



Policy Board to End Homelessness

Meeting Minutes

October 8, 2009 - 3:00pm to 5:00pm

City Hall, 915 I. Street, 5th Floor Mayor/Council Conference Room

Attendance:

Board Members Present: Steve Ayers, Councilmember Linda Budge, Bishop Sherwood Carthen, Cortez Quinn (for Supervisor Roger Dickinson), Paulino Duran, Chris Glaudel (for Ann Edwards-Buckley), Sister Libby Fernandez, Councilmember Rob Fong, Tom Gagen, Rebecca Hahn, Mayor Kevin Johnson, Paula Lomazzi, David Lucchetti, Supervisor Roberta MacGlashan, Capt. Dana Matthes, Dr. Claire Pomeroy, Malachi Smith, Fred Teichert, Michele Steeb

Board Members Absent: Steve Health, Chet Hewitt, Jayna Karpinski-Costa, Matt Mahood, Stephen Nichols

Guests: Diane Luther, Chris Glaudel, Lisa Bates, Carolyn Brodt, Patty Kleinknecht, Cindy Cavanaugh, Frances Freitas, Scott Crocker

Staff: Tim Brown, Paul Hicks, Merrill Lavezzo, Anne Moore, Andie Corso, Suzanne Hammer, Toni Moore, Bruce Wagstaff, Kathy Briem

Action Items:

- Adopted August Planning Retreat Minutes
- Adopted September minutes
- Approved membership of Capt. Dana Matthes to the Policy Board to End Homelessness
- Adopted Policy Board Goals
- Adopted a motion to empower the Steering Committee through an emergency provision to approve the HUD CoC NOFA to the extent that the Policy Board to End Homelessness would be unable to reach a quorum with a majority of members represented before the November 4th deadline for submission

Minutes:

1. **Welcome and Introductions**
 - a. **Remarks from the Chair** – Welcome. I would like to start by introducing Scott Crocker of Astone, Crocker, and Flanagan. Scott has led our rebranding effort at no cost and will present his team's vision of a brand that the whole community can get behind in support of the call to end homelessness. Currently we do not have a quorum. As we await a quorum to address our agenda's action items we will move to agenda item six and eight.
6. **Funding Committee Report – Fred Teichert, Committee Chair**

-Fred Teichert – I am happy to announce that the Sacramento Regional Foundation, at its September 10, 2009 Board meeting, accepted the challenge to raise \$400,000 to match the TANF-ECF needed to leverage our County's HPRP program. The Sacramento Regional Foundation is excited to take a leadership role in this effort.
8. **County Budget Update – Bruce Wagstaff, DHA**

-Bruce Wagstaff - The County has conducted a series of comprehensive discussions regarding the budget. As related to homeless issues, a recent development was the potential closure of the Mather Community Campus. Fortunately, we were able to save Mather through a partnership with SHRA. SHRA will offer one time funding to SHRA through Tax Increment dollars. This will keep the campus open for another fiscal year but does not guarantee long term stability. DHA will begin developing a team to look at the long term interests of the Mather Community and its role within the Continuum of Care. The team will be charged with addressing long term options for Mather and its 320 families and residents. Regarding the winter shelter, the County has come up with \$138,000 to use for winter shelter use this year. DHA has also reduced General Fund allocations to the VOA Detox Program and for General Assistance aid payments. As a whole the County is pursuing the option of adopting a .908 position for represented employees. If adopted, this plan will prevent another \$4.6 million in cuts.

-Dr. Claire Pomeroy – We are going backwards on our charge. I'd like this board to note that cutting the beds at the Mental Health Treatment Center from 100 to 50 with cost far more in the long run than will the expected short term savings. We need to really explain this to the Board of Supervisors. We need to ensure that the general public understands the consequences of these cuts.

-Fred Teichert – The Policy Board needs to play a greater and more formal advocacy role with the Supervisors.

Quorum – 17 Members

1. Welcome and Introductions

- a. Remarks from the Chair – I would like to thank Bruce for addressing these very difficult cuts. As this board continues to develop we will need to explore the role of the Policy Board in addressing reductions related to homeless services. How do we weigh in with a heavy voice? In this meeting we will be bringing forward the Policy Board Goals developed at the retreat, we will be discussing the launch of our public relations campaign, and we will be reviewing our possible winter shelter solutions. As many of you know we have heard some discouraging news that we currently lack the State portion of HPRP funding that we had been hoping for and SHRA has filed an appeal. We are awaiting the results of the appeal. We have a bold agenda but the commitment is here to develop sustainable momentum and a regional approach to end homelessness.

