



Sacramento Ending Chronic Homelessness Initiative

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Policy Board to End Homelessness

Meeting Minutes

May 11, 2009, 4:00 to 6:00 pm

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

Attendance:

Board Members Present: Susan DeMarois, Jacqueline Dowden, Cortez Quinn (for Roger Dickinson), Ann Edwards-Buckley, Sister Libby Fernandez, Tom Gagen, Rebecca Hahn, Mayor Kevin Johnson, Paula Lomazzi, Stephen Nichols, Malachi Smith, Scot Sorensen, Fred Teichert.

Board Members Absent: Steve Ayers, Paulino Duran, Steve Heath, Jayna Karpinski-Costa, Matt Mahood, Robert McGarvey, Michele Steeb.

Guests: Anne Moore, Diane Luther, Bob Erlenbusch, Bridget Kurtt-DeJong, Cindy Cavanaugh, Chris Glaudel.

Staff: Tim Brown, Susanna Curry, Merril Lavezzo, Kathy Briem, Suzanne Hammer, Bruce Wagstaff.

Action Items:

- Stephen Nichols was appointed to the Policy Board
- The Minutes from the March Policy Board meeting were approved
- The Policy Board voted to send a letter to the Board of Supervisors protesting the level of cuts to County homeless services. This letter will be written by ECHI staff and signed by the Chair of the Board, Tom Gagen
- The Board approved the proposed 2009 Rank and Review Process

Minutes:

1. **Welcome and Introductions**
2. **Celebrate the 35% Reduction in Chronic Homelessness in Sacramento County!**
3. **ACTION: Appoint Stephen Nichols to the Policy Board**
Motion to appoint Stephen Nichols to the Policy Board by Scot Sorensen, seconded by Jacqueline Dowden. Approved, all in favor.
4. **ACTION: Adopt March Minutes**
Motion to adopt minutes by Fred Teichert, seconded by Susan DeMarois. Approved, all in favor.
5. **Director's Report-Tim Brown, ECHI Director, 20 minutes**
 - a. **City's Response to Tent City**
-The funding from SHRA and the City has gone through a program called Keys to Hope III, with the housing provider being Sac Self Help Housing and the attached services coming from Turning Point Community Programs and The Effort. The Winter Shelter, operated through Volunteers of America, has been extended and spaces for couples have been added.

b. Sacramento Homeless Connect- May 30, 2009

-Thanks to Sutter Medical Center, who has pledged at the Presenting Sponsor level for this event.

c. Funding Update

-Tim referred members to the handout in the meeting packet describing the funds requested and received for homeless services through the Grants Proposal Collaborative of the ECHI

-ECHI has submitted an appropriations request to Rep. Doris Matsui for \$270,000 for case management services to be matched with housing for homeless and chronically homeless

-The Effort has led an effort to receive funds through SAMHSA for case management and wrap around services to serve chronic homeless people with co-occurring disorders-\$350,000 a year for up to five years. This funding would be matched with permanent supportive housing units.

d. Faith & Homeless Families Initiative

The project is moving along-40 mentors from various local congregations have been trained and 3 families have been housed. Thank you very much to Councilmember Rob Fong for his support.

6. Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-housing Program (HPRP)- Cindy Cavanaugh, SHRA, and DHA Staff, 20 minutes

-Both the City and County will receive \$2.3 million under this program, which provides short and medium-term rental/utility assistance for people at risk of homelessness and rapid re-housing for people who are already homeless

-This funding is great because it allows our jurisdiction to create some systems-change. In the development of the 10-Year Plan, we knew that we weren't incorporating enough of the prevention element.

-It has been proposed that 2-1-1 Sacramento be the entrance to all housing resources at the beginning. There is not currently a main location to look for housing resources.

-DHA and SHRA are working together on the plan for using the HPRP funds-this initial plan will need to be approved by the City Council and Board of Supervisors, and next month a series of stakeholder's meetings will take place to continue developing the plan.

Questions:

-Tom Gagen: Does the HPRP funding make up for the proposed budget cuts?

-Bruce Wagstaff: No, the HPRP funds won't make up for the proposed budget cuts because they will go to different populations. The HPRP funds are targeted at people affected by the recent economic recession, as opposed to other County funds, which target all types of people experiencing homelessness. The HPRP funds are meant to stimulate the economy.

7. County Budget Cuts- Ann Edwards-Buckley, Countywide Services Agency, 20 minutes

-Ann shared a document highlighting some of the proposed cuts to homeless services in Sacramento County. Of the DHHS/Behavioral Health funds proposed to be cut, the biggest impacts will be to mental health. Specifically, the cuts to the Regional Support Teams (RSTs) will leave a large gap of people without services

-Fred Teichert: Motion to create a letter to the Board of Supervisors to protest the level of cuts to homeless services, seconded by Tom Gagen. Approved, all in favor, with an abstention by Ann Edwards-Buckley.

8. Continuum of Care Update- Suzanne Hammer, DHA Homeless Programs and Bridget Kurtt-DeJong, HomeBase-20 minutes

a. Homeless Count Results-Kathy Briem

-The Homeless Count was conducted in January 2009. The results have concluded that there has been a 35% decrease in chronic homelessness since 2007. Overall homelessness, however, has increased by 14%, with the greatest increase among families with children. The next homeless count will be in 2011.

b. Discuss Proposed 2009 Rank and Review Process

-Bridget reviewed the overview of the proposed 2009 process, score factors and scoring materials.

-Questions:

-Sister Libby Fernandez: Last year, there were some programs that scored low in the ratings. What will happen to them if they rank low again this year?

-Bridget Kurtt-DeJong: If they score low again, then the program would be defunded in favor of a new PSH program unless there are extraordinary circumstances

c. **ACTION: Approve 2009 Rank and Review Process**

Motion to approve by Paula Lomazzi, seconded by Susan DeMarois. Approved, all in favor.

9. **Strategic Planning-Tim Brown, ECHI Director, 30 minutes**

a. **Mayor's Task Force**

b. **Subcommittees**

i. **Funding**

ii. **Regional Approach**

c. **Retreat**

d. **Scope-Target Population**

e. **Short-term planning**

Mayor Kevin Johnson noted that he would like to commend all who work on the 10-Year Plan. The task force on the "tent city" issue was very broad, and it was very clear what we wanted to do. At the end of our 6 weeks of work, we discussed our next steps. It was decided that the task force be folded into the Policy Board. Thanks to Fred Teichert and Michelle Steeb for their support, specifically on the work to start a fund through the Sacramento Regional Foundation for homeless services.

-The Mayor asked the Board: What role would you like us to play?

-Fred Teichert: Homelessness is bigger than just chronic homelessness, we need to expand the interest of this group

-Tim Brown: So far, we've met the short-term goals of the 10-Year Plan for housing and some other projects. We need to recalibrate our goals, add committees at the Policy Board level and look at our scope. More federal resources are being devoted to homeless families, so we need to pay more attention to this at the local level.

-Sister Libby Fernandez: We need leadership from other cities, not just Sacramento city.

10. **PSH Production Update- Diane Luther, SHRA, 15 minutes**

-There isn't much new to report under Units through Leasing. Sac Self Help Housing has housed 43 individuals under Keys to Hope 1.

-Under Units through Development, there will be two grand openings this month-ArdenAire Apartments and MLK Village, both developed by Mercy Housing.

-Rehab of the YWCA starts this month.

-Mutual at the Highlands and Boulevard Court (formerly Budget Inn) have been delayed.