



Sacramento Ending Chronic Homelessness Initiative

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Policy Board To End Homelessness

Meeting Minutes

January 14, 2008

City Hall, City Attorney's Conference Room

Attendance:

Board Members Present: Tom Gagen (Chair), Paulino Duran (Co-Chair), Johan Otto (for Steve Ayers), Rick Braziel, Susan DeMarois, Supervisor Roger Dickinson, Ann Edwards-Buckley, Mayor Heather Fargo, Sister Libby Fernandez, Steve Heath, Paula Lomazzi, Malachi Smith, Scot Sorensen, Michelle Steeb.

Board Members Absent: Robert McGarvey, Jeff Slowey.

Staff Present: Diane Luther, Phil Alonso, Susanna Curry, Roma Eisenstark.

Guests: Vincene Jones, Toni Moore, Suzanne Hammer, Kathy Briem, Frances Freitas, Chuck Dalldorf, Alan Saunders, Chris Glaudel, Cynthia Abbott.

Action Items:

- The Board approved the minutes from both September's and November's meetings
- The Board approved the new ICEH appointees.
- The Board approved the Project Homeless Connect event.

Future Items:

- Staff will continue working on the funding gaps analysis.
- An ad-hoc committee including some Board and Interagency Council members will be formed to further discuss funding issues; such as consequences and more details of the recommendation of ICEH to prioritize Section 8 vouchers, defining success, and continue to explore both short term and long term funding sources.

Minutes:

1. Introductions

-The Chair began the meeting and announced that Rick Braziel has been appointed Chief of Police.

2. Public Comment

-There was no public comment.

3. Minutes-September and November, 2007

-The Board approved the minutes from the September and November meetings. Steve Heath moved that the minutes be approved and Susan DeMarois seconded the motion. The Board voted to approve the minutes.

4. New ICEH Appointees

-The Board approved the list of ICEH members that wished to renew their membership for a two-year term. Paulino Duran moved that the appointees' renewal membership be approved and Scot Sorensen seconded the motion. The Board voted to approve the motion.

-Paula suggested that if any Policy Board members know of a currently or formerly homeless person that would be a good candidate to apply for ICEH membership, then please share with the ECHI staff.

5. Project Homeless Connect

-Tim Brown and Susanna Curry, ECHI Staff

-Susanna gave a general background on Project Homeless Connect. She discussed the types of services provided and the benefits of Project Homeless Connect.

-Tim Brown discussed the event in more detail. Project Homeless Connect is a very high profile event, involving hundreds of community volunteers and currently/formerly homeless people.

-Hopefully Homeless Connect will take place annually or 2-3 times per year for the first year or two.

-Organizers are thinking about hosting the event in June on a Saturday, but the day will be flexible since the venue has not yet been identified.

-There will be outreach to get sponsors involved, but there is a need for start up money.

Questions/Comments:

-What type of venue are you thinking about?

-Possibly in downtown Sacramento, maybe at the Convention Center.

-The U.S. Interagency Council recommends an indoor, nice facility.

-Suggestions: Cal Expo, Memorial Auditorium, Raley Field (may be a problem because it isn't in Sacramento County).

-Limitations for some of the possible sites: catering, transportation, space.

-Camp Pollock, which is where Stand Down takes place, would be a good possibility.

-Should the Board approve this, then we would start planning meetings this week. The first meeting will be Thursday, January 17th at 10 am at the Community Services Planning Council, 909 12th Street, Sacramento.

-Toni Moore said that for Stand Down, they had over 500 clients and it was very successful. Clients received many helpful services.

-How do you measure success of a Project Homeless Connect event?

-Tim said that you can measure success by the number of homeless people served, number of volunteers, number of service providers that come.

-Paulino Duran moved to approve the event. Paula Lomazzi seconded the motion. The Board voted to approve the motion.

6. 2008 Street Count

-Kathy Briem, DHA

-DHA is organizing a community event called the Homeless Street Count.

-There are lots of reasons that the Count takes place: It is a good way to gather data and adjust services accordingly. Data is also used for the Ten Year Plan.

-Counting will take place on the streets and in shelters.

-The Count will take place on Tuesday, January 29th from 8-11 pm.

-This year volunteers will be surveying homeless individuals while the counting takes place.

-So far 240 people have signed up to volunteer and DHA is hoping for at least 60 more. Volunteers will be staging at 28th and R Streets. There will be trainings for volunteers this week and next week.

-There will be an incentive for people to answer surveys; socks and rain ponchos will be provided to anyone that participates.

Questions/Comments:

-How many surveys will be filled out?

- Every 1 in 4 people will be surveyed, but people can refuse to participate. This will hopefully result in at least 100 surveys.

-Will the Count take place next year?

-Yes.

-Diane Luther welcomed the members just arriving: Mayor Fargo, Supervisor Roger Dickinson, Rick Braziel. She noted Braziel's recent appointment to Chief of Police.

