



## Interagency Council To End Homelessness

### Meeting Minutes

March 19, 2008

2.30-4.30 PM

#### Attendance:

Council Members Present: Ann Edwards-Buckley (Chair), Karen Brockopp, Loren Pimm (for Carolyn Brodt), Joan Burke, Michelle Coleman, Michael Dunne, John Foley, Verne Gore, Deanna Hanson, Jim Hare, Pam Herman, Elizabeth Hudson, Patty Kleinknecht, Sue Laliberte, Ryan Loofbourrow, Karen Maxwell, Shamus Roller, Trisha Stanionis, Petra Stanton, Leland Tom, Bruce Wagstaff, Bruce Jackson (for Jan Wald).

Council Members Absent: Alexis Bernard, Peter Feeley, Lynn Frank, Chris Glaudel, Cassandra Jennings, Maria Morfin, Collette Johnson-Schulke.

Staff Present: Tim Brown, Phil Alonso, Roma Eisenstark, Susanna Curry.

Guests: Diane Luther, Toni Moore, Suzanne Hammer, Kathy Briem, Angelica Duran, Paula Lomazzi, Frances Freitas, Katrina Middleton, David Husid, Barbara Hopkins, Greg Bunker, Forrest Reed, Sister Libby Fernandez, Christina Arrasmith, Larry Dayton, Tanya Wilson, Gary Gallery, Holly Wunder Stiles.

#### Action Items:

- There were no action or future action items during this meeting.

#### Minutes:

##### 1. Introductions

##### 2. Continuum of Care Update – Suzanne Hammer - 5 minutes

- The CoC Application has a new electronic submittal process, so the submit date was delayed, but HUD says they will still announce the awards in December.
- Training for providers with their own HUD contracts on this new electronic process will be in April and June.
- For the next application, we are working toward a few specific goals:
  - Want to increase employment outcome
  - Continuing APR analysis
  - Want to increase the number receiving SSI benefits

### 3. One Year Report – Diane Luther – 10 minutes

- Ann directed the Council to see the final report in their packets and introduced what the First Year Progress Report is.
- Diane explained how the report was rolled out to the public. The report was officially released at the Press Conference held outside City Hall on February 28th. Then, on March 4th, the report was presented to both the County Board of Supervisors and the Sacramento City Council. Many of our partners were present to take part in the presentations.
- Diane and Tim also had a meeting with the Sac Bee Editorial Board.
- Diane then led the Board through the headlines of the report.
- The idea of the report was to generate greater political support and Diane thought that it worked pretty well.
- Sue commented that she thought the press conference went really well.

### 4. Case Management Funding Task Force – Tim Brown – 10 minutes

- Tim described graphic of the stool that was used in a previous presentation. The top of the stool is the Capital funding, and this is in pretty good shape. The first two legs of the stool are also in pretty good shape. They are operating subsidies and treatment costs.
- The third and last leg of the stool is case management, and this is where a significant gap exists. Without this funding, the Ten Year Plan and the stool will fall apart.
- For this case management leg, the strongest component is the Mental Health Services Act dollars, and the HUD Samaritan Bonus funding is not enough to fully fund the level of case management needed for the chronically homeless population.
- There are development projects coming online this year, such as MLK, that are still working out their service package.
- We do have some new dollars coming in for case management, namely from Sutter Hospital, both with the T3 Program with The Effort and with a small grant for Serial Inebriate clients that the Criminal Justice Committee attained.
- We also got one time earmark funding from Congresswoman Matsui of about \$96K.
- So, we are piecing together more private dollars for case management, but we need to do more and this is the purpose of this Task Force.
- Tim explained that he was thinking that in the short term, the Task Force will work on getting more private funding, such as from health foundations, etc. And for long term funding, the Task Force will look at developing new public funding streams.
- Ann mentioned that she would greatly appreciate any Interagency Council members that can participate on this Task Force.

## 5. Project Homeless Connect Update – Tim Brown – 5 minutes

- Tim mentioned that we are getting great participation. At the last meeting, about 40 people attended to be part of the planning team.
- Susanna explained that we have currently raised about \$7K, and we are hoping to raise a total of \$15K.
- For the transportation component, we have contacted RT and gotten a positive response. We will also be continuing to work with providers that have vans/shuttles, such as Salvation Army, VOA, and Loaves and Fishes.
- We are hoping to get at least 500 homeless guests that day and about 50 providers.
- We will be serving food all day.
- We need to conduct more outreach to businesses and the faith community.
- We will be sending out the provider form and info on how to sign up volunteers very soon.

