



Sacramento Ending Chronic Homelessness Initiative

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Policy Board To End Homelessness

Meeting Minutes

November 17th, 2008, 4:00 to 6:00 pm
County Administration Building, Hearing Room Two
700 H Street, Sacramento

Attendance:

Board Members Present: Steve Ayers, Susan DeMarois, Supervisor Roger Dickinson, Jacqueline Dowden, Ann Edwards-Buckley, Mayor Heather Fargo, Sister Libby Fernandez, Tom Gagen, Steve Heath, Councilmember Jayna Karpinski-Costa, Paula Lomazzi, Malachi Smith, Scot Sorensen, Michele Steeb.

Board Members Absent: Paulino Duran, Councilmember Robert McGarvey.

Staff Present: Tim Brown, Phil Alonso, Susanna Curry, April Tally.

Guests: Lishia Rahman, Chris Glaudel, Ben Webster, Merrill Lavezzo, Diane Luther, Toni Moore, Kathy Briem, Suzanne Hammer, Jim Hare, Bruce Wagstaff, Cynthia Casteel, Joan Burke

Action Items:

- The September 2008 Minutes were adopted.
- Fred Teichert (Teichert Foundation), Matt Mahood (Metro Chamber of Commerce), and Capt. Jacqueline Dowden (Sacramento Police Dept) were appointed to the Policy Board.
- The Board approved the SSI Proposal as recommended by the Interagency Council.
- The Board approved the Keys to Hope II RFP Requirements with one addition.

Minutes:

1. Introductions and Public Comment

-A member of the audience, Lishia Rahman introduced herself. She is a resident of Serna Village and was chronically homeless.

-The Board thanked Mayor Fargo for her support of the Ten Year Plan. Jim Hare thanked her for her leadership on the SRO replacement strategy-that was an exceptional policy for an elected official to stand behind. Mayor Fargo asked the Board to continue to work hard on the Ten Year Plan.

2. ACTION: Adopt Minutes

Motion to adopt minutes by Steve Heath, seconded by Jayna Karpinski-Costa. Approved, all in favor.

3. ACTION: Appointments to Policy Board/Interagency Council as recommended by the Executive Committee

a. Fred Teichert to the Policy Board

- i. Mr. Teichert represents the Teichert Foundation

b. Matt Mahood to the Policy Board

- i. Mr. Mahood is the CEO of the Metro Chamber of Commerce

c. Capt. Jacqueline Dowden to the Policy Board

1. Capt. Dowden has served 23 years in the Police Department. She is also involved in the Leadership Sacramento program.

d. Rebecca Hahn to the Interagency Council

- i. Tim Brown asked that this item be saved until the next meeting to be sure that Ms. Hahn is available.

Items 3a, 3b, and 3c were approved. Paula Lomazzi moved to approve these items, and Ann Edwards-Buckley seconded the motion. Motion approved, all in favor.

4. ACTION: Approve SSI Proposal as recommended by the Interagency Council-Marty Keale-10 minutes

“The ICEH endorses the concept of developing an SSI/Benefits advocacy team that focuses on the homeless population and recommends that the Policy Board prioritize SSI advocacy as a critical step in ending chronic homelessness.”

-Tim introduced Marty Keale, Executive Director of the Capitol Community Health Network (CCHN). Mr. Keale represents a collaboration between many non-profit and County agencies (including The Effort and Guest House Mental Health) working to enhance the existing SSI (federal disability benefits) enrollment system. New plan is based on the SOAR model (www.prainc.org/soar).

-Mr. Keale- The objective is to maximize the number of applications approved in the first go-around, which not only helps the individual, but creates savings to the system.

-Tim Brown-Currently, the system is very decentralized and it typically takes 24+ months to get onto SSI. Under the new system, those assisting clients will be specialized in particular parts of the application, so that each segment is done effectively.

Questions/Comments:

-Jayna Karpinski-Costa: How did you come up with the \$750,000 budget? Where does the money go?

-Part of the budget is already covered by in-kind donations from CCHN and the County. The remainder goes to staff costs for the multi-disciplinary team.

-Tom Gagen: How does someone access these services?

-There will be referrals made from agencies that work with the homeless, approval for services will be based on mental and physical disability as related to whether they can hold down a job. This can include “frequent users” of emergency services such as the emergency room.

-Jacqueline Dowden-Is there a fee for the SOAR training?

-Yes, it is close to \$2,000 for the training plus travel costs.

Marty explained that it is useful to have the Policy Board’s endorsement of the program when going to foundations.

-Scot Sorensen moved to approve the proposal as recommended by the Interagency Council, and the motion was seconded by Ann Edwards-Buckley. Motion approved, all in favor.

