

Plan to End Chronic Homelessness: Oversight Committee

July 7, 2008
Meeting Notes

Committee Members: Jack Focht, TJ Akin, Sue Castile, Ray Frederick, Melissa Walker, Ben Grisamore, Janet Miller

Staff: Charlene Stevens, Deborah Donaldson, Tim Kaufman, Deanna Carrithers, Rachelle Moody

Discussion:

Jack Focht, Committee Chairman, opened the first meeting of the Oversight Committee and members introduced themselves. In addition to reviewing the guidelines set forth for the Oversight Committee in the Plan to End Chronic Homelessness, he provided numerous updates to the committee including:

- Efforts by the faith community and Advocates to End Chronic Homelessness (AECH) to operate an overflow winter shelter from November 1, 2008 – March 31, 2009. He provided everyone a copy of the formal letter of intent submitted to him by AECH representatives.
- Site selection and acquisition for the planned resource and referral center. Methodist Bishop Scott Jones reported to Jack that the Methodist Church/United Methodist Open Door (UMOD) is in contract negotiations to purchase a building. To support this effort, UMOD will host a community fundraising campaign in the near future.
- Fundraising: Foundations have expressed interest in reviewing a proposal from the oversight committee to assist with implementing Plan strategies. Jack and Janet will take the lead on coordinating fundraising efforts.

Sedgwick County Division of Human Services staff provided numerous updates on County and City efforts to implement Plan strategies including:

- The COMCARE Center City Homeless Program is still interested in co-locating at the planned resource and referral center, and maintains regular contact with UMOD.
- The City's Housing and Community Services Department advertised for, and is currently reviewing applications for the Housing First Coordinator position outlined in the Plan. Earlier this year, the City Council approved funding for this new position.
- Sedgwick County will request the \$56,162 necessary to hire the Oversight Committee Coordinator position in the County Manager's 2009 recommended budget. Sedgwick County will also request \$191,368 to implement the Housing First program. This will provide for 32 housing units. It is expected that the City Manager, in his 2009 recommended budget, will request a similar amount for a similar number of housing units. The Sedgwick County 2009 budget calendar is as follows:
 - July 16: Manager presents his 2009 recommended budget to the County Commission
 - July 23: First public hearing
 - August 13: Second public hearing and budget adoption
- Tim Kaufman, Human Services Deputy Director, will begin providing regular staff assistance on homelessness and the Oversight Committee. Upon selection of the Oversight Committee Coordinator, he will also provide supervisory services to the

individual hired. He previously provided assistance behind the scenes with research and budgeting.

- The 2007 – 2008 Winter Overflow Emergency Housing Report. Compiled by United Way, the report reflects census data from December 1, 2007 – February 29, 2008. Committee members were provided a copy of the report. Ben Grisamore reiterated that AECH has tasked itself with operating the Overflow Shelter this year using funds raised from the community – AECH will not seek funding from the City, County or United Way but would accept it if offered.
- SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access and Recovery (SOAR) Training. Human Services staff attended a SOAR train-the-trainer session in May, and will begin delivering training to COMCARE staff in July. SOAR is a national best practice that teaches case managers to better assist persons experiencing homelessness apply for Social Security benefits. Later in 2008, and into 2009, training opportunities will be expanded to include additional County departments and community agencies.
- COMCARE continues to pursue grants to for homeless services.
- Oversight Committee website: All information related to the Oversight Committee will be posted on the County website: www.sedgwickcounty.org. The specific webpage is entitled “Homeless Programs.” Other information contained on the site includes: historical information, documents from the Taskforce to End Chronic Homelessness (TECH), and contact information.

Action Items:

- Committee members suggested that a City of Wichita Housing and Community Services representative regularly attend meetings. This would be helpful when discussing City efforts. Committee members also suggested that a United Way of the Plains representative regularly attend meetings. This would be helpful when discussing such issues as HMIS and overflow shelter. Debbie will contact both agencies to request a staff person be present at future meetings.
- Human Services staff will schedule two tours for committee members with local homeless service providers. Tours will be scheduled for UMOD, Inter-Faith Ministries Safe Haven and the Union Rescue Mission. They will be scheduled for Monday, July 21 at 10 am and Monday, July 28 at 10 am.

Next Meeting and agenda topics:

- Next meeting will be Wednesday, August 20th at the Sedgwick County CDDO, 615 N. Main, Ark Valley Lodge Meeting Room. Parking is available in the lot adjacent to the building, on the street, or in parking garage.
- Topics to be discussed include: City and County budget review; fundraising updates; overflow shelter update; and an explanation of the HUD SuperNOFA grant.

Reminder:

- Oversight Committee meetings are considered open meetings, and community members may attend to listen. However, public input is not allotted for on the agenda. Individuals interested in speaking with a committee member may contact them before or after the meeting. Comments may also be made to staff or committee chairman at www.sedgwickcounty.org,