

Minutes
Plan to End Chronic Homelessness: Oversight Committee
MEETING DATE: August 20, 2008
CDDO Large Conference Room
1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

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

Committee Members Absent: Ray Frederick

Guests: Ann Curl, Shelly Haupt, Beth Oaks and Mary K. Vaughn

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

Welcome

Jack Focht, Committee Chairman, began the meeting by welcoming committee members and guests, and staff. Ms. Mary K. Vaughn introduced Shelly Haupt as the new Housing First Coordinator. In the future, Ms. Haupt will be attending all Oversight Committee meetings. Also, Mr. Focht expressed appreciation to United Methodist Open Door, Interfaith Ministries, and Union Rescue Mission staff for their hospitality during the homeless service provider tour, and expressed hope that the community will become more collaborative in addressing the needs of the homeless. Additionally, other committee members acknowledged remaining challenges by highlighting the need to get all service providers involved and without collaboration the community may experience an adverse affect relating to resources provided through the SuperNOFA application.

City of Wichita Budget Update

Ms. Mary K. Vaughn presented the City of Wichita budget update. She indicated that the City of Wichita approved a budget last week which included \$143,250 for Housing First from the General Fund. The remaining funding for Housing First was from a Federal Grant through the Veteran's Administration. While the Plan to End Chronic Homeless recommended all Housing First dollars come from the City/County General Fund, the remaining portion for Housing First will come from federal grants through the Veteran's Administration. For Housing First, the City of Wichita plans to use some of the vouchers from the Veteran's Administration towards Housing First. The Housing First coordinator position is being funded through redistributed Community Development Block Grant dollars.

Sedgwick County Budget Update

Ms. Deborah Donaldson, Division of Human Services Director, presented the Sedgwick County budget update. Ms. Donaldson indicated 100 percent of Housing First dollars were allocated from the Sedgwick County General Fund. Also, this funding will support 32 housing units. Between City and County funding, 64 housing units will be funded.

During the budget update, questions were raised about the restrictions placed on the housing units using the VA vouchers. It was stated that applicants cannot be registered sex offenders or

meth users. For the Housing First pilot project funded by United Way, it was stated that United Way paid for background checks to be conducted on all applicants. It was stated that this process has taken a collaborative effort from various stakeholder groups to be successful. Staff also indicated that a major barrier to the Housing First process is finding landlords that will bypass certain requirements. Through the Housing First coordinator position, Oversight Committee members are hopeful that many of these barriers can be eliminated. While barriers exist, Committee members highlighted opportunities to decrease these barriers by providing resources for damages incurred from behavioral issues. Also, Housing First is considered a good option because landlords are guaranteed rent.

Fundraising Update

Mr. Focht indicated that he and Ms. Janet Miller had a phone conference last Thursday with Bishop Jones on how to collaborate to reach fundraising goals for the Resource and Referral Center. Concerns were expressed that denominational barriers may exist and perhaps options should be explored to overcome such barriers. In addition to the capital campaign, it was suggested that the Oversight Committee could champion the transportation component and figure out how to structure a fundraising campaign to support the transportation component of the Plan.

Overflow Shelter Update

Mr. Grisamore provided an update on the progress of the Winter Overflow shelter. This year, the overflow shelter is scheduled to open from November 2008 to March 2009 which extends the length of time the overflow shelter will be available. He indicated that downtown churches are working together achieve their financial goal of raising 25 percent of the overflow budget by November. To meet fundraising goals, Interfaith has created a fundraising model that incorporates various forms of media. It was stated that campaign staff have calculated a cost of \$4 per night to house a homeless person.

HUD SuperNOFA Application Update

Ms. Beth Oaks, Vice President of United Way, presented an update on the SuperNOFA application process. She described the various community services that were eligible for funding in addition to those services that HUD will not fund. It was stated that HUD will not fund homeless prevention activities or emergency shelter operational costs. Also, she highlighted that HUD funding is based upon the pro-rata need which is based upon criteria established by HUD. Criteria used for evaluating community need include poverty, housing overcrowding, population, age of housing, and growth lag. Currently, the Wichita/Sedgwick County community is eligible for \$1,723,345 in funding which, if received, will be distributed across agencies participating in the process. This year, the HUD application is via electronic submission which has presented new challenges in the process. Additionally, Safe Havens are now more distinguished and are no longer classified between groups/components.

This year, 30 percent of allocated funds must be utilized for permanent supportive housing and ten percent for permanent housing for chronically homeless. Also, communities are also required to detail how existing resources are utilized which is also figured into the selection process.

Next Meeting and agenda topics:

- Next meeting will be Wednesday, October 29th at the Sedgwick County Courthouse, 525 N. Main in the County Managers Board Room. Parking is available in the lot adjacent to the building, on the street, or in parking garage.
- Topics to be discussed include: Housing First update, federal resources – where they are flowing and how they are being utilized in the community, follow-up on the faith community's participation in the Plan.

Reminder:

- Oversight Committee meetings are considered open meetings, and community members may attend to listen. However, public input or comment is not allotted for on the agenda. Individuals interested in speaking with a committee member may contact them immediately prior or after the meeting, may submit comments to staff at www.sedgwickcounty.org, or may contact the committee chairman (contact information is posted at www.sedgwickcounty.org).