5. ACTION: Approve Keys to Hope II RFP Requirements-Jim Hare-10 minutes

Jim directed members to the memo regarding this issue and explained the difference between Keys to Hope I and Keys to Hope II. The County Dept. of Mental Health and SHRA have recently agreed to take a new approach to implementing the Keys to Hope II program: SHRA will release an RFP to providers who have the capacity to serve mentally-ill MHA-eligible clients. SHRA will contract directly with the selected providers, who will use SHRA's funding to lease scattered site housing for the consumers they serve.

Issue: Should SHRA's RFP be limited to providers who serve chronically homeless mentally-ill consumers?

There was discussion about clients who are housed and then lose housing. If the RFP includes the caveat that some who lost housing can still be re-housed through leased units. This creates a safety-net for those who've failed in one setting but may succeed in another.

Questions/Comments

-Paula Lomazzi- Will those who are re-housed be considered chronically homeless under HUD's definition?

-No, they wouldn't be considered chronically homeless, which is why SHRA proposes to limit the numbers of those who can be re-housed.

-Steve Ayers-Concern that this plan doesn't stick to the Ten Year Plan mission.

-Mayor Heather Fargo moved to approve the Keys to Hope RFP Requirements with the change (written below), and was seconded by Steve Heath. Motion approved, all in favor.

-The approved version reads:

"SHRA's Keys to Hope II RFP shall be directly issued by SHRA for 50 leased beds and shall be limited to providers who serve chronically homeless individuals (using the federal definition of chronically homeless), with the one caveat that providers may serve up to 10 previously housed individuals who met the definition of chronic homelessness at the time they moved into their previous housing and enrolled/engaged in services."

6. Continuum of Care Update-Suzanne Hammer-5 minutes

-Ms. Hammer provided a basic background of the Sacramento Continuum of Care and some proposed changes in policy at the federal level.

--The annual application to HUD is about \$13.5 million for transitional housing, permanent supportive housing, and social services. The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act Reauthorization is looking closer to being approved-a version has been passed by the House and is moving to the Senate. The bill has not been reauthorized since 1992. Under the House version, homeless prevention would be expanded, there would be a greater emphasis on rapid re-housing (especially for families), and the definition of "chronically homeless" could be expanded to include families.

-The Continuum of Care committee is starting to work on the ranking criteria for the 2009 application.

7. Communications Plan-Tim Brown-15 minutes

- Tim asked members to review the plan (see handout) and members made suggestions:
- Turn the key messages into statements that you want people to make.
- Messaging should include discussion of the overall homeless problem, not just the chronic homelessness problem.
- Think carefully about who delivers this message (include business reps and the formerly chronically homeless).

8. Director's Updates-Tim Brown-10 minutes

- Case Management Funding:** Our community did not receive the SAMHSA grant. The committee is researching foundations and will be contracting through CSPC to serve as the central applicant for grant collaborations between providers in the area.
- Street Management**-The group is still organizing monthly street outreach activities, which have been quite successful so far.
- 1.5 Progress Report**- We have housed 234 chronically homeless in the first one and a half years of the Plan (see handout for more details).
- Homeless Connect event**- Last year's venue was not big enough-looking for ideas.
- Evaluation Plan**- Gave background on the purpose of the evaluation of cost savings associated with housing chronically homeless people.
 - The Mayor suggested that using a few powerful anecdotes to explain cost savings can be an effective tool.
- Employment Committee**- This committee will meet for the first time on January 14th at 3 pm at SETA, 925 Del Paso Blvd.

9. Update on PSH Projects-Jim Hare-15 minutes

ArdenAire Apartments has been fully leased up (19 homeless units). Colonia San Martin has been completed and is in the lease-up process. MLK Village Project will be housing the first 25 clients on December 1 2008. The YWCA project will start construction in December/January. The Budget Inn and the Mutual at the Highlands projects received tax credits, then lost them because of the market. Those projects are still looking for investors.

10) Housing Choice Vouchers Update-LaShelle Dozier and Mary Liz Paulson-10 minutes

Chris Glaudel gave an overview of the issue. At the last Board meeting, the issue was brought to the Board. Since that time, there have been a series of meetings to work out an MOU and a timeline. These will be presented at the Interagency Council and signed at the end of the week.

Questions

- Sister Libby Fernandez- How's the rent-up going now?
- The rent-up is going better, not as many vacancies this time.

11. Faith and Families Initiative, Pilot Program-Tim Brown-10 minutes

Tim provided background on the program and discussed the models in Boise, ID and Denver, CO. The program in Sacramento will start with 5 congregations. So far St. John's Lutheran Church and Bayside South Sacramento will be participating. The goal for 2009 is to house 15 families.

12. Announcements

Kathy Briem announced that the Homeless Count will take place on Tuesday, January 27th. Volunteers will meet at 8 pm and the count will take place from 9pm to midnight. There is a mandatory 3-hour training.