

Policy Board To End Homelessness
Meeting Minutes
March 10, 2008
4:00 to 6:00 pm
Sacramento City Hall
Mayor's Conference Room 5th Floor

Attendance:

Board Members Present: Steve Ayers, Rick Braziel, Ann Edwards-Buckley, Sister Libby Hernandez, Tom Gagen, Paula Lomazzi, Malachi Smith, Scot Sorensen, Michele Steeb, Chris Glaudel

Board Members Absent: Roger Dickinson, Paulino Duran, Heather Fargo, Steve Heath, Robert McGarvey, Jeff Slowey

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

Guests: Kiyomi Burchill (Steinberg), Nathan Dietrich (Matsui), Petra Stanton, Liz Brenner, Jim Hare, Katrina Middleton, Pinky Patel, Suzanne Hammer, Kathy Briem, Toni Moore, Bruce Wagstaff, Keri Thomas.

Action Items:

- The Board approved the minutes from January's meeting.
- The Board appointed Maria Morfin to the Interagency Council to End Homelessness.

Future Items:

- There were no future items.

Minutes:

1. Introductions

-Diane Luther explained her transition from Director of the Ending Chronic Homelessness Initiative to a new position with the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency. Tim Brown will now serve as Director.

2. Public Comment

-There were no public comments.

3. Minutes – January, 2008

Recommendation: Adopt

-The Board approved the minutes from the January 2008 meeting. Malachi Smith moved that they be approved, and Steve Ayers seconded the motion. The Board voted to approve the minutes.

4. First Year Progress Report (10 minutes) – Diane Luther Information/Discussion

-Diane Luther explained how the First Year report was presented to the public, the City Council and the Board of Supervisors. A number of members of the Policy Board and Interagency Council presented on the successes of the plan in the first year. Diane went over the headlines of the report.

-Diane Luther, Tim Brown, and others met with the Sacramento Bee editorial board. There will be an article about the Plan soon.

-The Sacramento Ten Year Plan will be featured in an edition of the federal USICH newsletter.

5. Reappoint Member to Interagency Council (5 minutes)

- Maria Morfin, Director of the County Alcohol and Drug Services Division

Action Item

-The Board approved the reappointment of Maria Morfin to the Interagency Council. Ann Edwards-Buckley moved that she be approved, and Scot Sorensen seconded the motion. The Board voted to approve the motion.

6. Case Management Funding Task Force (10 minutes) – Diane Luther, Tom Gagen and Tim Brown Discussion

-Following up on the presentation about gaps in funding for case management, Diane Luther presented the need to get this task force together.

-ECHI staff have begun the process of outreach to those who may be interested in participating in the task force

Diane Luther opened the discussion to the Board:

-Michelle Steeb suggested the ECHI contact the Sacramento State School of Social Work for assistance on this issue.

-Jim Hare asked if Project-Based Section 8 issues will be addressed in this task force

-Tim responded that all these issues are certainly all connected, but the task force will likely focus on the short-term funding issue.

-Tim mentioned that foundations will be involved in this task force and ECHI will need leadership from the Board and the Interagency Council to find good options for funding

7. Project Homeless Connect (5 minutes) – Tim Brown and Susanna Curry, ECHI Staff Update

-Tim Brown announced the date and location of Sacramento Homeless Connect

-There is a growing group of people helping to plan the event

-The Sponsorship Committee of the Planning Team has sent letters to elected officials and agencies to seek sponsorships and have received a lot of response

-One school in Granite Bay (Cavitt Junior High School) held a fundraiser and donated about \$3600 to the event!

-ECHI has a goal of raising \$15000 for the event, 50% of which will be used for direct services

-Transportation for homeless attendees at the event is a big issue. The planning team is working with a lot of different groups to coordinate transportation for the event.

-The group took a field trip to San Francisco Homeless Connect and learned a lot about the program.

-The team wants to pull in business and faith communities and others not already involved.

-Michele Steeb suggested that ECHI contact PRIDE Industries for help on transportation issues

8. 2008 Street Count (10 minutes) – Kathy Briem, DHA Information

-DHA wanted to make the count an annual event to get a good baseline count for future comparison purposes, and to support the efforts of the Ten Year Plan

-This year, the count was different than in past years. The survey and count were done at the same time.

-About 70% of volunteers who attended trainings showed up to count, even though it was very cold and rainy

-The counters were staged at the 28th and R DHA building, and organizers were able to get all the teams out of the room in 30 minutes. Counters covered all but 3 counting areas.

-All teams were back to the staging area by 11 pm as planned and were debriefed.

