

**Minutes**  
**Homeless Task Force**  
**MEETING DATE: September 5, 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. Minutes were approved.

*TECH Overview Presentation*

Jack Focht began the presentation by indicating that a similar presentation will be given to the City Council on September 18 and County Commission on September 19. The presentation was designed to demonstrate the progress of the Task Force to both governing bodies and citizens. Task Force members were asked to comment and provide feedback where members deemed changes were necessary.

The presentation highlighted the following progress of the Task Force:

- TECH's mission and charge
- TECH's adoption of the HUD definition of chronic homelessness
- TECH's education on issues associated with chronic homelessness including:
  - Presentations from 17 agencies, including non-profits, federal, state, and local government entities
  - Reviewing "best practices" of 20 communities
- Determined gaps in services in the community
- Scheduled a town hall meeting to solicit public feedback

Throughout the presentation, questions arose. First, a question was asked about the definition of chronic homelessness. It was clarified that the Task Force had adopted the HUD definition. Second, it was suggested that Bernie Hudspeth be included in the list of Task Force members as he was a part of the original Task Force. Task Force members concluded that his name should be included in list of Task Force members.

Third, questions arose about the Task Force's involvement in the RFP process. It was agreed that the wording in the presentation should change from "Created an RFP that offers more flexibility" to "Discussion resulted in an RFP that offers more flexibility." Fourth, it was requested that information on census data management focus on "everyone's use" of HMIS. Task Force members agreed that this information should be modified to include all service providers.

After the presentation concluded, Task Force members provided additional feedback. It was suggested that the presentation tie in the mental health aspect since Sedgwick County is charged with addressing mental health issues.

Once the presentation and discussion concluded, Steve Martens made a motion to approve the presentation to be given to the City Council and County Commission. The motion was seconded by Gypsy Claar. The motion passed unanimously.

### *Gaps in Services*

Next, discussion moved to the gaps in services document. Gaps in services represent challenges to meeting demands of the local community. The gaps in services document will be included in the presentation to elected bodies. About the document, questions were raised about the square footage needed for a one-stop shop. It was verified that the square footage indicated in the document was accurate. Next, it was suggested that United Methodist Open Door be identified as the service provider instead of generalizing it as the “drop-in” center. Task Force members agreed and changes to the language will be made for future presentations. In addition, it was requested that the changes in the presentation concerning the gaps in services also be made to the gaps in services document.

Once discussion concluded, Lou Heldman made a motion to approve the gaps in services document with the recommended changes to be presented to the governing bodies. The motion was seconded by Bishop Jackels. The motion passed unanimously.

### *Town Hall Meeting Update*

After the Task Force approved the presentation and gaps in services document, Sedgwick County staff presented an update on the upcoming town hall meeting. The town hall meeting is scheduled to take place at *Horace Mann Foreign Language Elementary Magnet* located at *1243 N. Market*. Also, the Task Force is contracting with Wichita State University’s Self-Help Network to facilitate the meeting. People attending the meeting will be placed into small groups and will be asked to report back at the conclusion of the meeting. Also, Deann Smith, a United Methodist minister, is also working with the Task Force to provide transportation for those homeless individuals wanting to attend. In addition, a flier is being prepared to advertise the town hall meeting. Fliers will be placed on city/county websites and different stakeholders including the downtown ministers are being asked to help advertise the meeting.

After the update, questions arose about whether or not a town hall meeting was the best way to solicit a public response. Concerns were expressed that a town hall meeting would not draw a true reflection of the community. It was stated that a scientific survey might be a better option than a town hall meeting. Task Force members agreed to move forward with the town hall meeting but other options will be examined in the future.

### *No Task Force Meeting on Wednesday, September 19*

There will be *no meeting* on September 19. Task Force members are encouraged to attend the City Council meeting on Tuesday, September 18, at 9:00 a.m. and/or the Board of County Commission meeting on Wednesday, September 19, at 9:00 a.m.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 a.m.