

Ending Chronic Homelessness Initiative



Interagency Council To End Homelessness

Meeting Minutes

August 15, 2007

2:30-4:30 PM

Attendance:

Council Members Present: Ann Edwards-Buckley (Chair), Alexis Bernard, Robert Bradley, Karen Brockopp, Carolyn Brodt, Joan Burke, Michelle Coleman, John Foley, Verne Gore, Jim Hare, Elizabeth Hudson, Cassandra Jennings, Patty Kleinknecht, Sue Laliberte, Ryan Loofbourrow, Karen Maxwell, Mary K. McMahon, Trisha Stanionis, Petra Stanton, Bruce Wagstaff, Jan Wald.

Council Members Absent: Chris Glaudel (Vice Chair), Michael Dunne, Peter Feeley, Lynn Frank, Deanna Hanson, Pam Herman, Reta Keirse, Jodi Mendonca, Maria Morfin, Ron Richards, Leland Tom.

Staff Present: Diane Luther, Phil Alonso, Tim Brown, Kathy Briem, Suzanne Hammer, Toni Moore, Katrina Middleton, Frances Freitas.

Guests: Megan Kurteff Schatz, Karen Ziebron, Karen Giordano, Stephan Daues, Elaine Loman, Greg Bunker, Forrest Reed, Angelica Duran.

Actions Taken:

- There were no formal actions taken by the Council.

Minutes:

1. Introductions

2. Six Month Progress Report Feedback – 5 minutes

- The personal story is a nice touch.
- This is a great foundation to build on.
- Diane said that there will be a formal presentation for the One Year Progress Report to the City Council and County Board of Supervisors.

3. Overview of ICEH work and the Plan: How do the pieces fit together? – Diane Luther – 30 minutes

- Diane led the Council through the handout showing a chart of the Leadership structure and descriptions of the ICEH Committees, and opened up the discussion for comments.

Comments Specific to Committees:

- Where does the transportation issue fit in?
- Existing groups could collaborate together to get more transportation money. Could provide input to SACOG.
- Are there other groups currently lobbying RT for low-income people? One group is ACT (Area Congregations Together). They should be contacted when the Council takes up this issue.
- A Council member shared that they had just been to an RT Public Hearing and RT reported that they are dealing with budget cuts struggling to maintain current levels of service.
- Part of this effort should include polling providers asking how much money they spend on transportation costs.
- Maybe have a Quality of Life Committee.
- Maybe have a public relations/marketing committee, and have email lists of neighborhood associations. This committee could arrange for presentations to the community/neighbor assoc, to inform them about the efforts of the Plan. Important to have a marketing plan so that a consistent message is given to the community.
- Phil Alonso will email the Council the Two-Page Summary document that Council members and staff can distribute at appropriate events/meetings.

Comments on the General Leadership Structure/Processes:

- Each committee needs to stay focused on specific goals so that progress can be shown over time.
- There needs to be a process for the committees to circulate brief minutes and have the leads highlight possible agenda items for the ICEH to take action on at the next meeting.
- Committees should report on their progress to the Council and ask for help on certain tasks if needed, and then the info/requests should be passed on to the Policy Board.
- There is a feeling of disconnection from the activities of the Policy Board, and so there should be an agenda item at ICEH meetings reporting what the last Policy Board discussed.
- At the next ICEH meeting, a proposed reporting format for committees will be presented.

**4. Criminal Justice Committee – Ryan Loofbourrow
- Welcome Tim Brown – 10 minutes**

- Tim Brown was introduced to the Council and received a warm welcome back to Sacramento. Tim is a consultant that the Ending Chronic Homelessness Initiative has hired to help get the Criminal Justice Committee started up. His phone number is 916-704-9391 and he invited any interested Council members or staff to call him if they want to be involved.
- Ryan told the Council that previously, the Public Safety Committee was going to morph into the Criminal Justice Committee. Now, the Public Safety Committee is going from monthly meetings to quarterly meetings, and Ryan, Karen, and Tim are going to lead an effort to form a new Criminal Justice Committee.

- This new committee will focus on discharge planning and diversion from the criminal justice system.

Questions/Comments:

- Are there dollars from the Criminal Justice system for housing? There are in other jurisdictions and there should be here in Sacramento.
- There are a lot of opportunities for the Vets committee and this committee to work together.
- Should have a focus on youth (17-24) in Criminal Justice system.
- Important to educate the police department on goals and efforts of the Plan.

5. Committee Reports – 6x5 minutes = 30 minutes

A. Outreach, Engagement and Intake – Kathy Briem

- Central Intake is one of the 5 strategies of the Plan.
- To date, Central Intake has done 110 assessments, gotten 20 people housed, and 29 are still on the active list (mostly awaiting documentation of a disability). Right now we have more bodies than beds available.
- In the last 2 weeks, assessment activities have been transferred to the new Aid-In-Kind staff (8 staff members).
- Mental Health clinician will be starting on site in the next few weeks.
- Goals for the next months include working more with Turning Point and having the outreach teams and assessment staff come together to take a multi-disciplinary approach.

