



Sacramento Ending Chronic Homelessness Initiative

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Interagency Council To End Homelessness

Meeting Minutes

June 18th, 2008

2.30-4.30 PM

Attendance:

Council Members Present: Chris Glaudel (Vice Chair), Karen Brockopp, Carolyn Brodt, Rodger Freeman (for Michelle Coleman), Jim Hare, Larry Dayton (for Elizabeth Hudson), Cassandra Jennings, Patty Kleinknecht, Sue Laliberte, Karen Maxwell, Shamus Roller, Toni Moore (for Bruce Wagstaff), Bruce Jackson (for Jan Wald).

Council Members Absent: Ann Edwards-Buckley (Chair), Alexis Bernard, Joan Burke, Michael Dunne, Peter Feeley, John Foley, Lynn Frank, Verne Gore, Deanna Hanson, Pam Herman, Collette Johnson-Schulke, Ryan Loofbourrow, Trisha Stanionis, Petra Stanton, Leland Tom, Tanya Wilson.

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

Guests: Diane Luther, Suzanne Hammer, Ruth MacKenzie, Frances Freitas, Liz Brenner, Dawn Heywood, Alex (Batman) Briones, Michael Lazar, Robert Ranzenberger, Brian Geremia, Robert Tobin.

Action Items:

- There was not a quorum and so there were no action items during this meeting.

Future Action Items:

- A small group will meet to take a closer look at the data on homelessness and decide how to present it effectively. The group will create a proposal to ICEH at the next meeting.
- ECHI staff will create a media and communications plan for ICEH to review and discuss

Minutes:

1. Introductions

2. Action: Adopt Minutes

- There was not a quorum and so the minutes will be adopted at the next meeting.

3. Committee Reports-15 minutes

A. Criminal Justice-Tim Brown

-The Serial Inebriate Program (SIP) started at the end of April and Self Help Housing hired a case manager and has started housing some people.

-A pilot program of partnership between the POP officers, Downtown Navigators and Genesis of Loaves & Fishes has started. This Friday will be the first time the group will go out together to outreach to homeless individuals.

-There will be a 5-day training in October in Modesto. The committee is working to send a team from Sacramento to attend.

B. Continuum of Care-Suzanne Hammer

-The committee is working on Chart N, chronic homelessness goals, and an inventory of projects coming up, etc.

-There is a plan for improving employment outcomes, residency, and accessing SSI.

-The committee is also looking at Chart O, which shows discharge planning from institutions/systems, etc.

-Using analysis from Phil Alonso and MKS Consulting, the committee is working on improving APRs from providers. There will be a training for providers to improve goal language and, out of that, focusing on increasing employment outcomes (Tim Brown is taking the lead on this). The training is tentatively scheduled for July 23rd.

C. Veterans-Bruce Jackson

-The committee is in its third week of a program to identify veterans who are eligible for benefits and aren't aware of it.

-This group has positioned people at the 28th street DHA office with veterans at their comprehensive assessment meetings.

-They are finding that older veterans, from the Vietnam and Gulf wars, are more reluctant to access services, whereas those returning from the current Iraq and Afghanistan wars are generally more open to services.

-The office is seeing an average of 3 or 4 veterans seeking services per month. They will bring more data to the next ICEH meeting.

D. Housing-Joan Burke

-Joan was unable to attend the meeting.

E. Central Intake-Kathy Briem

-Ruth MacKenzie spoke on behalf of Kathy Briem.

-The committee is implementing a new process. They are no longer going to maintain a waitlist and will instead move on to a "re-active" process where, when housing becomes available, clients are tracked down. This seems to be working well so far.

-Central Intake is utilizing a Vulnerability Index. This system, which is used in many other jurisdictions, is used to rank clients based on need.

-Central Intake participated in the Sacramento Homeless Connect event, and helped house 11 people in permanent housing on the day.

-Karen Brockhopp mentioned that the County budget cuts has a large effect on the community, including the Supportive Housing and Entitlement Program (SHEP) at Transitional Living & Community Support (TLCS), which is closing as of July 1. SHEP sees about 35 clients with psychiatric disabilities per day. It has been the one intake point for all TLCS programs and a source of SSI advocacy in Sacramento. This will be a major loss for homeless clients.

-Tim Brown mentioned that there has also been a cut of 2 outreach workers from Volunteers of America.

-Ruth MacKenzie: we need to start planning for the loss of SHEP and an increase in demand on the DHA building on North A Street.

-Frances Freitas: the recent cut of SHEP will be profound, especially as we gear up for PSH units coming online later this year.

-Chris Glaudel: this all reinforces our need to collaborate and perform efficiently and show that the PSH and Housing First models do work.

-Central Intake meetings are on the second Tuesday of every month from 10 to 11:30 am at the DHA Homeless Programs building.

4. Case Management Funding Task Force-Tim Brown-10 minutes

-SAMHSA grant submitted on time at the end of May.

-It took a huge community effort to get this done in less than a month.

-There were a lot of strong letters of support from different players.

-The task force is continuing to look at other foundations and grant opportunities. It looks like state-wide foundations don't focus as much on funding direct services, so the task force is turning to local and regional foundations (i.e. Sacramento Community Foundation, Sierra Health Foundation, Teichert Foundation, United Way).

-For the long term, hoping to start a discussion at the Policy Board in July and continuing to look at what other jurisdictions are doing.

5. SSI Task Force-Petra Stanton-15 minutes

-Tim Brown spoke on behalf of Petra Stanton.

-The SSI task force does not believe that the California Endowment will be a likely funding source for this effort.

-There is \$40,000 available through the Sierra Health Foundation. The task force may look at developing a proposal for them.

-DHA is also looking at improving their Disability Case Management (DCM) program through General Assistance (GA) to identify more disabled GA clients and help them start SSI applications.

