



Sacramento Ending Chronic Homelessness Initiative

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Policy Board to End Homelessness

Meeting Minutes

July 13, 2009, 4:00 to 6:00 pm

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

Attendance:

Board Members Present: Patty Kleinknecht (for Steve Ayers), Jacqueline Dowden, Supervisor Roger Dickinson, Ann Edwards-Buckley, Sister Libby Fernandez, Tom Gagen, Rebecca Hahn, Steve Heath, Mayor Kevin Johnson, Jayna Karpinski-Costa, Paula Lomazzi, Stephen Nichols, Michele Steeb, Fred Teichert

Board Members Absent: Paulino Duran, Matt Mahood, Robert McGarvey, Malachi Smith

Guests: Anne Moore, Diane Luther, Bob Erlenbusch, Cindy Cavanaugh, Chris Glauzel, Tamie A. Dramer, Frances Freitas, Katrina Middleton, Megan Kurteff Schatz, Lisa Bates, Lola Wiley, Andrew Rosskamm, Sgt. Violet A. Garcia, Jennie Reiken, Alan Lange, Kimberly Coleman, Jennifer Berger, Joni Radtke, Tina Reynolds, Greg Bunker, Derrick Lim, Ryan Loofbourrow

Staff: Tim Brown, Paul Hicks, Susanna Curry, Merrill Lavezzo, Kathy Briem, Suzanne Hammer, Bruce Wagstaff.

Action Items:

- The Policy Board voted to send a letter to the Sacramento City Council recommending that members impose a temporary moratorium on enforcing the City of Sacramento's anti-camping ordinance. This letter will be written by ECHI staff and signed by the ECHI Director, Tim Brown.
- The Minutes from the May Policy Board meeting were approved
- Beth Hassett, Executive Director of WEAVE, was appointed to the Interagency Council as recommended by the Executive Committee.
- Mayor Johnson- Approved to lead as Chair of the Policy Board and Tom Gagen was approved to serve as Vice-Chair.
- Approved the change in bylaws to a total membership of 25.
- Approved the following applicants to the Policy Board: Councilmember Rob Fong, City of Sacramento, District 4, Supervisor Roberta MacGlashan, County of Sacramento, District 4, Chet Hewitt, CEO, Sierra Health Foundation, Bishop Carthen, Bayside of South Sacramento
- Approved a change in Policy Board meeting dates to the second Thursday of every other month from 3-5pm

Minutes:

1. **Welcome and Introductions**

-Sister Libby Fernandez requested moving agenda item nine to the front of the agenda. With the Vice Chair's approval, Sister Libby was allotted ten minutes to address agenda item nine "Street Management."

9. Action: Street Management – Sister Libby Fernandez, Loaves & Fishes, and Andrew Rosskamm, Mayor's Office, 10 minutes.

-Sister Libby Fernandez- Over the last four hours I have witnessed a stand down between twenty officers and ten patrol cars with nearly 80 homeless campers near the Bannon Street shelter, a site referred to by campers as Safe Ground. I would like to request that the Policy Board recommend to Sacramento's City Council, a moratorium on the City's anti-camping laws until a resolution is found for housing Sacramento's homeless campers.

-Paula Lomazzi- I second the request for a moratorium on camping.

Tom Gagen opened the floor to discussion from members and guests.

-Tina Reynolds- A local business owner with Uptown Studios declared that taking care of our homeless neighbors remains a best business practice.

-Sgt. Violet Garcia- A U.S. Army veteran made homeless from a car accident is now an advocate of Safe Ground. Violet introduced the concept of the camps self-governance and the no drug, no alcohol and no weapons contract that all homeless campers must sign and abide.

-Lola Wiley- Ran out of unemployment and GA payments do not cover her housing needs. Safe Ground could be used as a jumping off point for getting people housed.

-Bob Erlenbusch- We had success housing Tent City campers but there simply is not enough housing. The homeless do not deserve to be made outlaws by circumstance. We should look into best practices homeless camping areas like those used in Seattle or Portland. SB 2 allows communities to site land to be zoned for Emergency Shelter areas, a possible solution for providing Safe Ground.

-Patty Kleinknecht (for Steve Ayers) - We cannot support this recommendation. Costumers of area businesses do not feel comfortable leaving their cars near a designated homeless camp. The City of Sacramento needs to take the lead in providing a resolution. This is a regional issue and the River District and surrounding neighborhoods should not need to take on the entire burden of the homeless population.

-Greg Bunker- VOA's Bannon Shelter has a plot of land that used to be a garden lot that may offer a non-offensive solution. At this garden plot we could establish a camping shelter that costs less than a bed shelter, reaches services and doesn't harm anyone.

