



## Sacramento Ending Chronic Homelessness Initiative

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### Policy Board To End Homelessness

## Meeting Minutes

November 5, 2007  
City Hall Room 5110

### Attendance:

Board Members Present: Tom Gagen, Steve Ayers, Susan DeMarois, Ann Edwards-Buckley, Mayor Heather Fargo, Sister Libby Fernandez, Paula Lomazzi, Rick Brazier, Mayor Jeff Slowey, Malachi Smith, Michelle Steeb.

Board Members Absent: Supervisor Roger Dickinson, Paulino Duran, Councilmember Robert McGarvey, Reverend Scot Sorensen.

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

Guests: Anne Moore, LaShelle Dozier, Vincene Jones, Bruce Wagstaff, Jim Hare, Frances Freitas, Cynthia L. Abbott, Chris Glaudel, Cassandra Jennings, Katrina Middleton, Shamus Roller, Petra Stanton.

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### Action Items:

- The Board approved the appointment of Steve Ayers to the Policy Board.
- The Board approved the appointments of both Shamus Roller and Collette Johnson Schulke to the Interagency Council to End Homelessness.

### Future Actions:

- The Board will need to approve the Minutes from the September meeting.

### Minutes:

#### 1. Introductions

- Each person in the room introduced themselves.
- Tom Gagen recognized Michelle Steeb for her "Heroes of Human Services" Award.

#### 2. Public Comment on Homelessness

- There was no public comment.

#### 3. Minutes – September, 2007

Recommendation: Adopt

-Members of the Board requested more time to look through the previous meeting's minutes.

4. New Policy Board Appointees (5 minutes)

Recommendation: Appoint Steve Ayers, CEO, Armour Steel Company to represent business sector

-Steve Ayers introduced himself. He has run his business in the Richards Boulevard area for many years.

-The Board approved the appointment of Steve Ayers. Ann Edwards-Buckley moved that the appointment be approved and Sister Libby Fernandez seconded the motion. The Board voted (9 ayes, 0 nays) to approve the motion.

5. New ICEH Appointees (10 minutes)

Recommendation: Appoint Shamus Roller, new Executive Director of the Sacramento Housing Alliance; and Collette Johnson Schulke, Director of Government Relations, Sutter Health

-Shamus Roller introduced himself. He has been the new director of Sacramento Housing Alliance, an affordable housing advocacy group, since July.

-The Sacramento Housing Alliance has been looking at regional level analysis on how health indicators affect housing opportunities.

-Collette Johnson Schulke was unable to attend the meeting. Diane Luther and Tom Gagen explained who Collette was and what her position is at Sutter Health.

-The Board approved the appointments of both Shamus Roller and Collette Johnson Schulke to the Interagency Council to End Homelessness. Paula Lomazzi moved that the appointments be approved and Jeff Slowey seconded the motion. The Board voted (9 ayes, 0 nays) to approve the motion.

6. 2008 Street Count (5 minutes) – Kathy Briem, DHA Information

-The count will be held annually in order to perfect the new, sophisticated methodology that was first utilized for the count in January of 2007. Another reason that the count will now be conducted annually is to gather data for the Ten Year Plan.

-Last year the count was in the early morning. This year it will be held in the evening, on Tuesday January 29<sup>th</sup> from 7:30 to 11:30 pm.

-The count and survey will occur during the same day.

-DHA has offered overtime for their employees to go out and conduct interviews for the survey portion of the count.

-The count planning team will be coordinating with law enforcement in both the planning stages of the count and on the day of the count.

-The survey will be given to a random sample of those counted.

7. Update on Tent Camp (North B Street) Issue (10 minutes) – Mayor Fargo, City of Sacramento

-Union Pacific (UP) wants the homeless campers to move off their property this week.

-It is important to do something sooner rather than later! We need to take action quickly on this issue.

-There is a need for social services to go out there to reach them.

