

Ending Chronic Homelessness Initiative



Policy Board To End Homelessness

Meeting Minutes

July 16, 2007

Attendance:

Board Members Present: Tom Gagen, Malachi Smith, Paula Lomazzi, Sister Libby Fernandez, Michelle Steeb, Reverend Scot Sorensen, Ann Edwards-Buckley.

Board Members Absent: Paulino Duran, Mayor Heather Fargo, Supervisor Roger Dickinson, Mayor Jeff Slowey, Len McCandless, Chief Albert Najera, Councilmember Robert McGarvey, Barbara Ross.

Staff Present: Diane Luther, Phil Alonso, Anne Moore, Toni Moore, Suzanne Hammer, Kathy Briem, Susan DeMarois, Frances Freitas.

Special Guests: Ed Cabrera, Michelle Callejas, Megan Kurteff Schatz, Jim Hare, Chris Glaudel.

Action Items:

- A quorum of at least eight members present was not met. Therefore, the Board could not vote on action items.

Future Actions:

- Phil Alonso is going to work with DHA staff and Tom Gagen's staff to produce a signed letter, showing the Board's support for DHA's request to HUD to remove the requirement that the Casa De Esperanza program serve only HIV positive clients.

Minutes:

Tom Gagen began the meeting by welcoming and thanking everyone for their attendance and interest in addressing the issue of homelessness.

1. Introductions

Tom welcomed and introduced Susan DeMarois. Susan will be stepping into the Hospitals/Healthcare System slot that will be vacated by Barbara Ross, as Ms. Ross is on an extended medical leave from work.

All others present introduced themselves and their agency/organization.

2. Public Comment on Homelessness

Diane explained that the Board is subject to the Brown Act and therefore the agenda has to be finalized and posted 72 hours before

the meeting, and there must be time set aside for public comment during the meeting.

There were no public comments.

3. Minutes

Recommendation: Adopt

This item will have to be voted on at the next meeting.

4. New Policy Board Appointee

Recommendation: Accept Susan DeMarois as substitute for Barbara Ross as UC Davis/health system representative

This item will have to be voted on at the next meeting.

5. Staggered Terms of Service

Recommendation: Adopt staggered terms of service

This item will have to be voted on at the next meeting.

6. Casa De Esperanza Program - Suzanne Hammer

Recommendation: Endorse request to HUD to remove requirement that program serve only HIV positive clients.

All members of the Board present at the meeting agreed that they could support such a request to HUD.

Future Action: Phil Alonso is going to work with DHA staff and Tom Gagen's staff to produce a signed letter of support on letterhead, which DHA will send to HUD.

7. Homeless Count Report - Suzanne Hammer - 10 minutes

Review Only

- Suzanne distributed bound, color copies of the 50 page count report to each member.
- She briefly explained what could be found in the report and invited the Board members to share questions or comments.
- Sister Libby mentioned that at Loaves and Fishes, they are seeing a lot of transitional families passing through.

8. Updated Estimate of Need (chronically homeless) based on 2007 Count - Diane Luther

Review and Comment - 10 minutes

Diane explained the handout and the chart showing the numbers of chronically homeless individuals that the Board should be planning on providing PSH units for.

9. Permanent Supportive Housing Update - Jim Hare

Review and Comment - 5 minutes

- Jim led the Board through his three status reports, entitled: Units through Development, Prevention Units, and Units through Leasing.

- In the pipeline are the following numbers of units: development-185; prevention-140; and leasing-252, for a total of about 600 units. (Please note that not all of the prevention units will necessarily be housing chronically homeless individuals).
- About 100 of the 185 development units are fully financed, and two big projects will be breaking ground this Summer/Fall.
- Jim cautioned however, that the work is only going to get harder. We have reached the nearly 600 units that are in the pipeline because of the foresight of Mercy Housing. They have been working on development projects for *years*, much longer than the Ten Year Plan has been around.
- SHRA has contracted \$300,000 through Self Help Housing for the Keys to Hope Leasing Program.
- Self Help Housing will continue to lease about two new houses per month until capacity is filled. Since May, 3 new houses have been leased and 12 clients housed in them.
- Jim explained that the main challenges remain securing funding for operating subsidies and service dollars for non-MHSA clients.