2. **ACTION: Adopt August Planning Retreat Minutes and September Minutes**

Motion to adopt minutes by Councilmember Rob Fong, seconded by Paulino Duran. Approved, all in favor, with one abstention from Councilmember Linda Budge.

3. **ACTION: Approve Capt. Dana Matthes to replace Capt. Jacqueline Dowden as the Sacramento Police Department representative to the policy Board as recommended by the Steering Committee, 5 minutes**

Motion to approve the Policy Board membership of Capt. Dana Matthes by Councilmember Rob Fong, seconded by Paulino Duran. Approved, all in favor.

4. **ACTION: Adopt Policy Board Goals, Mayor Kevin Johnson**

Motion to adopt Policy Board Goals by Bishop Sherwood Carthen, seconded by Councilmember Fong. Approved, all in favor.

-Andie Corso - Fourteen to fifteen goals were brought forward by this body at the August Planning Retreat. Those goals have been boiled down to five key goals to accomplish for the following three years. The five goals that we will review are the following: permanent supportive housing, services, funding, advocacy, and accountability. This is a long term plan with comprehensive solutions. This plan realizes that there are many pathways out of homelessness and our main focus would be developing permanent housing linked to services. A key to these goals success will be the development of standing committees. Each standing committee will focus on one goal area, addressing the needs in those areas.

-Mayor Kevin Johnson – Although accountability is a separate committee it must be upheld in each working committee. Also, public education of the issues may also factor into each group's work. I hope you will share your thoughts on these goals. We hope to utilize the PSH housing goals as a measurement for progress and success. We hope to house 2,400 units over the next three years.

-Tim Brown – Permanent Housing is a large broad term and incorporates many forms of housing. We are looking to re-house 1,000 units, prevent homeless for 1,000 folks, and develop 400 units of new permanent housing for the homeless.

-Committee assignments – **Permanent Housing:** Sister Libby Fernandez, Bishop Carthen, David Lucchetti, (Paula Lomazzi?), Linda Budge, **Services:** Dr. Claire Pomeroy, Tom Gagen, **Funding:** Bishop Carthen, Fred

Teichert, **Advocacy:** Rebecca Hahn, Capt. Dana Matthes/ Malachi Smith, Michele Steeb, Paulino Duran
Accountability: Steve Ayers,(Paula Lomazzi?)

5. Public Relations Committee Report – Michele Steeb, Committee Chair

-Scott Crocker – We have set out to build a brand that has broad community appeal. The brand we are presenting we hope will generate an excitement that will not give the public a chance to turn their back on the issue. We looked at creating an umbrella brand that in simplistic terms, people can understand. As we understand the issue, there are many symptoms that lead to homelessness and we wanted to create a brand that embodies each group's effort to end homelessness. This brand is meant to build community support and to convince the public to give the issue the benefit of the doubt.

Launch of October Events

-Michele Steeb – We are aiming to launch on November 10, 2009. This is the same date we hope to have the winter shelter program up and running. We are looking at launching the event at the former tent city location. We would like to bring together all members of the community that touch homelessness. Our vision is to have everyone wearing their agency logo but waving a mini Sacramento Steps Forward flag. We will be sending out endorsement forms to agencies in the next week.

6. Funding Committee Report – Fred Teichert, Committee Chair

-Fred Teichert – Before we move on I would really like to thank Cindy Cavanaugh and Lisa Bates for their help in really explaining HPRP to the Sacramento Regional Foundation.

7. Ad Hoc Committee Report – Michele Steeb, Committee Chair

a. Winter Shelter

-Michele Steeb – Historically the County has provided \$650,000 for the winter shelter at Cal Expo. This year we will not have that funding. One month ago the Ad Hoc Committee began putting together ideas for a winter shelter plan and appealed to the Board of Supervisors for a small amount of \$138,000 to get started. The City of Sacramento is currently vetting a similar request. We are looking at implementing a 24/7 shelter system with only one quarter of the money we have had in years past. We are still trying to quantify the need as we know this will be a wet and cold winter. We are hoping to divide different populations between sites. One option on the table is the use of motel vouchers. Our goal is to have the plan up and running by November 10, 2009.

b. Stepping Stone

-Michele Steeb – This is an extension of the effort made by the Mayor's Task Force in the spring. We are looking at best practice models from around the country. We are also looking at how Stepping Stone fits in with our other housing solutions. The committee to address Stepping Stone is made up of neighborhood associations, businesses, providers, advocates, and law enforcement. We are looking to make Stepping Stone a transitional housing option, not a permanent option.