-Andrew Rosskamm- The Mayor's Task Force is developing recommendations to the Mayor by August regarding homeless camping issues. The Mayor will make a recommendation to City Council by September. Members debated if the temporary moratorium on camping should be a blanket recommendation or specific to a certain area for a certain time span.

-Rebecca Hahn- Could the creation of a "Safe Ground" cause a massive influx of homeless to a single area?

-Cassandra Jennings- Consider this request on the Policy Level. Does this discussion and request fit within the Policy of the County and City? Is this discussion a fit for what the group is tasked for?

-Capt. Jacqueline Dowden- The police department is obligated to enforce the rule of the law. The suspension of enforcement must be directed by the City Manager who is in turn directed by the vote of the City Council.

Motion: Sister Libby Fernandez motioned that the Policy Board recommend that Sacramento City Council introduce and impose a temporary moratorium on camping within the City until fall when the Mayor's Task Force has had time to fully vet all options. The motion was seconded by Paula Lomazzi. Motion approved in favor with seven members for the motion including, Sister Libby Fernandez, Tom Gagen, Rebecca Hahn, Steve Heath, Paula Lomazzi, Stephen Nichols, Michele Steeb and Fred Teichert. Three members were against the motion including Jayna Karpinski-Costa, Patty Kleinknecht (for Steve Ayers) and Jacqueline Dowden. One member abstained (Ann Edwards-Buckley).

2. **ACTION: Adopt May Minutes**

Motion to adopt minutes by Capt. Jacqueline Dowden, seconded by Fred Teichart. Approved, all in favor.

3. **ACTION: Appoint Beth Hassett to the Interagency Council**

Motion to appoint Beth Hassett to the Interagency Council by Ann Edwards-Buckley, seconded by Fred Teichert. Approved, all in favor.

4. **Policy Board Leadership Proposals – 20 minutes**

a. **Proposed Election of Officers**

i. **ACTION: Approve Mayor Johnson to serve as Chair of the Policy Board**

-Motion by Michele Steeb and seconded by Sister Libby Fernandez. Approved, all in favor.

ii. **ACTION: Approve Tom Gagen to serve as Vice Chair of the Policy Board**

-Motion by Michele Steeb and seconded by Sister Libby Fernandez. Approved, all in favor.

b. **Renew Terms for Members in Group B (see handout)**

-Motion by Fred Teichert and seconded by Jayna Karpinski-Costa. Approved, all in favor.

c. **Proposed Bylaw changes to include additional Policy Board members**

i. **ACTION: Under Article 5 of the Policy Board Bylaws, change the first sentence to read: "Membership consists of between twelve and twenty-five members." (see bylaws attached)**

- Motion by Steve Heath and seconded by Capt. Jacqueline Dowden. Approved, all in favor.

ii. **ACTION: Approve the following applicants to the Policy Board:**

1. **Councilmember Rob Fong, City of Sacramento, District 4**
2. **Supervisor Roberta MacGlashan, County of Sacramento, District 4**
3. **Chet Hewitt, CEO, Sierra Health Foundation**
4. **Bishop Carthen, Bayside of South Sacramento**

- Motion by Michele Steeb and seconded by Rebecca Hahn. Approved, all in favor.

d. Proposed Meeting Day and Time Changes

- i. **ACTION: Change Policy Board meeting days to the second Thursday of every other month**

-Motion by Paula Lomazzi and seconded by Sister Libby Fernandez. Approved, all in favor.

- ii. **ACTION: Change Policy Board Meeting time to 3-5pm**

-Motion by Paula Lomazzi and seconded by Sister Libby Fernandez. Approved, all in favor.

5. Mayor Johnson's Vision for the Policy Board, 10 minutes

-The Mayor is looking forward to Chairing the Policy Board to End Homelessness and is fully committed to ending Sacramento's homelessness. The Mayor and his staff provide a great deal of new energy in creating a City that should work for everyone. The Mayor commented that when approaching the issues of homelessness in Sacramento, we are missing a regional approach and we must attack the problem in a regional manner. With well over 2,000 homeless and 468 chronically homeless in Sacramento, Sacramento is no longer seeing a typical portfolio of homeless. The Policy Board must expand its scope to address the rising needs of homeless families and youth in addition to the chronically homeless. The Mayor has been meeting in Washington D.C. with HUD's Director Shawn Donovan and is working to have Shawn come visit Sacramento in the fall. The Mayor also expressed the need for the Policy Board to enhance prevention measures that assist and expand support for families hit by the recession. The Mayor has met with the Governor, who is committed to trying to help on the issue. The Mayor has also met with the Mayor of Denver to discuss building community and political will behind the issue of ending homelessness. The Mayor would like the Policy Board to aid Sacramento in becoming a model city in establishing permanent housing. The Mayor has requested that the Policy Board meet monthly throughout the rest of the year, that the Policy Board's Steering Committee meet bi-monthly on Wednesdays and that Policy Board members attend a Planning Retreat facilitated by Laura Mason Smith on August 13, 2009. Anne Moore, former Executive Director of SHRA, has been brought on as a consultant to the Mayor's Office on homeless issues.

