

January 19, 2015

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Christy Merrick, 660-259-2440, christy@hccnetwork.org

Lafayette County Unsheltered Count and Locations

LEXINGTON, MO – On Wednesday, January 28, volunteers with the Lafayette County Social Service Committee of the Health Care Collaborative (HCC) of Rural Missouri will staff locations in Lexington and throughout the county as part of the winter 2015 “point-in-time” count of unsheltered families and individuals.

The count – which will happen in every county in the state on the same day – is sponsored by the Governor’s Committee to End Homelessness, under the Missouri Housing Development Commission. Its purpose is to have as accurate a count as possible of the number of unsheltered individuals and families in our county at one particular point in time, in order to help ensure that the housing needs of our county are clearly known, and so that needed funding can be fairly distributed to local agencies who serve unsheltered and financially struggling members of our community.

Volunteers will collect basic and non-personally identifiable information about individuals and families specifically regarding their current status as unsheltered. Individuals who are “doubled-up” (sleeping on a friend or family member’s couch or floor, for example) are also encouraged to speak with a volunteer, as this information will help reflect the degree of our county’s need for more affordable housing. Hygiene and snack items will be available at each location.

All volunteers are required to participate in one brief training. Contact Christy Merrick at 660-259-2440 if you would like to participate and a training session will be

scheduled. For more information about the count, contact count coordinator Christy Merrick at 660-259-2440 or christy@hccnetwork.org or visit www.mo-ich.org/14.html

The locations around Lafayette County and hours they will be staffed are:

Missouri Valley Community Action Agency – 200 Fairground Ave #103 –
Higginsville, MO 64037 - 660-584-3131 - 8am-4:30pm

Lafayette County Health Department - 547 Business Hwy 13 - Lexington, MO
64067 - 660-259-4371 - 8am-4:30pm

Pathways Community Health – 1278 West US Highway 40 – Odessa, MO 64076 –
816-633-5921 – 8am-4:30pm

Health Care Collaborative (HCC) of Rural Missouri - (Next to Subway) –
825 South Business Hwy 13 - Lexington, MO 64067 - 660-259-2440 –
8am-4:30pm

Live Well Community Health Center – Waverly and Concordia

Waverly - 608 Missouri Street – Waverly, MO 64096 – 660-493-2262 –
8am-4:30pm

Concordia – 206 N. Bismark, Ste, A – Concordia, MO 64020 – 660-463-0234 -
8am-4:30pm

The Lafayette County Social Service Committee is a collaboration between local social service agency representatives, churches, and concerned individuals to network and leverage resources in service of our neighbors struggling with poverty, disparities, barriers to health, and homelessness. The group meets on the first Wednesday of every month at 9:00 AM in the training room of the HCC offices in Lexington, MO. For more information about HCC visit <http://www.hccnetwork.org>.

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