7. Continuum of Care

-Suzanne Hammer, DHA

-HUD has released a total of \$1.5 billion for various community homeless programs.

-The Samaritan Bonus will continue to be available.

-New money will be set aside for the Rapid Re-Housing Programs for families.

-They are looking at expanding the definition of homelessness to include those who are "couch-surfing", doubled up in rooms, etc.

-Sacramento's CoC was awarded \$13.5 million. \$631,000 will be for the Samaritan Bonus, which will go to Lutheran Social Services for case management services for 21 chronically homeless individuals.

-This is about a 5% increase in funding coming to Sacramento's Continuum of Care.

-There will be some future actions required of the Policy Board, including approval of local actions, approval of the final ranking panel and approval of the re-allocation of funds.

8. Permanent Supportive Housing Update

-Alan Saunders, SHRA

-Currently there are three projects in development, totaling 139 units. This includes 80 units at Martin Luther King Jr. Village, 19 units at Ardenaire Apartments, and 40 at Colonia San Martin.

-All of the developments are on schedule and should be opening in late fall/early winter of 2008.

-Projects in the pipeline include those at the YWCA, Mutual at Highlands, Budget Inn, and a couple of small projects in Folsom.

-The goal is to have 280 units in the first five years and currently we are on track to get 289 units. If we stay on track, we will exceed our goals.

Questions:

-What is going on at the YWCA development?

-No new units will be developed, but 11 of the current units will be designated for MHSA clients.

9. One Year Progress Report

-Diane Luther

-There will be a report coming out in early February.

-The report will include the quantifiable results of the first year of the Plan. This includes the fact that at least 100 chronically homeless clients were housed in the first year.

10. Funding Needed to Fully Implement the Plan

-Diane Luther

-Diane introduced the ideas to be presented. She noted that the analysis of the funding needs was done by the Ad Hoc Funding Committee.

-A series of Excel charts are available upon request for those who would like to look at specific numbers.

-Diane led the Board through a series of slides explaining the funding needs of the Plan (see power point presentation).

Questions/Comments:

-Slide 7, "Operating Subsidies", Mayor Fargo asked if the vouchers are being taken from another source or are we creating new ones?

-Yes, we are taking vouchers from the larger pool (about 11,000) but none will be taken away from households currently using the vouchers.

-Slide 10, "Case Management Gaps: Leased Housing Programs", Michelle Steeb asked how one defines success of these programs.

-John Foley said that one example of success is getting clients on SSI.

-Frances Freitas said that successes include housing stability and reduction of costs for services.

-Slide 17, "Recommendations", one member was concerned with looking at the full impacts of changing Section 8 priorities; we need to create parameters/guidelines when presenting to City Council; we need to have case management on site all the time.

-Mayor: Why is there a gap between what the Federal government pays for and what it takes for success?

-Partly it's due to HUD saying "We won't fund services"...so nationally this is an issue.

-Mental Health clients can access MHSA, so the gap is mainly for non-mental health target population clients.

-We need to have a clear definition of success over time, we should have this documented.

-We should have this discussion in the Policy Board and ICEH.

-Sister Libby Fernandez asked where John Foley's Self Help Housing is currently filling the gap.

-John said that they are successful in getting people housed but they don't have the capacity for case management.

-Toni Moore said that accessing SSI is dependent on an individual advocate helping their client through the process.

- Mayor: Can we work with other communities to give a combined pitch to the feds to get more money for case management?
- Cynthia Abbott: HUD would like local communities to look to other departments for assistance.
- Toni Moore said that we need to stress the importance of evaluation for both the programmatic and client level.
- Mayor: we also need to evaluate HUD and their partnerships with other departments, like Health and Human Services, Social Security, etc.
- Diane noted that there have been lots of cost-savings studies coming out showing lots of potential for savings for criminal justice and hospitals.

- Rick Braziel noted that we need to evaluate the negative impacts of prioritizing programs on other populations and look at the whole picture.

- Tom Gagen asked the Board to suggest the next steps for this item.
 - Paulino would like the Board to look at competing interests before deciding to prioritize time and money to one population over another.
 - Steve Heath asked that he and others receive more education on the issues.
 - The Mayor noted that other boards and councils will be wanting prioritization, too, so it is fair to advocate prioritizing chronic homelessness.
 - Michelle said that she'd like to see ICEH start developing a formal definition of success.
 - Susan DeMarois said that she agrees that there needs to be a long term sustainable funding stream for case management, but are we exploring short term funding sources?
 - Diane said that we do have ideas for short term funding, recently Sutter committed to fund a small grant for Serial Inebriate Program (SIP) clients.

- Tom Gagen said that in between Policy Board meetings, an ad-hoc committee including some Board and ICEH members will be formed to discuss Plan funding needs and implications of the recommendation of ICEH to prioritize Section 8 vouchers and then come back to Policy Board at its March meeting.