

**Minutes**  
**Homeless Taskforce**  
**MEETING DATE: January 10, 2007**  
**United Way**  
**7:00 – 8:30 am**

**Taskforce Members**

Rev. Cheryl Jefferson Bell    Sue Castile    Gypsy Claar    Connie Dietz  
 Jack Focht    Patrick Hanrahan    Lou Heldman    Bernie Hudspeth  
 Bishop Michael Jackels    Bishop Scott Jones    Steve Martens    Janet L. Miller  
 Tim Norton    Marsha Stanyer    Mary K. Vaughn

Ex officio members:    Winston Brooks    Bill Buchanan    George Kolb    Ron Holt

**Welcome**

Jack Focht called the meeting to order at 7 a.m.

**New Business**

*Review of the Kamen Report*

Bill Buchanan began a review of the recommendations from the 1997 Kamen Report. The 1997 plan focused on the following seven areas:

- Homeless prevention
- Outreach & Assessment
- Emergency Shelter
- Supportive Services
- Transitional Housing
- Permanent Housing
- Centralized Database

**Homeless prevention**

• Provide funding priority to agencies that are currently providing case management for homeless prevention or are projecting that they will provide that service (Task Force/ City of Wichita)

*No funding priority designation in place.*

• Communicate the nature of homelessness to decision makers so that fundamental reorientation in the decision making process can occur (Task Force)

*Informational updates provided annually to City and County or on an as needed basis.*

• Provide adequate information to the media, public policy makers, planners, and others so that homelessness is understood (Task Force)

*There is not an official spokesperson that prepares and disseminates information on behalf of the Homeless Task Force/CCHA when the media calls.*

• Establish additional case management positions to work with the at-risk population that receives homeless prevention assistance (Providers)

*There are different levels of “case management” which occur with homeless service provision. The majority of case managers serve those who are already homeless and in the system. It was discussed that it is a problem the fund and retain case managers.*

## **Outreach & Assessment**

- Develop an outreach tool that can be distributed at public points at which homeless persons often ask for help, and to persons that are aware of regular homeless needs (Homeless Coalition)

*In 1997, the Wichita Homeless Services Coalition formed a “Homeless Concerns” committee. The Homeless Concerns brochure was created and disseminated to area business, homeless services providers and distributed through outreach efforts. In 2005, The Wichita Homeless Resources brochure was updated/published by the Wichita PD in 2006 in English and Spanish.*

- Develop a central 24-hour telephone contact for homeless persons seeking help. (Task Force)

*Salvation Army does this, and other shelter providers also state that they do this service. Currently CRISIS COMCARE is available 24/7, and United Way’s 2-1-1.*

- Maintain assertive outreach efforts targeted toward homeless persons who have a severe mental illness. (Sedgwick County – COMCARE)

*Two full time outreach Center City case managers engage individuals who are unsheltered living on the streets, in places not considered as adequate housing and under bridges. Those who have shelter in emergency shelters and at other community locations are also targeted.*

- Develop plans and identify funding for maintaining outreach efforts to chronically homeless after the ACCESS program funding ceases (Sedgwick County – COMCARE)

*Outreach provided by Center City is funded by PATH state funds (Projects to Assist Transitioning out of Homelessness). Street Outreach, a program of the Wichita Children’s Home and targeting teens living on the streets, is funded through donations such as the United Way. The Veteran’s Administration’s outreach activities are funded through federal funds. Other outreach efforts such as those provided by Baptist Homeless Ministries, People’s Net and Inter-Faith Ministries are supported through donations and limited government/federal funding.*

- Coordinate assessments among agencies so that treatment of homeless individuals with multiple disabilities (mental illness, substance abuse, physical illness, etc) is not fragmented. (Integration Management Team)

*The integration management team was discontinued in 2000 after the ACCESS grant ended.*

- Develop a common intake form to be used for initial assessment and information gathering. (United Way, Task Force, Homeless Coalition)

*A standardized form was created to collect information for the database for United Way. Agencies also may collect additional information for their needs and financial supporters.*

- Evaluate the creation of a central intake agency or facility. (Task Force)

*In the early 1990’s Salvation Army agreed to serve as a “centralized intake” with the support of all shelter providers.. Two shelter providers negated the agreement. Based upon this change, it was decided that each shelter would continue to process clients individually rather than have a “centralized” intake location.*

### *Point in Time Count*

Bob Lamkey, Sedgwick County Public Safety Director, spoke to the members about coordination of the annual Point in Time Count. The count will take place on January 23 and 24. Data will be collected in shelters, and on the streets. Following the collection of the data there will be a significant amount of time spent on data entry.

The intent is to insure the count is as accurate as possible. A large number of volunteers from the City of Wichita and Sedgwick County, as well as the faith community and service providers are assisting in the count. Additional volunteers are still needed, and those interested were encouraged to contact Lamkey, or United Way.

**Other**

Jack Focht also requested members prepare to discuss the following for the next meeting:

- The scope of work
- The customer base we are talking about—the H.U.D. definition or a broader one?
- The “doubled up” group that the school system identifies.

**Adjourn**

Having no other business the meeting was adjourned