



Sacramento Ending Chronic Homelessness Initiative

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Interagency Council To End Homelessness

Meeting Minutes

December 19, 2007

2.30-4.30 PM

Attendance:

Council Members Present: Ann Edwards-Buckley (Chair), Chris Glaudel (Vice Chair), Robert Bradley, Joan Burke, Loren Pimm (for Carolyn Brodt), John Foley, Deanna Hanson, Jim Hare, Pam Herman, Cassandra Jennings, Collette Johnson-Schulke, Ryan Loofbourrow, Karen Maxwell, Shamus Roller, Trisha Stanionis, Petra Stanton, Toni Moore (for Bruce Wagstaff), Jan Wald.

Council Members Absent: Alexis Bernard, Karen Brockopp, Michelle Coleman, Michael Dunne, Peter Feeley, Lynn Frank, Verne Gore, Elizabeth Hudson, Reta Keirse, Patty Kleinknecht, Sue Laliberte, Mary K. McMahon, Jodi Mendonca, Maria Morfin, Leland Tom.

Staff Present: Diane Luther, Phil Alonso, Susanna Curry, Roma Eisenstark, Kathy Briem, Suzanne Hammer, Tim Brown.

Guests: Andrew Smith (CA Dept. of Corrections), Janet Thiel (UC Davis Jail Psych Services), Mark Hopkins (UC Davis Jail Psych Services), Robert Tobin (Cottage Housing Inc.), Paula Lomazzi (Policy Board), Patti Uplinger (Housing Now), Janice Critchow (PCOH and Yolo County HPAC), Bruce Jackson (Sac. County Veterans Services), Angelica Duran (CA Dept. of Veterans Services), Jon Benorden (HIV Health Services Planning Council), Brian O'Hara (CA Dept. of Veterans Affairs), LaShelle Dozier (SHRA), Gabriele Toremann (Sacramento State Masters Intern).

Minutes:

THERE WAS A TOUR OF QUINN COTTAGES FROM 2:00-2:30

1. Introductions

-Ann Edwards-Buckley recognized Robert Tobin, executive director of Cottage Housing, Inc. for his hospitality in providing members a tour of Quinn Cottages.

-Joan Burke read aloud an editorial from The Sacramento Bee with a quote from a chronically homeless individual named "Jerry".

2. Need For Funding the Plan – Diane Luther – 30 Minutes

- Results of Funding Committee Analysis
- Next Steps

-Diane Luther presented a power point entitled "Ten Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness: Conclusions of the Financial Analysis."

-Phil Alonso will email the excel sheets with the analysis of the financial situation of The Plan to members of the Interagency Council.

Questions/Comments:

-Question about the slide titled "Financial Elements of the Ten Year Plan": Cassandra Jennings asked Diane to clarify the total cost of Units Through Leasing. Do we add the cost of rental subsidies, treatment, and case management?

-Answer: Yes, we do add those three components to find the total cost.

-When discussing the slide "Conclusions: Treatment Services", Diane pointed out that Petra Stanton and her colleagues at The Effort clinic just turned in their Federally Qualified Health Clinic (FQHC) application yesterday. They will hear the results in the next few months.

-Trisha Stanionis asked where the funding is for outreach to chronically homeless on the street that aren't walking in the door.

-Answer: Diane said that that kind of outreach does not exist right now as part of central intake.

-Kathy Briem stated that the Downtown Partnership, Volunteers of America, and Loaves and Fishes were assisting with outreach and referring people to central intake.

-Karen Brockopp asked where Shelter Plus Care is in all of this.

-We need to obtain case management service dollars to attach with Shelter Plus Care housing dollars.

-With the de-funding of AB2034, it is possible that Shelter Plus Care could help pick up some of this shortfall.

-Robert Tobin asked how the \$3000-\$6000 estimate for case management compares to the current providers' costs. Where did this estimate come from?

-Diane noted that the estimate came from the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) dollar figures and estimates from providers.

-Robert mentioned that his programs have some numbers about their case management funding that he could share.

-Toni Moore asked if the case management services are funded by the Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC).

-Petra Stanton said that case management is not included in FQHC funding.

-Bob Bradley said that, in a national report, it was found that 26% of all homeless people are veterans. With this fact in mind, ICEH may need to design into the Plan some type of fair share of attention to veterans. In thinking about the outreach component, we may need to have some focused effort to reach out to this population more.

