

Minutes
Homeless Taskforce
MEETING DATE: April 18, 2007
United Way

Taskforce Members

Rev. Cheryl Jefferson Bell Sue Castile Gypsy Claar Connie Dietz
 Jack Focht Patrick Hanrahan Lou Heldman 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

Minutes were approved and discussion moved to the Point In Time results for 2007. Patrick Hanrahan introduced Beth Oaks to go over these findings.

2007 Point In Time Count

Via a PowerPoint presentation, Oaks covered the following sections of the 2007 Point in Time results: Executive Summary, Acknowledgments, Introduction, Volunteers and Site Participants, Methods (Efforts to Reduce Duplication), Definitions and Data Analysis. The full report is available online at <http://www.unitedwayplains.org>.

Questions were asked of United Way staff regarding the level of education of homeless participants and where the homeless were originally from. Because these questions were not on the survey, the answers are unknown. Inferences regarding the drop in the number of homeless from 06 to 07 were discussed. While a precise cause of the reduction is unknown, the fact that the 2007 Point in Time Count was the most comprehensive and focused intently on reducing duplication may be the best explanation.

Affordable Housing Recommendations

Jack began discussion over the goals and strategies currently listed in the draft of the Affordable Housing Section of the taskforce's report. Discussion included:

1. The need for more specific goals, such as the number of single room occupancy units recommended.
2. The need for someone to "own" the project: there has to be an agency that is accountable for ensuring the recommendations are implemented.
3. A central intake or check-in site
4. Where should affordable housing be located?
 - o Center City where most services and transportation exist, or
 - o Throughout the county so that there is not one pocket of homeless in the community
5. Should the focus of the taskforce be chronic or all homeless? Some of the current goals and strategies lean more toward ending general homelessness. Focht stated he felt the debate would need to be hashed out soon so that progress could be made on the plan.

Atlanta Trip

Focht mentioned a special on Airtran airfare to Atlanta for a limited time. Since the meeting, it was determined that Focht, Janet Miller and County staff would go to Atlanta on May 9 to tour

the Gateway Intake Center and meet with the United Way of Atlanta. A report of this trip's findings will be shared at the May 16 meeting.

Adjourn

Due to time, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 a.m. At the next meeting, discussion will pick up with whether chronic or general homelessness will be the target of the taskforce's work. Additionally recommendations related to affordable housing and a review of the introduction section will take place. If anyone has recommendations they would like discussed, please email them to Rachelle Moody (rmoody@sedgwick.gov), Jenni Gluszek (jgluszek@sedgwick.gov) or Jack Focht (jfocht@foulston.com).