-Sister Libby – There is a Tough Shed shown behind Loaves and Fishes as a possible alternative more housing.

8. County Budget Update – Bruce Wagstaff, DHA

Covered above

9. Continuum of Care Update – Suzanne Hammer, DHA

-Suzanne Hammer – The Continuum of Care NOFA is an annual application of 14 million in HUD funds and allows us to apply for money that supports new permanent supportive housing. This funding is for those clients that are homeless or chronically homeless and does not cover those at risk of homelessness. HUD awards those plans that have a strong alignment between their Policy Board goals and their Continuum of Care goals. DHA must report on the Policy Boards goals to see that they are aligned with the Continuum of Care grant application. This year we have 45 days to complete and submit the entire NOFA where as last year we had 85 days. The Policy Board is the body that annually approves the NOFA before submitting to HUD. This year 30 RFPs will be reviewed and four new RFPs will be graded for approval. HUD also issues money for Permanent Housing Bonuses that are intended to be used exclusively for the chronic homeless. HUD has made \$630,000 available over a two year period. Twenty percent of this money must go to services and eighty percent must go to housing. HUD has also changed its scoring this year with a priority on data and evaluation. Currently, Sacramento performs in the top fifteen percent of national Continuum of Care Programs, however HUD goals have been raised and we will need to step up our efforts to remain competitive. Currently Sacramento performs at the following level compared to national goals:

National Goal	Sacramento 08/09 Performance
77% of people remain in PSH for at least 6 months	79% of people remain in PSH for at least 6 months
65% leave transitional housing for PSH	78% leave transitional housing for PSH
20% employed when transitioning to housing	25% employed when transitioning to housing

DHA will be back within the month to request that the Policy Board approve the HUD application. We also request that members join a ranking panel if they are able. The ranking panel is a great opportunity to learn about all the programs in the CoC but it does come with a time commitment of one introductory meeting, application review, and a day to rank the applications.

10. ACTION: Structure and Decision Making Process/ Bylaw Change, Tim Brown, ECHI

Adopted a motion to empower the Steering Committee through an emergency provision to approve the HUD CoC NOFA to the extent that the Policy Board to End Homelessness would be unable to reach a quorum with a majority of members represented before the November 4th deadline for submission

11. Director's Report - Tim Brown, ECHI Director

- a. **Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-housing Program Update** – HPRP officially began seeing clients on October 1, 2009. Even though we are still seeking the State allocated dollars, we have begun housing and are already serving 20 individuals and families within the first weeks. SHRA has sent an appeal for the State allocation of the HPRP funds.
- b. **VASH Vouchers Update** – Congresswoman Matsui has helped us secure 70 VASH vouchers for veterans. These vouchers come with services and the VA will hire two new case managers. Over 70 veterans applied for vouchers on the first day that vouchers were made available.
- c. **Census 2010** – We are currently reaching out to our homeless providers with assistance in locating homeless individuals and families for the 2010 census. This aids us in demographic information relating to homelessness and poverty.
- d. **Faith and Homeless Families** – Ten families will soon be housed by the FHF program. Three-quarters of those housed have been so for five months. Nora Benavidez has been doing a great deal of work to get this program off the ground and is doing a wonderful job. We are hoping to more than double the number of congregations involved over the next months and we are looking to house five more families very shortly.
- e. **PSH Production Update- Diane Luther, SHRA, 10 minutes** – Our updated PSH tracking sheets now shows units available to homeless clients, and units restricted to homeless clients. We are also hoping to include the 7th an H development in the near future.

Public Comment

-Councilmember Rob Fong – I think that we need to include in the language of the Policy Board Goals a segment that focuses on or acknowledges the work we intend to do with prevention. So long as we are in the business of preventing homelessness, we should include that in our goals.

-Malachi Smith – I would like to thank Scott for providing a brand that really stands out. I would like to be involved in the Public Relations committee and I would also like to propose that we get United Way on board with our goals.

-Bishop Sherwood Carthen – I believe this brand is one that the faith community can get behind. The MLK celebration is also a great event to role out some of our plan. This is a great time to be pulling together and we seem to be working very well.

-Paula Lomazzi – We had a very successful event on World Habitat day on October 5, 2009. Safeground advocates, providers, leaders, and community came together to build a home with Habitat for Humanity.

-Sister Libby Fernandez – Now is the time to pull all the will of our programs together.

Adjourn: 4:38pm