## 6. PSH Production Update – Jim Hare/Alan Saunders – 5 minutes

- For the Budget Inn project, Jim explained that we are having trouble convincing the local residents that this project is a great opportunity for this site that has seen lots of problems in the past.
- During one year, there were a total of 300 police calls to that site, almost one per day.
- Tomorrow evening, there will be a meeting of the local redevelopment advisory committee to hear about the project and then at their following meeting, they will vote to recommend or not recommend the project.
- The Hotel Berry project was discussed yesterday evening at the City Council meeting, and there was nearly unanimous support for the project. The Council is helping SHRA go for more Tax Credits for this project.
- The site has been acquired by the nonprofit developer.
- Jim mentioned that it has been a really busy time with many projects in various stages and he expressed his appreciation for the help that various members of the Interagency Council have provided.
- Frances explained that by 2010, mental health is projecting that a total of about 310 MHSA units will be online.
- There were a few questions about the AB 2034 clients:
  - Frances explained that work is still in progress for the remaining clients that have not yet transferred to another program, and that none of the clients will fall back into homelessness.
  - AB 2034 clients moving into Ardenaire? Frances did not think so since the criteria for that project is chronically homeless and that most of the AB 2034 clients do not meet that criteria.

## 7. 08 Homeless Count – Kathy Briem – 15 minutes

- The Count was a great effort with lots of collaboration and community volunteers.
- Kathy referred the group to the blue sheet in their packets, which gives the results for both the sheltered and unsheltered counts. We are still waiting for the survey results for the subpopulation characteristics.
- Looking at the blue sheet, we see the results from the 3 previous counts and this year's count. She explained that it is best to compare the counts from 2007 and 2008 because the same methodology was used.

### Questions/Comments

- Do other communities do their count at night?
  - Yes, many do.
  - Toni Moore also mentioned counting in the early AM does not allow for the survey process to be conducted at the same time.
- It was mentioned that the number always seems low. Is there a way to get a number for over a period of time and numbers from other institutions?
  - Kathy explained that she did get some numbers from the jails, mental health treatment centers, and alcohol and drug detox centers.
  - She also explained that there is a formula that annualizes the point in time number, so that we can say how many experience homelessness over the course of a year.
- Petra mentioned that DHHS once kept a tally over the course of a year and got around 4,000.
- Frances asked if all the mental health treatment centers were included?
  - Kathy said she would have to double check and if any were missed, she could go back and add them because they keep logs.
- Joan mentioned that if Kathy went back in time to add programs, then should add the 100 clean and sober beds at Loaves.
- Ryan suggested that in the downtown area, the count be conducted in the morning.
  - Kathy explained that there has been lots of feedback about counting at night, and that the Count planning team will be looking at going back to the morning count for next time.

## 8. Street Management – Tim Brown – 10 minutes

- This issue has arisen due to the recent increased visibility of homeless camps.
- The City Manager initiated a meeting to address this issue in January.
- This is a very difficult issue to deal with.
- Tim explained that we will be looking at what other jurisdictions are doing and what resources are available.
- One possibility is to expand the Winter Shelter to the whole year.
- It is important to connect with the Faith community on this.

- When we try to implement some new strategies, they should focus on two groups: chronically homeless, and women and kids. About 90 women and kids are being turned away from emergency shelters.
- We did implement the Homeless Severe Weather system of shelters and warming centers being opened on particularly cold nights, but this is only during winter.
- Another possible strategy to explore is a tent city. This has been done in Seattle, Portland, and a few cities in California (Ventura, Oxnard, Ontario, San Jose), and lots of local advocates really want to pursue this.
- Of course, the difficult part of the issue is location and NIMBY-ism.
- Tim explained that the Seattle and Portland tent cities were self governed and had support from a church or nonprofit. It is important to have a resident led screening process and have clear rules on AOD and time limits. Also important to have sponsor provide sanitation.
- During the count Tim explained how he and Phil went with Park Rangers into a low visibility area where there were lots of tent camps that are essentially tolerated by the Rangers as long as they don't get too big or messy, and people don't cut down trees for fire wood.

