

Minutes
Plan to End Chronic Homelessness: Oversight Committee
April 9, 2009
Sedgwick County CDDO, 615 N Main
3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

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

Committee Members Absent: TJ Akin

Audience: Deborah Donaldson, Tim Kaufman, Shelly Haupt, Mary K. Vaughn, Ann Curl, Deann Smith, Beth Oaks, Sandy Swank

Staff: Christine Tomkus

Welcome & Approval of minutes from February 19, 2009:

Jack Focht, Committee Chairman, began the meeting by welcoming committee members, guests, and staff. Committee members reviewed and approved previous meeting minutes.

Police Update:

Christine Tomkus reported that she went on a ride along with Officer Schwiethale to outreach chronically homeless which the police department have identified. Christine and Officer Schwiethale outreached eleven individuals; all were given information on how to apply if interested in Housing First.

Janet Miller reported that the group of individuals who normally use the park to offer food to the homeless on weekends will move their site to another area of the park in order for other agencies/groups to use the park space.

TECH Support Letter:

Christine Tomkus briefly discussed the TECH support letter for an Integrated Dual Disorders Treatment (IDDT) grant. Committee agreed to support this grant. Jack Focht signed the letter of support.

Quarterly Education Meeting:

Christine Tomkus discussed the Community Council on Homeless Advocacy (CCHA) request for the Oversight Committee to hold a Quarterly Community Education meeting designed to broaden community knowledge on issues related to homelessness. Deann Smith explained that HUD requirements include community feedback and involvement on homeless intervention. Jack requested that Christine write up a proposal for this request to review and determine the best approach to offering these meetings.

Report to City and County:

The committee discussed the report to the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) and City Council. Christine Tomkus reviewed the information presented in the written report and the Power Point Presentation. Debbie reported that the United Way may be ending their contract with the Housing First Pilot Program and may transfer these residents into the County/City Housing First program. Ray suggested a Housing First resident attend the BOCC meeting to testify about how the program has helped him.

The goal of Housing First was discussed; to house 64 residents in the program by the end of 2009 and that they remain housed for at least one year. Sue reviewed the logic model and reported that it states “the number placed in housing will remain housed”.

Wichita Emergency Shelter Update:

Sandy swank from Inter Faith Inn reported the following data on the Winter Emergency Shelter:

- Total of 373 unduplicated people were served
- 367 were identified as chronically homeless according to the HUD definition
- 293 were males; 83 were females
- 57 have their GED; 11 have their High School diploma
- 369 were unemployed; 4 worked full time; 49 worked part time
- 320 accessed case management
- 109 were placed in temporary/permanent housing

Resource and Referral Center Update:

Deann Smith reported that the Resource and Referral Center has collected \$1.5 million in donations for the center. There is another \$800,000 possibly pending. This month they will kick off their major funding efforts for individual and corporate funding. The closing date for the building has been scheduled for on or before December 31, 2009.

Review of Work Plan:

Work Plan was reviewed by Oversight Committee. We will continue to review progress on this.

As May Arise:

Mary K and Shelly reported that donations are continuing to be collected for Housing First residents. The Youth Council is also involved in collecting donations.

Mary K reported that a social worker contacted the City of Wichita Housing Office to inquire if individuals without legal status would be eligible for the Housing First Program. The Oversight Committee decided that this would be determined on a case by case basis.

Mary K reported that the City has been allotted \$1.1 million in stimulus money as part of the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP). There will be a meeting with community service providers next week to discuss distribution of these funds. Participants receiving these funds are able to receive assistance for up to 18 months. Progress must be reviewed every three months.

Christine reported she will be on maternity leave toward the end of July. Brandi Clarke will be covering during Christine's absence.

Next Meeting:

Time, date and location TBD