

Minutes
Homeless Task Force
MEETING DATE: October 17, 2007
United Way
7:00 – 8:30 a.m.

Taskforce Members

Rev. Cheryl Jefferson Bell Sue Castile Gypsy Claar Connie Dietz
 Sharon Fearey 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 7:06 a.m. Minutes were approved. After the approval of minutes, Mr. Focht welcomed and introduced new Task Force member Councilwoman Sharon Fearey. Mr. Focht thanked her for her willingness to serve on the Task Force.

Finalization and Approval of Gaps Document

The meeting began with finalizing and approving the gaps in services document. Janet Miller highlighted changes to the document since the last meeting, which included:

- Adding: there is a need for transportation for the chronically homeless to access services
- Adding: there is a need for a dedicated funding source
- Move challenges to receiving benefits higher on the list

TECH members were asked if any additional changes were necessary. Questions were raised about drop-in centers hours as a part of the gap list. As a result of recent funding from United Way, drop-in center hours will be extended from 8 a.m. – 1p.m. to 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. beginning in November. It was requested that the additional operating hours be reflected in the document. Also, it was requested that the wording in the gaps document be amended to note that grant funding by United Way to United Methodist Open Door is subject to renewal.

Once Task Force members agreed upon final revisions, Patrick Hanrahan moved that the gaps document be approved with the amendments discussed at the meeting. Reverend Cheryl Bell seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of TECH Timeline and Plan Contents

Next, discussion shifted toward developing a timeline and work plan. Janet Miller submitted a draft of the proposed work plan to TECH members that was separated into three phases:

- Phase I: Education
- Phase II: Gap Analysis
- Phase III: Preparing the Plan

Currently, TECH is on phase three of the work plan which includes developing a timeline for preparing the plan. Highlights from the proposed work timeline include:

- Remaining TECH meetings in 2007: 10/31, 11/14, 11/28, 12/12
- TECH review of proposed draft plan on 11/28/07
- Public review and comment on draft plan from December 1 – December 5
- TECH second review and adoption on 12/12/07
- Presentation to elected bodies in January 2008

In addition to approving a timeline, TECH members were asked to approve plan contents. The plan includes four primary components:

- Resource Center
- Permanent Supportive Housing
- Emergency Shelter Beds
- Dedicated Funding Source

TECH members were asked to decide if these components encompassed all the parts needed to complete the plan, or whether additional components were needed. Also, questions were raised about the location of a resource center. It was stated that the plan needs to propose a location with the amount of space needed for a resource center. Once questions were answered, Mary K. Vaughn moved that TECH accept the proposed timeline along with the proposed contents for the plan. Lou Heldman seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Resource Center Service Options

After a timeline and plan components were approved, discussion shifted to potential services to be offered in a resource center. TECH members were given a list of potential services to be offered and were asked to decide whether or not each service was a necessary component. It was suggested that a welcome/reception area be added to the list. Also, questions were raised about wrap-around services. Some TECH members questioned whether or not emergency services should be provided and how comprehensive these services should be.

In addition, TECH members were asked about services provided at United Methodist Open-Door. It was stated that it is important that the resource center not duplicate services provided. Furthermore, it was emphasized not all services must be provided 24 hours a day 7 days a week. Some services can be provided at designated times throughout the week and these services should be available to all homeless, not exclusively the chronically homeless.

In deciding services for the Resource Center, questions were raised about the costs associated with each service provided. It was emphasized that TECH is going to look for new funding for a resource center. It is important that funding is not reallocated from one area to another but that new funding sources are located.

As discussion continued, some TECH members suggested another name for the “Resource Center.” It was suggested that the facility be named the “Resource and Referral Center.”

SOAR Training Update

Discussion continued with a SOAR update from Debbie Donaldson.

There is still an opportunity for local agencies and organizations to have SOAR private training with a tuition cost of \$145 per trainee. Training will take place in Kansas City on November 15-16. Interested agencies should contact Debbie for more information.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:31 a.m.