

Hurricane Response
Case Manager and TIDR Meeting
Minutes: April 16, 2008

<u>Time:</u>	9:00 – 10:00 a.m.
<u>Location:</u>	Bethany Christian Church
<u>Conveners:</u>	Amy Elder
<u>Minutes by:</u>	Holly Bell
	Center for SW Research, UT
<u>Number in Attendance:</u>	16

1. **Report from Nina Kessler, Abel Watkinson of Housing Authority of the City of Austin (HACA) about Disaster Housing Assistance Program (DHAP)**
 - a. HACA is receiving 25 more clients into the DHAP program starting May 1. These clients will not have to pay rent the first month. There may be a third phase of additional clients. If hurricane survivors currently not on DHAP have questions about whether they are eligible, they should contact FEMA.
 - b. HACA representatives asked for a central person to contact for information about whether a DHAP client has a hurricane case manager. Allison Shurr at TIDR offered to be the contact person.
 - c. A case manager asked about the job search component mention in a FEMA letter about the DHAP program. Kim Armstrong (651-6100) can assist with referring clients to job training and job placement.
 - d. Nina reports DHAP is planning six seminars for DHAP clients in the next 1.5 months about important services such as housing, health care, resume writing, networking, legal assistance, and transportation.
 - e. A case manager asked about the waiting list for public housing. Nina responded that it could be up to 1.5 years. Elderly and disabled clients have a priority, so could receive housing sooner.
 - f. Many clients don't want to lose their relatively nicer DHAP accommodations and move into an apartment on Section 8. Clients may refuse Section 8, but if they stay on DHAP until the end of the program, they will not have any other subsidized housing options other than getting on the Section 8 waiting list. This has been a challenge throughout the recovery process, with survivors preferring shorter-term, but nicer resources like FEMA funding of apartments to longer-term but less preferable ones like Section 8 or public housing.
 - g. The DHAP program is encouraging client networking. This has been tried before with little success, but clients may be ready for it now.
2. **Report from Harvey Rhoades of CADA about summer camp**
 - a. CADA will host a summer camp for the sixth year at New Hope Baptist Church, 2405 E. 16th Street
 - b. There are two sessions: June 9 – July 11th and July 21st – August 22nd
 - c. Times: 7 a.m. – 6 p.m.

- d. Camp serves children ages 5 – 13 years old
- e. Cost is \$350/session.
- f. Registration deadline is May 1.
- g. For more information, call 472-2280

3. Case management issues

- a. Client with closed case needs money for water bills and vehicle repair.
 - i. Travis County can assist with water bills if there is a shut off notice.

5. Next meeting: May 21, 2008