

**Minutes**  
**Plan to End Chronic Homelessness: Oversight Committee**  
**February 19, 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

**Guests:** Ann Curl, Shelly Haupt, Mary K. Vaughn, Deann Smith, Beth Oaks, Sandy Swank

**Staff Present:** Deborah Donaldson, Tim Kaufman, Christine Tomkus

**Welcome & Approval of minutes from January 29, 2009:**

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

**Resource and Referral Center Update:**

Deann Smith reported that the Resource and Referral kick-off was held on February 17, 2009 and was a great success. Center currently has received over \$1 million in pledges. Progress continues to be made with funding. Closing dates have not yet been finalized on project. Center will meet with Department of Labor to seek extension on closing date. Transportation to the new Center is still being determined. (Jack Focht plans to meet with local ministries to work on resolution for transportation issue).

**Point in Time Count:**

Beth Oaks reported that the official homeless count is anticipated to be completed sometime around early April. The count went well, especially in larger communities. United Way is pleased with the results of other counties who used Sedgwick's County's model for the count. The HMIS program was not set up throughout the state and therefore was not used in all agencies completing the counts this year. Data is currently being entered into the HMIS program and is sorting through any inconsistencies and 'duplicated' clients. Only complaints of the count were that it was bitterly cold and some pens did not work due to cold temperatures. Also, there were not as many 'returning volunteers' as last year, as well as the overall number of volunteers as last year. Overall volunteers this year were very pleased with the experience and outcome. Some said the experience of walking on the streets, looking for, and speaking to homeless individuals "opened their eyes" to the conditions homeless people face daily. The statewide awareness of homelessness increased dramatically, which resulted in a huge Point in Time Count success.

**Develop Report to City and County:**

The committee discussed developing the report to the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC). The report will be developed to present in mid to late April. Topics to be discussed are:

- History of the plan development
- Responsibilities of the Oversight Committee
- Report on the Resource and Referral Center
- Report on the Overflow Shelter
- Report on the Point In Time Count
- Report on Housing First

Oversight Committee will not be asking for an increase in funding for next fiscal year. The budget is currently designed to pay rent, utilities, and other associated costs for sixty four (64) people. Some issues related to Housing First include landlord requirements, background checks, clients with felonies, and the management companies for some properties. Solutions are currently in progress for these issues.

**Winter Emergency Shelter Update:**

Ben Grisamore reported that the emergency shelter will be closing in mid-March. The Shelter will be moving to St. John's facility. Shelter numbers have been estimated at 120 per night, but have been spiking up and down this last month. Numbers are anticipated to decline beginning in March. Advocates to End Chronic Homelessness (AECH) report they are committed to continuing assistance for the next two years if needed.

**Police Report:**

Police officers were unable to attend the meeting and therefore did not provide a report.

**As May Arise:**

Oversight Committee would like to invite Sandy Swank from Inter-Faith Ministries to the next meeting to provide an update on the Overflow Shelter.

Melissa Walker is working on a program assessment for Housing First using her WSU Program Evaluation course students. Ann Curl and Traci Addington are scheduled to speak to her class about the Housing First program.

Rachelle Moody announced that this Friday February 20<sup>th</sup> will be her last day working with the Division of Human Services. She accepted a position at the Workforce Alliance of South Central Kansas and will start next week.

**Next Meeting:**

Thursday April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2009: location is TBD