#### Questions/Comments

- Greg Bunker liked the idea of expanding the winter shelter to year round so that at least people had a choice.
- Ann mentioned that law enforcement sees lots of problems with current system and they do not like simply moving people from one area to another.
- Sister Libby thought it would make sense to hold off on enforcing illegal camping until they have some kind of choice for a place to go.
- Toni thought that more of the traditional types of shelters is not the answer but recognize that this is a problem that needs immediate attention. She also mentioned that General Assistance, like the homeless count, has seen a similar increase in the number of new applications coming in.
- It was suggested that we also need to look at the barriers to people utilizing shelters, such as pets, too crowded, too many rules, etc.
- One provider mentioned that they are already getting calls from folks that are in housing but will soon lose it due to the housing crisis. They also mentioned that it is important to change the concept and perception of what a shelter is.
- Ryan was wondering about the possibility of having a housing program like Quinn Cottages but with semi-permanent tent structures rather than building cottages. And also look at the scale of the tent cities so that we are serving more than 30 or 40 people in one camp.
- Garren suggested that making the shelters more user friendly would go a long way.
- Tim mentioned that he was approached by City Council member Rob Fong who had an idea to approach churches to help with sheltering women and kids.
- Tim thanked everyone for their interest in this issue and said we will be sending out a meeting announcement about the next meeting of the Street Management Task Force.

## 9. Committee Reports

### - Criminal Justice – Tim Brown

- Tim and Diane met with Police Chief Rick Brazier and discussed the possibility of starting a pilot project where POP Officers (problem oriented police officers) work with Mental Health outreach workers on the streets.
- Tim also updated the group on a fieldtrip to Seattle to visit their 1811 East Lake project. This PSH development targets the hardest to house in Seattle and has seen really good success.
- They got a \$500K research grant and have seen a 50% reduction in the number of days their clients used alcohol or drugs. The first 80 people accounted for about 1800 emergency room visits the year before.
- Their research is already projecting a savings of \$3 million.
- Lastly, the criminal justice committee is getting ready to start the SIP housing program with their grant from Sutter and partnering with Self Help Housing.

### - Continuum of Care – Suzanne Hammer

- Suzanne said that over the last few months, the attendance at this committee's meeting has dropped off and so she is hoping that more people can commit to attend these meetings.
- Starting on April 1st, Friendship Housing expansion is coming online and will house 40 people through Self Help Housing.

### - Health Services Linked to Housing – Petra Stanton

- The Health Committee will be focusing on SSI strategies for its next meeting.
- Petra will send Phil a meeting announcement which will be passed on to the whole ICEH.

### - Data and Reporting – Phil Alonso

- Phil will send the group the Chart that shows the numbers of homeless and chronically homeless people that entered PSH during 2007.

### - Veterans – Jan Wald

- Bruce Jackson gave the Veterans report for Jan.
- The Vet Committee has enjoyed participation from lots of different partners and is working on splitting up into various sub-committees.
- At our last meeting, the committee discussed a number of issues.
- The Homeless Connect event was discussed and committee members shared ideas and committed to be involved.
- For the Road Home event, the committee is working with DeVry University partners to develop a plan for raising funds for this event. Corporate sponsors are also being sought.
- Another committee member explained what the Welcome Home event is. This event provides health care and benefits information, children's activities, community and educational resources, employment opportunities, and food and entertainment to veterans. It is the first time one is being held in Northern California.
- The committee is also partnering with students at Sacramento State, who are working with committee to create a "Web Portal,"

a website that will have everything a Veteran needs to know to get housing, health care, education, etc.

- Lastly, Bruce explained that Andre Sims of Sierra College in Rocklin is hosting a class called "Peaceful Warriors." It is a physical class in which students study martial arts as well as stress management. The class is part of an effort that Sierra College is making to be more Veteran friendly. April 12<sup>th</sup> will be Peaceful Warriors day at Sierra College. It will be an all-day event (10:00-4:00) with martial arts masters teaching. Veterans will get in for free. It will be \$10.00 for students and \$20.00 for others.

#### **- Housing – Joan Burke**

- Joan explained that the Housing Committee did not meet during March because most members had conflicting meetings. The next meeting of the committee will be at the regularly scheduled time on Monday, April 7 from 3:30 to 5 PM at the DHA Office at 1590 North A Street.
- The committee has been working on expanding the online housing database through Sac Self Help's website.
- The committee is also supporting the Homeless Connect Event, assisting to line up housing opportunities to be available the evening of the event.

#### **- PSH Production – Diane Luther**

- Diane explained that this was the last meeting with her as the lead of this committee and that Tim and Phil will be leading it going forward.
- The committee has been working on developing strategies for using Shelter Plus Care vouchers for chronically homeless individuals, tracking the status of PSH projects in the pipeline, and beginning discussions with CADA (Capitol Area Development Authority) on coordinating with their PSH development projects.

#### **- Central Intake – Kathy Briem**

- Kathy explained that Central Intake is still not doing anymore assessments, but because it looks like Friendship Housing Expansion will be adding more beds, they will begin trying to re-connect with folks at the top of the wait list.
- The committee is looking at restructuring so that they can better deal with managing the waitlist and activating assessments again later this year when the new development projects begin coming online.

## **10. Celebration of Diane Luther's Leadership and the First Year Progress Report**