

Minutes
Homeless Task Force
MEETING DATE: January 23, 2008
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 H. Edward Flentje Ron Holt

Welcome

Jack Focht called the meeting to order at 7:00 a.m. Mr. Focht welcomed the new interim City Manager, H. Edward Flentje, to the Task Force. After the welcome, minutes were approved.

Review of Draft Plan

Mr. Focht asked Ms. Janet Miller to lead the Task Force through the updated draft plan. Ms. Miller indicated that more substantive information was included in the Introduction section of the plan. An addition includes the annual cost per chronically homeless person based on a national literature review. Also, information was added to the overall findings of the plan along with cost estimates that are highlighted with each strategy. As the plan outline continued, it was noted that an additional recap of strategy implementation costs had been added to the document.

Once Ms. Miller completed an overview of the amendments made to the plan, discussion moved to cost estimates that had been developed since the last TECH meeting. Based on their anticipated role in the future, TECH subgroups were formed to develop cost estimates for each of the five strategies. The first cost estimates were for the Resource and Referral Center. It is anticipated that the Resource and Referral Center will have expanded space to provide service for the overall homeless population, not exclusively chronically homeless. In addition, the Center will have expanded hours and will be a place where resources are consolidated. With this framework, it is estimated that \$2.83 - \$4.23 million will be needed for one time start-up capital costs along with \$599,400 annually for operating costs. Operating costs are based on specific assumptions that are outlined in the plan.

The next estimate was for Permanent Supportive Housing/Housing First. In the plan, permanent supportive housing units will be available exclusively for the chronically homeless. As described in the gaps in services component of the plan, there is a need for an additional 64 scattered – site housing units. Cost estimates provide for a “Housing First Specialist” whose primary goal is to locate housing for the chronically homeless. It is estimated that the permanent supportive housing component will cost \$471,500 annually.

The third cost estimate was for additional emergency housing. Until permanent supportive housing becomes available, additional emergency housing is needed in the community. According to the plan, 25 -50 additional housing options are needed and additional funding is estimated at \$162,500. While the fourth strategy is to identify a sustainable source, there is no direct cost associated with implementing this strategy. This strategy calls for a partnership of various stakeholder groups to address funding needs for the plan. The fourth

cost estimate was for the governance structure. There is an annual estimated cost of \$60,000 to hire a coordinating staff person to oversee implementation of the plan.

As the conversation continued following the discussion of cost estimates, questions were raised about how frequently the governing body should report to the City and County. It was suggested that the wording be changed to allow for periodic reports as opposed to annually. In addition, TECH members recommended that the words “governance structure” be changed to “oversight committee.” Because the governing body does not have any formal authority, it was suggested that the title of the implementation group should accurately reflect the group’s powers. Also, it was suggested that one title of “Housing First” specialist be applied throughout the entire document.

After Task Force members provided feedback, questions arose about the future actions of the Task Force. It was suggested that a letter of submission be written by Jack Focht or Janet Miller to accompany the plan that describes the vision of the plan and how this community might be different if the plan is implemented. Also, questions were raised about future public engagement opportunities to foster support. It was recommended that the plan be distributed to various community groups and feedback be taken from different community organizations. It was suggested that public feedback be received before the plan is put to an up or down vote by the City Council or County Commission. Because Task Force members had committed to another public forum before the finalization of the plan, TECH members agreed that public input would be received before the two governing bodies reviewed the plan.

As discussion of the draft plan and future action concluded, Connie Dietz made a motion adopt the plan with the recommended TECH members changes, prepare for the public input process, and schedule one more TECH meeting to receive and review comments. Pat Hanrahan seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

After the Task Force voted to accept the plan, the Task Force decided to seek public input and meet again within 30 days. Jack Focht decided that a public engagement subcommittee should be formed to determine the best method to receive public input.

SOAR Training

Ms. Debbie Donaldson, Sedgwick County Division of Human Services Director, made an announcement that official SOAR training will be made available and a team of three will be allowed to participate. Rachelle Moody will serve as a lead trainer for Sedgwick County and other organizations are invited to take advantage of this opportunity if interested.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 a.m. The next TECH meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, February 19 at 7:00 a.m.