



Sacramento Ending Chronic Homelessness Initiative

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Policy Board to End Homelessness

Meeting Minutes

March 9, 2009, 4:00 to 6:00 pm
MLK Village, Sacramento, CA

Attendance:

Board Members Present: Susan DeMarois, Ann Edwards-Buckley, Sister Libby Fernandez, Steve Heath, Jayna Karpinski-Costa, Patty Kleiknecht (for Steve Ayers), Paula Lomazzi, Malachi Smith, Scot Sorensen, Fred Teichert, Michele Steeb, Rebecca Hahn.

Board Members Absent: Jacqueline Dowden, Roger Dickinson, Paulino Duran, Tom Gagen, Mayor Kevin Johnson, Matt Mahood, Robert McGarvey.

Guests: Stephen Nichols, John Foley, Diane Luther, Frances Freitas, Chris Glaudel, Kathy Briem, Suzanne Hammer, Debra Morrow, Cynthia Abbott, Bob Erlenbusch, Joan Burke, Cassandra Jennings.

Staff: Tim Brown, Susanna Curry, Julia Acuña.

Action Items:

- The Minutes from the January Policy Board meeting were approved.
- Joshua Singer and Terri Sullivan were appointed to the Interagency Council.

Minutes:

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Public Comment

3. ACTION: Adopt January minutes

Motion to adopt minutes by Ann Edwards-Buckley, seconded by Rebecca Hahn. Approved, all in favor. Paula Lomazzi abstained.

4. ACTION: Approve Terri Sullivan (WEAVE) and Joshua Singer (Families First) to the Interagency Council

Motion to approve Terri Sullivan and Joshua Singer to the Interagency Council by Scot Sorensen, seconded by Paula Lomazzi. Approved, all in favor.

5. MLK Village and Housing First- 5-minutes- Chris Glaudel, Mercy Housing

Chris Glaudel of Mercy Housing gave an introduction to Martin Luther King Jr. Village, which opened in December 2008. As of the beginning of March, 30 out of the 80 units have been filled. Many clients are still being screened for the remaining openings. This development is intentionally meant to serve those who aren't being served by other housing programs. Clients are mainly chronically homeless and many have severe mental illness. It is important that we emphasize that our community hasn't chosen Housing First over sober housing, but rather that we require both types for different kinds of needs. The grand opening of MLK Village will be on May 21 from 3-5 pm. Questions:

- Patty Kleinknecht asked if there are rules about the use of drugs and alcohol in the units at MLK
 - Chris Glaudel said that there are no clean and sober rules, but there are behavioral rules, meaning that no selling drugs, no violence, etc.
- Susan DeMarois asked if families are allowed at any Housing First projects

-Chris said that Housing First is typically for unaccompanied adults

- 6. Presentation on Sacramento Self Help Housing-10 minutes- John Foley, Executive Director**

John Foley presented on Sacramento Self Help Housing, which also uses the Housing First model, but in scattered-site units rather than all in one location such as MLK Village. Self Help Housing is formerly a program of Loaves & Fishes, and was begun because of the need for more affordable, often shared, housing among those with very low income. Many people who live in the units owned by Self Help Housing do not have the ability to find full time work-they are often disabled and in need of supportive services and housing long term.

 - Jayna Karpinski-Costa said that, as a City Councilmember in Citrus Heights, she gets a lot of complaints about residents of such shared-housing units. Complaints are often about excessive smoking, bad language, and noise.
 - John Foley said that this can be an issue with some Self Help Housing residents, but staff visit regularly to make sure they aren't disruptive to neighbors.
 - Sister Libby Fernandez asked how many units are utilized
 - John said that they have 103 people in three programs in 31 separate units.
 - Michele Steeb asked what the long term goal is with residents of Self Help Housing
 - John said that, if a client can work, then the goal is to find employment. However, for most clients, just having a chance to live with others in housing successfully is the goal. Other goals can include working on drug/alcohol issues, becoming literate, staying on medications, etc.
- 7. Stimulus Funding-10 minutes- Tim Brown, ECHI Director**

Tim directed members to the fact sheet highlighting the \$4.7 million Sacramento City and County will receive through the federal stimulus package for homeless prevention and re-housing. This will be an interesting opportunity for Sacramento because historically our community hasn't focused on homeless prevention activities. Regulations on the use of this funding will be available March 16.

Steve Heath: Can any of these funds be used for the chronic homeless population?

 - Tim Brown: No, the chronically homeless population is not the key population helped by the new funds. However, there may be some funds used for current projects in the pipeline, such as Boulevard Court and Mutual at the Highlands projects.
 - The group talked about the process of deciding how the funds will be used. It was mentioned that service providers should be included. Kathy Briem will be setting up community forums for the last week of March.
- 8. Continuum of Care Update-10 minutes- Suzanne Hammer, DHA Homeless Programs**
 - a. ICEH Priority Recommendations**

Suzanne directed members to the sheet explaining the recommendations by the Interagency Council for priorities around planning and funding
 - b. Award funding**

Sacramento's Continuum of Care was awarded \$14.4 million, including money for Boulevard Court (14 chronic homelessness units) and a new PSH program through St. John's Shelter for Women and Children
 - c. 2009 Ranking Panel Recruitment**

We expect a May or June application announcement. We'll be looking for volunteers on the ranking panel
- 9. ACTION: Approve Interagency Council recommendations of priorities**

This item was tabled because Policy Board members would like to discuss priorities jointly with the Interagency Council.
- 10. Director's Report-20 minutes- Tim Brown, ECHI Director**
 - a. Second-Year Report draft**

Tim asked Board members to send us content ideas for the Second Year Report for the 10-Year Plan. Frances asked that the use of MHSA funds be highlighted, and Michele Steeb suggested that the report include information about the coming year.

b. Funding Update

Tim updated the Board on the Ending Chronic Homelessness Initiative's look to foundations (and Representative Doris Matsui) for assistance with funding case management and other needs.

c. State/local budget cuts

d. FQHC

Receiving Federally Qualified Healthcare Center (FQHC) status at a Sacramento clinic was one of the goals of the 10-Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness. The Effort has received the status and the funding has already started to flow. FQHC status allows The Effort to bill MediCal at a higher rate, meaning that the clinic can provide more services to more people in need.

e. SSI Task Force

11. PSH Production Update-10 minutes- Diane Luther, SHRA

Diane Luther presented updates on the development and leasing of Permanent Supportive Housing units in Sacramento County. Arden Aire Apartments is open and occupied. MLK Village is partly occupied, and the YWCA is starting construction this week.

12. Camping Issue-5 minutes- Tim Brown, ECHI Director

Cassandra Jennings and others at the City/County have worked very hard to expand shelter spaces, work on expanding property storage, permanent housing, and pet issues.

-Michele Steeb said that she's happy that there is increased shelter capacity but we need housing for families as well.

-Sister Libby Fernandez said that she's very disappointed that we can't do something about the tent city issue. She asked others who felt the same way to speak to her.

-Patty Kleinknecht said that the tent city issue is a big deal and everyone's talking about it but the groups (Interagency Council and Policy Board) that should.

13. Opening on the Policy Board (Civic Leader)-Tim Brown

-Please let Tim know if you have any ideas for people who may like to sit on the Policy Board under the Civic Leader position.

14. Sacramento Homeless Connect-May 30, 2009-Tim Brown

This year Sacramento Homeless Connect will be held at Sacramento City College.