-At least 50-60 tents were at the camp, people were moved from the old incinerator on the UP property.

-Sister Libby said that she went out to the location and did some informal interviews with campers. The majority of those she spoke with seemed like they would meet the definition of chronic homelessness.

-Ann Edwards-Buckley said that they will be putting together a multi-disciplinary team to go out there and see what is needed.

-Rick Braziel noted that people need to go out there soon because UP has its own law enforcement agency that can enforce state law.

## 8. Severe Weather Committee Update (10 minutes) – Diane Luther Information

-Diane Luther described the establishment of the committee, which includes representatives from the Salvation Army, Mayor's Office, Rick Martinez (Emergency Services), DHA, Parks and Recreation, Volunteers of America, Loaves and Fishes, and 2-1-1 Sacramento.

-The committee has come up with a draft of a standard action plan. When certain temperatures are reached, an action plan will be enacted and a homeless emergency will be declared.

-There seems to be enough space in shelters to house those who need to get out of the cold for a short time. These shelters could provide the room necessary for nighttime warming centers. This may mean that the emergency warming shelters opened last year may not be necessary in future severe weather.

### Questions:

-Mayor Fargo asked if the shelters will make exceptions to their usual rules for these kinds of emergencies. For example, will animals be allowed at shelters that normally do not house animals?

-Diane answered that there is not a clear answer on this yet, but different issues are being explored.

-Mayor Fargo mentioned that last year, animal kennels/cages were brought to warming centers to accommodate pets. In hindsight, it was found that the presence of animals actually gave the warming centers more of a "homey" feeling. Mayor Fargo said that it is important to look at what rules can be stretched in the case of an emergency.

-Tom Gagen asked what the standard is for a "severe weather emergency"?

-Diane said that the standard is the prediction of less than 35 degrees in downtown Sacramento, with consideration of fog, wind, and other factors.

-Mayor Fargo asked who declares the emergency?

-Rick Martinez of the City/County Emergency Services Department will make the call. The department has developed its own three levels of cold weather emergency.

-A member of the audience asked what the homeless need in these emergencies? He said that he thinks rain wear, sleeping bags, etc. could be useful as well.

-Jim Hare asked if hot weather's effects on homeless people in Sacramento will be addressed as well.

-Diane Luther said that this issue will not be addressed by the committee and that at the moment heat is not as much of a homeless issue as is cold weather. Diane pointed to the fact that during the last heat wave, the only casualties were actually people inside, people that were housed.

## 9. Permanent Supportive Housing Update (10 minutes) – Jim Hare

## Information

-Jim Hare talked through a handout he created showing the current projects for the units through development, prevention units, and the units through leasing.

-There are three new projects where construction is underway.

-There are two new development projects; Arden Aire and MLK. It is expected that these developments are about 12 months to completion.

-There is one units through prevention project; Colonia San Martin.

-SHRA and others are currently working on the Budget Inn issue. They are conducting community meetings, engaging neighborhood associations, and emphasizing that the new project will be different than what exists there now.

-They are hoping to generate more letters from community groups. This project will really make a difference in the neighborhood. The new project will make the building look a lot better and will provide affordable housing for the homeless.

Question:

-What is happening with Turning Point on this project?

-Turning Point is very involved in the community (i.e. MLK, Arden Aire); it is just not involved with this project.

-Turning Point is not currently taking more clients because it is trying to figure out how to deal with 200 individuals dropped due to AB 2034 funding cuts.

-SHRA and Mercy Housing will shortly be moving forward on the YWCA project. They hope to bring the project before the SHRA Commission and the City Council in January for approval.

-Hotel Berry did not get approved for tax credit funding. A 9% tax credit application must be re-submitted.

Questions/Comments:

-Cynthia Abbott announced that HUD is pushing to have Continuum awards released in December.

-Are there any other areas in the region looking at similar issues?

