person and Chatham Counties.

We're on the Web!
www.opcareaprogram.com



Did You Know?

Orange County Human Rights and Relations office exists to promote equal opportunity and prevent discriminatory practices in Chapel Hill, Carrboro, Hillsborough and Orange County. The Civil Rights Ordinance exists to protect individuals from discrimination based on race, age, disability, sex, religion, familial status, national origin, color, and veteran's status. Regarding housing, "Orange County protects an individual's rights to fair and equal treatment when making housing choices. Protection applies to the sale, rental, and financing of residential housing." If you or someone you know is dealing with discrimination around housing issues, you can contact the Human Rights & Relations for consultation and advocacy support. The staff can be reached at 919-960-3875.

More Housing Resources!

Here's more information on Supportive Housing options and emergency housing options in the OPC Catchment area. Please note that permanent supportive housing differs from emergency housing, and that frequently permanent housing programs run long waitlists.

Club Nova Apartments: Located in Carrboro, these 24 apartments are available for single individuals with disabilities. Individuals apply for Club Nova Apartments through the Orange Housing and Community Development Office. Call for office locations and hours: Chapel Hill office 919-969-3016; Hillsborough office 919-245-2490.

Cardinal Chase Apartments: Located in Siler City, there are a total of five one and two-bedroom apartments for individuals with disabilities. To apply for this housing, please contact Ron Graham at Durham Independent Living (Vocational Rehabilitation) at 919-560-6815.

Chatham County Housing: OPC and Chrysalis Foundation fund three subsidized units in Pittsboro for individuals and families with disabilities who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness. To apply for these units, please complete the Chatham Housing Application on the OPC Website.

Overlook Apartments: Operated by the Mental Health Association, these 12 units can be accessed by calling 919-968-3307.

Emergency Housing—Orange Co.

Interfaith Council for Social Services - Community House—provides emergency shelter to adult men; 919-967-0643; **Home-start—**provides emergency and transitional housing to women and children; 919-932-0625.

OPC Crisis Housing—provides temporary housing to consumers receiving mh/dd/sas treatment and working with a Community Support worker or ACT provider. Contact Peter Kramer at 919-913-4055.

Emergency Housing— Chatham Co.

OPC Crisis Housing—provides temporary housing to consumers receiving mh/dd/sas treatment and working with a Community Support worker or ACT provider. Contact Peter Kramer at 913-4055.

Silk Hope Catholic Worker House—provides temporary housing for families; must have transportation; families live as part of an intentional community; 919-663-4334,

Family Violence Shelter—provides temporary housing for women & children fleeing domestic violence; 919-545-0224; 919-929-6471.

Emergency Housing—Person Co.—

Safe Haven Person Co.— 336-599-7233

For more resources, check out the OPC Housing Guide on the OPC website at <http://www.opcareaprogram.com/Housing.htm>