Questions/Comments:

- In order to show which neighborhoods have been impacted by the Plan, can we identify where individuals going through Central Intake are coming from?
- Kathy answered: Only anecdotally. Right now, most are coming from the Richards Blvd. area around Loaves and Salvation Army.
- The City's Neighborhood Services may be able to be a partner in this effort.
- Maybe we should do outreach to Business owners and neighborhood associations to identify highly visible people, but we would need to be careful with what we promise.

B. PSH Production Committee – Diane Luther

- This committee has been focusing on service funding strategies and will be focusing more on operating subsidy funding.
- Michelle Coleman from WEAVE has joined the committee to provide linkage to domestic violence population.
- The Colonial San Martin project has been approved by the County Board of Supervisors. This will have 60 units and 40 will be targeted toward homeless and at-risk homeless individuals and families with AIDS/HIV.
- SHRA is proposing to buy site from the city to build SROs at 7th and H streets (kitty corner from the County Admin building). A building with 125-150 units could be built on this site (at least a portion of these would be targeted toward homeless people).

- There was an Alkali Flat neighborhood meeting last week and it is clear that more education is needed to inform the community about the efforts of the Plan.
- The PSH Production committee will also be getting some assistance from the Corporation for Supportive Housing.

C. Housing Committee – Joan Burke

- This committee is currently focusing on developing a real-time, web based tool for those looking for housing. The committee is reviewing Sacramento's Self Help Housing search website, as well as a model from Portland called Housing Connections. It will be possible to partner with the Community Services Planning Council and the 2-1-1 effort.
- There was a housing coordinators conference in Tahoe that many members of the committee attended.
- There has been a lawsuit brought in Federal Court against the City and County of Sacramento by homeless individuals and advocate organizations regarding camping on public land and having necessary possessions (sleeping bags, tents, etc.) taken away.
- The County is re-negotiating its inclusionary housing ordinance (which is one of the best in the nation).

Questions/Comments:

- Should the Council recommend to the Policy Board that they issue a statement of support for the inclusionary ordinance?
- The hearing is on August 29th and so there is not enough time to issue a statement.
- The Council and the Board will have to be careful about doing advocacy because many members will have to abstain.
- The Council can ask the Policy Board to review advocacy opportunities. Any ICEH votes must be noticed in advance.

D. Continuum of Care – Suzanne Hammer

- Nothing new to report because the next meeting is on Tuesday, August 21st.

E. Health Services Linked to Housing – Petra Stanton

- Currently focusing on strategies to deal with frequent users of Health Services.
- Have recently rolled out the new T3 program, which is getting chronically homeless people out of hospital beds and into PSH beds.
- The committee is currently mostly referring people into leased units (mainly thru Self Help) and in the future, it will be important to partner with development projects.
- The FQHC (Federally Qualified Health Center) application is going out this Friday, August 17th.

F. Veterans – Jan Wald/Robert Bradley

- Jan has been presenting to many organizations and this committee's efforts are becoming more visible to the community.

- Problems with returning Vets are growing at a rate 8 times larger than during the Vietnam era.
- Capital funding targeting Vets is becoming available.
- The committee is working on developing a proposal for a Vet Village at Mather.
- Recently, funding was secured to develop a web portal for Vets Services.
- The committee is also working on developing a 6 month progress report and the committee plans on recognizing one community member every 6 months for outstanding work with Vets.

6. Financing the Plan – Jim Hare & Ann Edwards Buckley – 30 minutes

(We have successfully identified financing for almost 500 units of units thru development and thru leasing. However, we will soon “hit the wall.” Where can we get operating subsidies, service funds and capital for additional units? What process should we use to tackle this issue?)

- So far, we have done a great job of linking CoC funds (that provide operating subsidies) with leased housing.
- But with development projects, a gap in operating subsidies still exists.
- Operating subsidies can cost twice as high as a regular affordable housing project.
- For an average PSH unit, rent is 20% AMI (area median income); about \$250/month or a third of SSI.
- Two possible ways that projects can cover their operating costs:
 - Plug into the CoC funding, link PSH developments to apply with annual CoC application to get Samaritan funds.
 - Get section 8 vouchers committed on a project based level rather than tenant based.
- Also need to connect more with the Housing Authority.
- Currently we have a commitment of 50 vouchers per year.
- This issue needs to be taken to the Policy Board.

7. Announcements

- Sue Laliberte announced that HUD has approved the funding for the 2 new youth programs, using the funding from the old Diogenes program.