

Minutes
Plan to End Chronic Homelessness: Oversight Committee
October 29, 2008
County Manager's Boardroom
1:30 – 3:00 p.m.

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

Committee Members Absent: Sue Castile

Guests: Ann Curl, Shelly Haupt, Beth Oaks and Mary K. Vaughn, Officer Nate Schwiethale, Officer Brian Feuerborn

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.

Work Plan for 2009

Deborah Donaldson requested that the Oversight Committee create a work plan for 2009. The work plan would guide the Committee's efforts over the next year. Melissa Walker, Janet Miller and Ray Frederick agreed to work as a subcommittee to establish the work plan. They will present the work plan to the full committee at the January, 2009 meeting.

Funding Updates

Resource and Referral Center: Jack Focht updated the group on the fundraising efforts by United Methodist Open Door (UMOD), as he participates on the fundraising steering committee. At this point, UMOD has ceased all fundraising efforts until November 8th due to the United Way fundraising blackout period. However, they have been able to raise money (prior to the blackout period) and secure pledges from the UMOD Board of Directors.

Jack called on Mary K. Vaughn to speak about a potential funding source from the City for the Resource and Referral Center. She said that Councilman Jeff Longwell expressed an interest in using CDBG funds (FY10) to help pay for rehabilitation of a building acquired for the Resource and Referral Center. Mary K. stated that this would be an allowable use of CDBG funds, but because the City is not receiving additional funds in FY10, it would require taking funds from another project or program. The Committee requested a list of what projects/programs CDBG currently funded. Jack suggested that the work plan subcommittee review the list and make a recommendation to Mary K. on the amount to request. Melissa Walker requested a breakdown of the major pots of money the City and County receive for homelessness. Staff will provide the Oversight Committee with such a list.

Overflow Shelter: The 2008-2009 winter overflow shelter will begin operations on November 1st. AECH is the sponsor, who has contracted with Inter-Faith Ministries. The shelter will be held

at five different downtown churches. Check-in will be at Inter-Faith Inn, next to the Lord's Diner. From there, persons seeking shelter will be directed towards or provided transportation to the appropriate church. Overflow staff will make sure to inform Officer Nate Schwiethale each time the location changes. AECH has raised \$45,000 of their \$60,000 goal for the shelter operations.

Continuum of Care handouts: Deborah Donaldson provided the Committee with handouts regarding the HUD SuperNofa requirements, Supportive Housing Programs, and the Wichita-Sedgwick County Continuum of Care.

During discussion of the Continuum of Care, Ben Grisamore stated that the Council of Chronic Homeless Advocates (CCHA) would like input from the Oversight Committee on what their role in the community should be. Currently, their role includes information sharing among agencies as well as development of the annual Continuum of Care application. However, their make-up does not meet the new requirements set forth by HUD for a "community advisory council." HUD requires a broader base of representatives. In addition to the CCHA, the Wichita Homeless Services Coalition (WHSC) meets monthly. The WHSC is a volunteer group of front-line service providers that come together for problem solving and information sharing. Jack requested the work plan subcommittee discuss CCHA, and determine what a new community input process would look like for the Continuum of Care application.

Update: Ticketing of homeless in public areas:

Janet Miller and others had heard through outreach workers and in a broadcast interview that the Wichita Police were ticketing homeless in parks and at "sleep-in" rallies. To investigate further, she and Ray Frederick arranged a meeting with Mayor Carl Brewer, Sharon Fearey, Captain John Speer, and Chief Norman Williams to determine whether ticketing was happening, and if so, if any alternatives would be available.

The outcome of the meeting was an agreement that the Oversight Committee should work with Police Department to problem solve when issues such as this arise. Officers Nate Schwiethale (Beat 28 Coordinator) and Brian Feuerborn (Beat 42 Coordinator) should be our contacts for such issues. Both work on homeless-related issues and Officer Schwiethale hosts a quarterly Police/homeless service provider meeting. To keep communication lines open, Officers Schwiethale and Feuerborn will be notified of future Oversight Committee meeting and actions, and Officer Schwiethale will keep the Oversight Committee informed of and invited to the quarterly meetings.

Housing First update:

Shelly Haupt has spent the past few months laying the groundwork for the January 1 program implementation. She has contacted landlords, and 28 of the 64 contacted are willing to provide rental units for the program. She has also worked to secure resources to furnish the apartments. She has sent 90 letters to community agencies soliciting donations. She has received good responses from hotels and is already storing items for January distribution.

Ann Curl reported that the Housing First pilot program (a COMCARE, United Way and Hope, Inc. partnership) is going well; all 7 units were leased in July and the same clients still occupy

the units. Relations are positive, and one client has even asked to receive substance use treatment.

Homeless Plan Coordinator position application process:

Tim Kaufman reported that Human Services has received many applications for the position, and staff is in the process of interviewing for the position.

SOAR update:

Rachelle Moody reported that three SOAR trainings have been delivered so far, with one more scheduled in December. Training attendees have included COMCARE staff, including the entire Center City staff, and homeless service providers. The training in December will be delivered to Corrections and re-entry staff. The Center City program has started the benefits application process with their first few clients, and we are eagerly awaiting outcomes.

Next Meeting:

January, 2009. Date/time/location to be determined.

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.