6. County Budget Update – Bruce Wagstaff, DHA, 10 minutes

-Bruce Wagstaff reported on the "legendary" work done by the DHA staff to mitigate what was assumed to be a 40% loss in shelter beds in May, and thanked all who testified before the Board of Supervisors. 120 beds will be added back between Bannon St. and North A. shelters and these will no longer be Aid-in-Kind beds. These two shelters will be extended for 90 days with North A run by the Salvation Army and rebidding will occur in the fall, most likely making Bannon St. a family shelter and North A. a shelter for individuals. DHA has developed a temporary 1 year strategy to keep the shelter beds operational. The strategy includes the use of \$350,000 of County Economic Development Funding, \$100,000 of CDBG funding, Federal Stimulus funds, and the creative transitioning of existing shelter money. DHA is still looking at alternatives to keeping the Cal Expo Winter Shelter open. The Winter Shelter cannot be assumed to stay open through November as one false press release has stated. The Mather Children's Services program was retained but funding was reduced

7. Continuum of Care Update- Suzanne Hammer, DHA Homeless Programs, 15 minutes

-The Continuum of Care (CoC) will be worth 1.43 Billion nationally. The NOFA will be available August 24th for projects expiring in 2010. HUD plans will focus on funding programs related to prevention and serving the chronically homeless. Renewal applications will be awarded as fast as possible. New projects will be scored by spring of 2010. Ranking panel members are needed. On the last CoC application Sacramento scored in the nation's top 16% with an application score of 87.75.

8. Update on Federal ARRA stimulus funding, particularly Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Proposal- Cindy Cavanaugh, SHRA, and Kathy Briem, DHA-20 minutes.

-HPRP is a funding source administered by HUD to aid the prevention and rapid re-housing of those facing homelessness due to the current recession. The City and County have joined funding sources in order to create a 4.7 million dollar funding source. MKS Consulting, DHA, and SHRA are leading the effort to form the HPRP RFP. In formulating the RFP, this planning team has taken every effort to align the HPRP goals with the coming HEARTH Act changes and the current goals of the 10 Year Plan. The planning groups met with 25 community groups, held 6 stakeholder meetings, 5 focus groups with clients, and met 1-on-1 with all local decision makers. The program is designed to be outcomes driven. A central intake assessment will be established through 211 and two or three agencies will act as the lead providers. The system includes legal aid and HMIS systems data and analysis. Other money from CDBG and private sources will leverage the total sum to nearly \$9 million.

-Tim Brown- we owe a huge thanks to Kathy, Cindy, and Megan for taking advantage of this great opportunity for homeless families and individuals.

9. **Street Management- Sister Libby Fernandez, Loaves & Fishes, and Andrew Rosskamm, Mayor's Office, 10 minutes.**

-Moved to front of the agenda

10. **Director's Report - Tim Brown, ECHI Director, 15 minutes**

- a. **Board Policy Report** – The retreat is scheduled for August 13, 2009 from 12:00pm to 5:30pm. Laura Mason Smith will facilitate the retreat and MKS Consulting will provide information on HPRP and HEARTH Act funding opportunities
- b. **Homeless Connect (see attached report)**
- c. **Funding Update (see attached report)**
- d. **Faith and Homeless Families** - Currently, seven families have been housed with six mentor congregations. Council Member Rob Fong is in the process of starting a new non-profit to house Faith and Homeless Families. A consultant has been brought on to aid in the transition. With \$20,000 from SHRA and \$6,000 from the Teichert Foundation, Nora Benavidez will begin part time within the next week and will run a sixth month transition in building FHF into an independent 501c3. Another set of mentor trainings will take place in August.
- e. **SSI Task Force** - Five staff from several agencies have been trained in the SOAR model. The committee will begin tracking cost benefit results as more people are accepted more quickly on SSI due to the SOAR training. LSS received its first SSI approval based on the SOAR model.

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

-Units are divided by those that are complete, under construction and in the pipeline. The Highlands project (66 units) has been approved for stimulus funds and the Budget Inn project has been scheduled for approval and development in August. (Keys to Hope 1) has been enhanced with 10 additional units that will be served by The Effort's T3 Program. (Keys to Hope 3) is a 1 year program that does not offer PSH to the chronically homeless but is exciting because it offers housing to couples. The Effort has expanded service dollars from 50 T3 units to 200 T3 units.

Tim Brown: Action: The Interagency Council recommends that the Policy Board advocate for Project Based Section 8 for the 7th & H project.

-The Policy Board agreed that it was premature to vote on this issue and would like to table the item for a later date so more information can be made available to report back.