-Brian O'Hara shared an observation from the Department of Veterans Affairs, that Vietnam veterans are getting older and will need more and more treatment services.

-Tim Brown commented that he believes the glass is half full: we have treatment services in place and lots of housing dollars in place, so that fact that case management is our biggest gap shows that this is manageable.

-Diane asked the members to give some feedback on the presentation. How should we craft our message to the Policy Board, how do we take our data and turn it into a compelling argument?

-Toni Moore said that we should repeat the same presentation for the Policy Board.

-In our analysis presentation we should also annualize the costs, set priorities in funding, and include funding for program evaluation.

-Trisha Stanionis said that we should pay attention next to the county and state budgets because where they are now may be different in six months.

-John Foley noted that Friendship Housing has experienced challenges with the County re-imbursement policy. He needs \$25-30,000 to start up his expansion program.

-Deanna Hanson said that now is a good time to involve those serving this population that aren't at the table.

-Trisha Stanionis said that we need to make sure that we identify the case management services that exist so that we don't duplicate work that is already being done.

-Cassandra Jennings asked: Do we want to take one element (like case management) and focus on advocacy for that funding, rather than try to tackle the whole thing? We also need to think about the next steps to take after the Policy Board takes some action.

-Ann Edwards-Buckley noted that we also may need to analyze and present this information in 2-3 year increments so that it is more manageable and so that we can show success in smaller increments.

-Various people voiced support for the evaluation element, including the cost-effectiveness or cost-savings studies.

-Ann Edwards-Buckley said that the committee will continue to drill down numbers for case management and get some more providers in the meeting to talk about their real costs.

-For the Policy Board presentation, we should add a slide with the hard numbers and recommendations; prioritize case management and central intake.

-Politicians are going to want to know that we are taking people off the streets and how those people are doing in permanent supportive housing (PSH).

3. Project Homeless Connect in Sacto? – Tim Brown and Susanna Curry – 15 Minutes

- Tim Brown, consultant working with the Ending Chronic Homelessness Initiative, introduced Susanna Curry, AmeriCorps *VISTA volunteer with the Ending Chronic Homelessness Initiative
- Susanna gave a brief overview of Project Homeless Connect
- This event started in San Francisco in 2004 and has been replicated across the country.
- The event allows for an opportunity to create new partnerships in a community and engage new members in the fight to end homelessness.
- Susanna directed members to two websites related to Project Homeless Connect events: www.sfconnect.org and www.usich.gov.
- Susanna turned the floor over to Tim Brown, who talked about the feasibility of hosting a Project Homeless Connect event in Sacramento.
- We are hoping to take a field trip to San Francisco's Homeless Connect event on February 27. Anyone who is interested is welcome to come. Please email Susanna Curry SCurry@communitycouncil.org if you are interested in attending SF's Connect event on the 27th.
- We are proposing that we hold the event at least once a year and maybe twice per year.
- We would have a focus on direct services to homeless clients that day.
- Tim emphasized that the planning effort will be staffed by the Ending Chronic Homelessness Initiative (ECHI) and will not be put on ICEH's plate. However, any ICEH members would be more than welcome to help plan the event.

Questions/Comments:

- Bob Bradley said that they are working on setting up a monthly homeless court in addition to Stand Down for veterans. These efforts could be coordinated.
 - Joan Burke said that this is exciting because it is important to get new resources involved (i.e. Metro Chamber of Commerce).
 - It will be important to remember "what are the outcomes?" The event should focus on connecting people who are homeless to housing.
 - We should definitely involve the faith community.
 - Jim Hare noted that at the San Francisco Project Homeless Connect 10-15 permanent supportive housing beds are ready for the sickest clients. We should do something like this for Sacramento's event.
 - Robert Tobin: how is the face of homelessness portrayed in this event? We should go to the programs and get their clients involved in the event.
 - Jan Wald invited planning staff to contact her for resources that they used in organizing the Stand Down event for homeless veterans.
 - Angelica said that at one Project Homeless Connect event, each client had one mentor that led them through the process of finding the services they needed.
 - Ryan Loofbourrow wanted to mention that he gets called all the time to remove homeless people from around the Convention Center, so this location may not be the best for this event.
- The Council approved the Project Homeless Connect proposal. Jan Wald moved to approve the motion and Chris Glaudel seconded. The Council voted (18 ayes, 0 nays) to approve the motion.