6. CoC Application Update-Suzanne Hammer-5 minutes

-There is not much to report-they are still waiting to hear back from HUD.

7. Street Management Task Force-Tim Brown-15 minutes

-There is another Mobile Homeless Connect outreach effort occurring on June 26th at 9:30 am. The team will be doing outreach to the River District areas.

-The task force will be pulling together a faith-based collaboration in July.

-Other jurisdictions (Denver and Boise) are conducting programs in which congregations help by temporarily housing families that are homeless and providing services for them.

-The task force wants to connect faith organizations with family social service providers. Sacramento City Council member Rob Fong is interested in getting involved.

-We need to carefully consider the definition of "family" in this case because different organizations might have different preferences.

-Boise considered a single parent with kids or two adults in a domestic partnership to be families.

-This would be an inter-faith effort partnering with many congregations.

-The issue of a designated camp in Sacramento is still being discussed.

8. PSH Production Update-Jim Hare-10 minutes

-SHRA has been focusing on the final funding approval for the Budget Inn and Mutual at the Highlands.

-Jim wanted to thank all who attended meetings in support, especially Tim, who testified at nearly all of the meetings.

- Mutual at the Highlands has enjoyed broad support.
- There are still some tax credits applications and final MHSA approval from the state needed.
- Alan Saunders and Sue Laliberte led a tour of other successful programs and it went really well.
- SHRA also got approval from both the City Council and the County Board of Supervisors for the Budget Inn project.
- Some members of the Council (Lauren Hammond and Robbie Waters) had concerns about a concentration of such housing in that area.
- We need to be ready to address these concerns in future projects.
- Numerous community meetings took place to discuss this project.
- This whole process has shown that we need an effective public education program to help the public understand homelessness and not make decisions based on fear.
- Based on experience at Sacramento Homeless Connect, it is clear that most homeless people are not aggressive.
- Sue Laliberte: there should be a bus tour for neighborhood groups to show them current projects, putting a face on homelessness.
- It would also be great to have a video to show success stories, etc.
- Cassandra Jennings: need to develop a communication and education strategy. Invite neighbors and electeds to events, like Homeless Connect or program graduations, so they can see for themselves that the stereotypes of homelessness are not always true.
- Carolyn Brodt: we should use the success of Mather and others in our community to build support for our future efforts.
- Alex Briones: should use individual stories of how people became homeless. Shows the public where they were once, how the programs helped them succeed.
- Robert Tobin: we should be clear that there is a variety of programs and not all the projects are under the Housing First model.
- Jim: this is important because SHRA had to slightly adjust the Budget Inn plan according to certain parties' interests, and it is no longer a "pure" Housing First model.
- Tim commended SHRA for their work, and for setting a lofty goal of 280 units.

9. Homeless Count-Kathy Briem-10 minutes

- Toni Moore spoke on behalf of Kathy Briem. She pointed out a few additions that were made on the two-page handout for the 2008 Homeless Count.
- We have to be careful when comparing data.
- On the next agenda we should have someone speak about lessons learned on Homeless Count methodology.
- Robert Tobin passed around a handout to show how we can report this data to support advocacy efforts and show that homelessness is increasing in our community.
- Frances Freitas: may be useful to have MKS Consulting come to report on methodology to provide context.
- Chris Glaudel: we want to avoid a prolonged discussion on methodology and focus on getting folks off the street. Not sure that this Council is ready to release a type of in-depth report (re: Robert Tobin's handout) using data over many years using different methodologies.
- Shamus Roller: there is lots of support for these statistics anecdotally, from service providers.
- Tim: maybe we can set up a group of people who would like to look more closely at the data and bring back a report to the next ICEH meeting. The group could consider economic indicators and the Sacramento Population Growth Rate when presenting.

10. Homeless Connect a Success! -Tim Brown-15 minutes

- Tim: we were "victims of our own success", shown by the numbers of guests that came (over 600).
- Referred to handout and discussed highlights.
- Recognized staff and planning team.
- Raised about \$20,000 for the effort.

11. Media Strategy-Tim Brown-10 minutes

- Not too much progress, other than focusing on specific events, like Sacramento Homeless Connect.
- There is a goal of one media piece per month.
- Patty Kleinknecht: should look ahead to November/December and the holiday season. Call it a "Media and Communications" plan so can include many audiences.
- Diane Luther: Ribbon cuttings in the fall, maybe get Phil Mangano to come out.
- Dawn Heywood: we can include a Social Security applicant success story.
- We should have the media discussion at the top of the agenda next time, and possibly have a Public Information Officer facilitate the discussion.
- Chris: we should lay out a calendar of events over the next 12-18 months.
- Toni: outline of components of the media strategy for ICEH to respond to.

12. Follow-up Report from Five-Year Plan-Toni Moore-5 minutes

- Toni led the group through the report, which gives a nice inventory of outcomes from the Five Year Plan.
- If anyone has questions, they can contact Suzanne.
- Robert Tobin: important to distinguish between the number of homeless people versus the number of units.
- Chris: important for future reporting efforts on numbers of units and corresponding number of people served/housed.

13. Announcements

- Alex "Batman" Briones: Sacramento Standdown 2008 is on September 12, 13, 14 at Camp Pollack, any provider welcome. They need a lot of volunteers. Please call Alex at 916-641-7599, cell 916-716-6024.
- The Veterans Community Support Network (VCSN) wants to become a one-stop shop for veterans services.
- Tim: disaster preparedness, especially with the severe hot weather warnings, etc.
- Need to establish benchmarks of when to open up cooling centers, etc.
- This came up with fires going on around Northern California, especially with camps in high brush.
- Robert Tobin: Quinn Cottages Graduation Announcement.