-There is a regular Northern California Continuum of Care (CoC) Roundtable meeting to share experiences across the region. These meetings are held quarterly and are organized by HUD in Sacramento. Included in these Roundtable meetings are CoCs from Bakersfield north to Humboldt.

-There is also a 500-person YAHOO! Group email list for these types of issues.

-Is there any work on a statewide plan?

-There is a draft sitting in the Governor's office.

-Tom Gagen asked if there is a discussion of what Sacramento's health systems are doing.

-Cynthia Abbott said that yes, there is sharing on this issue.

-El Dorado County has approached Mercy Housing for housing development near Placerville.

-Michele Steeb said that St. John's Shelter is seeing an influx of women and children from Contra Costa County and other Bay Area Counties.

-DHA can speak with their counterparts in those areas.

-How many of the 2,453 homeless people in Sacramento County are chronically homeless?

-The Homeless Street Count found a little over 700, but we need to plan for more.

-If 69 chronically homeless are housed after 6 months, is this in line with our goals?

-Yes.

10. One Year Progress Report (5 minutes) – Diane Luther  
Information/Discussion

- The one-year report to be issued in January/February 2008 will be much more comprehensive than the 6-month report. Diane Luther asked if there are any suggestions for the one-year report.
- The audience is the general public, elected officials, and media.
- It was suggested that there be included in the report a map showing all the PSH sites (existing and proposed).
- It was mentioned that it is important to show dollars saved by the Plan. This is an aspect that the public would be interested to hear about.

11. Funding Needed to Fully Implement the Plan What are the gaps?  
Progress report from the Ad Hoc Funding Proposal Committee of ICEH - Diane Luther, Jim Hare, Petra Stanton

- Mayor Fargo noted that we should get foundations to the table early and put together a target list of people to get involved.
- Recommended the Nonprofit Resource Center, the Community Foundation, the New Sierra Health (Chet Hewitt)
- The committee is looking at major developers, the education process for those involved, and have committed to looking at what is available and what the needs and gaps are.
- Diane Luther led the group through the slides (Powerpoint presentation).
- Jim Hare discussed the Units Through Leasing Components. The rental subsidy annual cost per client is estimated to be \$6000. The treatment services annual cost per client is estimated at \$9000, and the case management annual cost per client is estimated at \$6000. The project will typically pay full rent up front, and then gradually the client will be able to pay more.
- Jim Hare discussed the Units Through Development Components. The operating subsidy estimated amount per client will be \$4000, the treatment services will be \$9000, and the case management will be from \$2000-\$6000.
- It is possible to capitalize for operating subsidies.
- Project Based Section 8 will become increasingly important in the future for operating subsidies.
- It may be better to look at a range for operating and rental subsidies, instead of sticking to the \$4000. Mayor Fargo said that the wording is confusing. She wondered why it is not called a "housing subsidy" for both leasing and development.
- Central Intake is actively processing 75-80 people.
- Central Intake staff lose track of 20-25% on the wait list.
- There is a need for more case management devoted to Central Intake clients.
- A mental health clinician was hired, trained, but now has been defunded, due to cuts in AB2034.
- Petra Stanton of The Effort introduced herself and talked about the remaining slides, starting with slide #7, "Case Management is Our Most Unfunded Gap".
- Someone asked if we could look at getting other agencies' case managers to follow clients through central intake and into housing.
- We are close to figuring out the housing subsidies and treatment services, but the biggest gap is with case management.
- The Effort is hoping to get FQHC look-alike status by December. FQHC look-alike coverage would allow them to bill MediCal at a higher rate to offset costs.

-Mayor Fargo asked what the difference is between case management and treatment.

-Case management puts all the pieces together for the client. He/she helps the client get to meetings, get benefits, work on life skills, and improve their relationship with their landlord. Treatment is for mental health/addiction/medical issues.

-There was a question about the difference in cost for units through development and units through leasing.

-There is a need for capital up front for development. There are also siting issues with development.