4. 2008 Homeless Count – Kathy Briem – 5 Minutes

- Kathy passed out the updated flyer for the Homeless Count

-There are three important reasons for the count:

- 1) The results provide information to policy makers and show the scale of the homeless issue in a region.
- 2) The Department of Housing and Urban Development requires it at least every other year, but the Department of Human Assistance in Sacramento County has committed to doing it every year to gather better data on the homeless population.
- 3) The data can be used for the Ten Year Plan.

-There are two important changes in the count from last year.

- 1) We are now counting at night instead of early morning.
- 2) We are integrating the survey with the count, so that the surveys are all done at the same time as the counting. Last year the surveys were conducted in the weeks following the count.

-They are again using a statistical sampling method, since Sacramento County is far too large to cover entirely.

-They are working with Geographical Information Survey (GIS), which has provided very detailed maps of the county.

-The event will be staged at 28th and R in Sacramento, which may be more difficult to get to for some people.

-They are trying to get counts of mental health treatment facilities, jails and AOD residence centers. They can't report these numbers to the department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) but they are good to know for program planning purposes.

Questions/Comments:

-Paula Lomazzi asked if organizers are in touch with law enforcement and rangers to avoid sweeps just before or after the count.

-Diane said that there should not be a problem with this.

-Kathy noted that they are working with Regional Transit to solve the transportation issue with getting Salvation Army counters to and from 28th and R.

-When counting people in jails and bookings, should make sure that people who use the 400 Bannon Street address (Union Gospel Mission) are counted as homeless.

-Loaves and Fishes has some vans that could help transport Salvation Army counters.

5. Central Intake Status Update and Program Design Discussion – Kathy Briem – 15 Minutes

-Central Intake is temporarily closed. They have done over 200 assessments and currently don't have Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) units available to place people into.

-Central Intake will need to ebb and flow with the housing availability.

6. Committee Reports – 20 Minutes

- Criminal Justice – Tim Brown

- Continuum of Care – Suzanne Hammer

- Health Services Linked to Housing – Petra Stanton

- Data and Reporting – Phil Alonso

- Veterans – Robert Bradley/Jan Wald

- Housing – Joan Burke

A. Continuum of Care Committee

- A few organizations that are part of the application need to be more involved. The committee needs to do more outreach to get them involved, especially education and faith-based groups.
- The committee is beginning to look at next year's goals.
- The committee has done more work on the Ranking Panel and hope that criteria will be finalized by January.
- Most criteria will be the same, but one possible addition would be two bonus points to agencies who send representatives to the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) training in January (scheduled for January 10th). Suzanne Hammer needs the name and email address of any representatives from agencies that will be attending.
- A representative from Santa Cruz gave a presentation and they are very successful with SSI applications there.

B. Veterans Committee

- Jan Wald introduced Bruce Jackson. Bruce is new to the team and he'll do outreach and attend provider meetings.
- The Veterans Committee is sponsoring an event called "Throw It Home" in March/April which will address the effort to integrate returning veterans back into society. There will be information there for educators and veterans' families.

7. Homeless Street Management – Diane Luther – 15 Minutes

- Diane Luther talked about the need to start the conversation in the Council and Board about the homeless street management issue arising out of Tent City publicity.
- A group could look at street management issues and strategies. We need to set up a plan to deal with street issues as they come up and decide who should take the lead as these things pop up.

Discussion:

- Joan Burke mentioned an article in the San Francisco Chronicle discussing homeless street management in Portland (i.e. only 15% of those doing drugs on the street were actually homeless).
- Paula Lomazzi noted that it is good to have neutral negotiators to bridge the gaps.
- Cassandra Jennings said that this sounds a lot like what the Downtown Partnership does, but we need to do it countywide.
- Collette Johnson-Schulke said that we need an inventory of what exists and see what gaps there are.
- Ryan Loofbourrow said that we also need to remember to focus on "ending homelessness" not just "managing" it!

8. One Year Report – Diane Luther – 5 Minutes

- Diane said that she hopes to present this to the City Council, County Board of Supervisors, and Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Commission.

9. Ten Year Plan Structure Update – Ann Edwards-Buckley – 5 Minutes

- Continuing this work and will present at the January ICEH meeting.

10. ICEH Term Expirations – 5 Minutes

-Folks on the one-year list will receive an email from Phil Alonso to make sure that you want to continue to serve on ICEH.

Announcements:

-Transitional Living and Community Support has openings in a house for HIV positive clients. Please contact Linda Bratcher lbratcher@tlcssac.org for more information.