-There is concern about future events being held late at night instead of early in the morning because this year someone shot at a team (Note: There is no evidence that the person who shot at the team was homeless, and nobody was physically hurt).

-The Count organizers worked with Geographic Information Survey (GIS) staff to map areas for the Count. Organizers hope to meet with GIS again in June for the 2009 Count.

- Organizers feel positive about the 2008 Count in general.
- Kathy Briem handed out the preliminary statistics gathered from this year's count.
- She noted that although HUD does not consider those who are institutionalized to be part of the count, organizers of the count wanted the information for their own purposes and so collected that data as well, but will not include it in the report to HUD
- The 2008 Count found that between 2007 and 2008 there was a 20% increase the number of unsheltered individuals in Sacramento County. This parallels the increase in General Assistance applications at the County.

9. Continuum of Care (5 Minutes) – Suzanne Hammer, DHA Information

- Suzanne reminded the Board about the purpose of the Continuum of Care committee (CoC committee).
- The committee will discuss the application to HUD for Sacramento's Continuum of Care. This Policy Board is charged with approving parts of that application. The money received from that application will go to all homeless, not just the chronically homeless.
- The 2007 application received 93.25 points, which is the highest ever and one of the highest in the nation!
- For the 2008 application, HUD is moving to an electronic application, so they are moving back their application timeline. Normally the results are announced in March, but this year the results will be announced in June. HUD says that the money will still be awarded to CoCs in Winter 2008, as planned.
- The Interagency Council has already approved the Ranking Panel Process, with one change in the 60-point guarantee rule.

10. Permanent Supportive Housing (10 minutes)

- Production Update – Jim Hare, SHRA
- Seattle Eastlake Project Trip Report – Tim Brown Information
- YWCA rehabilitation of the existing SRO is moving forward at 17th and L
 - This will include 11 MHSA units
 - Hotel Berry: This project didn't get low-income tax credits last time, so Sacramento added more local funds and is re-applying
 - There will be 104 units total, with 10 MHSA units
 - Also this month, some financial decisions will be made on the Budget Inn project
 - There will be two community meetings this and next week. If you live in the Stockton Blvd area please contact Jim and attend these meetings

11. Frequent User Programs (40 minutes) – Tim Brown, ECHI; Tom Gagen and Keri Thomas, Sutter Health; Petra Stanton, The Effort; and Pinky Patel, UC Davis Medical Center Information

- Tim reported on the trip to see Seattle's Eastlake Project.
- The group saw some amazing mixed-use buildings
- The Seattle project is focusing on Mental Health and AOD
- The most well known project is called 1811 East Lake, it took the list of 200 people who fall under the category of "frequent users", which means that they are high users of jails, emergency rooms, mental health services, etc.
 - This project is recognized nationally
 - In the first year, this project saved an estimate \$3 million
 - There is a \$500,000 research grant associated with this project
 - This is a very "wet" housing project, so it is controversial
 - There was a 50% decrease in alcohol use
- In Sacramento, there is a lot of overlap on mental health and AOD issues
- There is a lot of opportunity to have an affect
- One frequent user in Sacramento had 48 ER visits in a 6-month period
- Keri explained that T3 came out of the Interim-Care Program (beds through Salvation Army)
- Keri referred the group to her PowerPoint, where she explained more about the new programs
 - ICP is successful because of the wrap-around services

Questions:

- How does ICP measure the decrease in substance use?
 - The program uses the Addiction Severity Index (self-reported)
 - They also use hospital inpatient days as a measure
- Does the program have dropouts?
 - One potential participant refused the service
 - A couple of people who had already left the ER were considered dropouts of the program.
- Bruce Wagstaff suggested a collaborative on providing "next step" services like employment, etc.
- Steve Ayers brought up the possible component of reunification of participants with family after clients have stabilized
- Kiyomi Burchill, legislative aid to Senator Steinberg, mentioned a possible new funding source: SB 1738. This bill allows a lot of these services to be medically reimbursable.

- A video about the UC Davis Care Connection was shown to the Board

Questions/Comments

- Are there any graduates from the program?

- Yes the program has had graduates, but the program continues to follow up with former clients
- These programs really open up doors for the hardest to serve
- Michele Steeb said that there is a similar issue in the shelter system with people abusing the system, but we have no way to break the cycle
- Tim mentioned that SIP clients had an average of 25 arrests in 12 months
- The program diverts clients from jail to a 90-day detox program and then they are placed into housing
- The pilot program in Sacramento has case management funded by Sutter Health and the County Department of Human Assistance
- Clients are placed in houses scattered all over the community
- Organizers are just beginning to look at cost avoidance data