

## **MHA Adds More Housing**

Wichita, KS – Feb 12, 2018: For the Mental Health Association of South Central Kansas (MHA), a large part of their ability to offer comprehensive, wrap-around mental health services is their housing program. For those who live in the 262 units of MHA-operated residential services, having stable housing is the foundational step toward maintaining stable employment or addressing deeper mental illnesses. In determining location and growth strategies of the residential services offered by MHA, a significant factor is ensuring access to other community resources that residents may need, such as mass transit, recreation, legal aid, and proximity to mental health providers.

MHA has been offering housing services in Wichita since 1989 when their first group homes for congregant living were built. Since then, through purchase and development, management contracts, and assumption of grants, MHA's residential services have grown dramatically. Over the years, a variety of agencies have chosen MHA as their provider of choice due to the existing infrastructure and competencies that they offer.

Most recently, COMCARE expressed interest in transferring two Permanent Supported Housing Continuum of Care HUD-funded grants to MHA. The intent of the grants from the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development is to target those who have been diagnosed with a "severe and persistent mental illness and substance abuse disorder and/or disabling condition". After discussion between the two agencies regarding the vision and sustainability of the program, the grants were officially transferred in the fall of 2017. These Safety Net (11 units) and Good Samaritan (8 units) Permanent Supported Housing initiatives are just the latest that further demonstrate MHA's positioning as the expert in providing and managing not-for-profit housing solutions throughout south central Kansas.

While MHA manages a variety of housing options – including for seniors and veterans, as well as conventional apartment homes – any vacancies that occur in these 19 units are prioritized for the chronically homeless. Residents are supported in accordance with the grant terms and MHA policies until or unless they elect to move into other safe, affordable, and permanent housing. Regardless of whether such a move occurs within or outside of MHA's network, adult caseworkers, counseling services, and medication management remains available.

For more information about the various housing options that MHA offers in and around Wichita, call 316.685.1821.

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