Questions/Comments

- It was asked if any of the development projects are going to have a public meeting room and would it be possible for the Policy Board to meet there. In response, it was commented that there are a few existing sites with meeting rooms, such as Serna Village and Quinn Cottages. The Board members were positive about this suggestion.

10. Central Intake Update – Kathy Briem Review and Comment – 5 minutes

- Kathy first explained what Central Intake is as one of the strategies outlined in the Ten Year Plan document, and then she went through her handout.
- Initially, more assessments were taking place on the street. But now, more and more assessments are taking place in the DHA office on North A Street because word has gotten out and potential clients have begun to self-refer.

Questions/Comments

- What qualifies as documentation of a disability? If the person is receiving SSI (supplemental security income), then they automatically have documentation. Otherwise, the person's disability must be documented by an expert in that particular field (i.e. physical disability, alcohol/substance addiction, mental health, developmental disability). In the future, it will be important to make better use of current systems to help in documenting disabilities.
- Is an inventory kept of available units? Can we easily see the number of units available day by day? This is difficult because as units get filled, providers are looking for new units. If there are no units available on a given day, then the client's name is put on a list.

11. Six Month Progress Report Outline – Diane Luther Provide Input – 10 minutes

- Will be a two-page summary report.
- Diane led the Board through an outline of the report.

Questions/Comments

- Is it possible to quantify the dollar amounts saved per person as they are put into PSH units? There are two ways this can be done.
 1. Use numbers from other similar jurisdictions.
 2. Take a sample of our clients in Sacramento and compare costs between before being housed and after.
- It was suggested that dollar amounts saved by other jurisdictions be put into the report until local amounts can be determined.
- It may be important to include personal stories of individuals that have been housed, including illustrating how they became homeless, in order to both humanize the issue and to break the negative stereotypes within the community.

12. Long Term Structure for Plan Coordination - Luther Discussion – 5 minutes

- The short-term structure is simply that SHRA has committed to funding the staff of the Ten Year Plan for the first 2 years, at about \$250,000 per year. But as of now, there is no long-term structure.
- It would be possible to put onto the City and/or County Budget, but it would need to be housed in a neutral place. The Community Services Planning Council is a good, neutral place.
- It was asked how it is done in other jurisdictions, and Diane answered that it is done in a variety of ways. Some jurisdictions house the Plan Coordination within a public agency, such as a County Department of Human Services/Assistance, while other jurisdictions have created a non-profit with the sole responsibility of implementing their Plan.

13. Mental Health Services Act/AB 2034 – Michelle Callejas Information Only – 30 minutes

Please see the power point handout.

14. State and County Budget Updates – Ann Edwards-Buckley Discussion – 5 minutes

- There still is no state budget.
- There will be about a \$33 million shortfall in the General Fund of the County Budget. County Departments are in the process of making budget cut recommendations. There will almost certainly be cuts in service dollars.

15. National Ending Homelessness Conference Report – Diane Luther & Phil Alonso Information Only – 5 minutes

Due to time constraints, this agenda item will be handled via email.

16. New Research on Homeless Families – Ed Cabrera Review and Comment – 15 minutes

- Please also see the power point handout.
- New research concludes that reform is needed both at the federal and local levels.

- The US Interagency Council on Homelessness will ultimately like to see jurisdictions focus on homeless families. Project Homeless Connect is a good example of an innovative program.

Questions/Comments:

- Will we see an increase in homelessness due to Iraq vets returning? This is likely because about 60-70% of soldiers are seeing frontline combat compared to 10-15% in Vietnam.
- Ed recommended looking at the efforts of San Francisco, Portland, Atlanta, and Denver to see examples of how to raise money for the long-term structure of Plan Coordination.
- Ed told the Board that he is happy to help bring issues to the federal level.

**17. Policy Board Membership Gaps – Diane Luther
Make Suggestions – 5 minutes**

Due to time constraints, this agenda item will be handled via email.

18. Announcements/Policy Board Member Comments

- It may be worthwhile to open up conference call capabilities to ensure that the quorum requirements are met.
- Concern was expressed about spraying for West Nile virus and the impact on the homeless staying on the streets or camping by the river.