

**Minutes**  
**Plan to End Chronic Homelessness: Oversight Committee**  
**June 25, 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:** Tim Kaufman, Brandi Clarke, Shelly Haupt, Ann Curl, Officer Nathan Schwiethale

**Staff:** Christine Tomkus

**Welcome & Approval of minutes from April 9, 2009:**

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

**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. Information on the Point in Time Count was discussed.

**Media Plan:**

Christine Tomkus presented a written media plan which will be posted on the Sedgwick County website. Oversight Committee members and public are able to review the plan online to receive the most up to date information on the City of Wichita- Sedgwick County 10 Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness. The plan will be updated weekly on the county website to reflect changes in numbers regarding Housing First participants, funding for the Resource and Referral Center, and other related information. All were provided instructions to view the website. Shelly Haupt reported that the City of Wichita is also looking to post information on their website as well.

### **SOAR Update:**

Tim Kaufman reported on SOAR (SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery). The number of approved applications is increasing. SOAR outcomes are currently being evaluated on the timeframe and success of the applications. Two SOAR trainings have been conducted this year. Kansas is working to become a SOAR state. There will be another Train the Trainers training in September; thereafter the trainers will train the rest of the Kansas CMHC's to become a SOAR state.

### **Homeless Plan Specialist Update:**

Christine Tomkus reported that Sedgwick County Division of Human Services received a \$5000 grant from the Kansas Health Foundation to provide hygiene kits for the homeless entering the Housing First program. She reported on presentations that she has done regarding Housing First, as well as ones that are scheduled, to include COMCARE programs, Breakthrough Club, Domestic Violence shelter, Social Workers from Via Christi, NAHRO, VA Homeless Stand Down, and the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Homeless Summit.

Christine reported she researched information on the Denver, CO Housing First program and spoke to a member to find out how they work with problematic situations in the program to include:

- Sit down and discuss issues with the resident (substance abuse, inability to pay their portion of rent/utilities, visitors/roommates, apartment property misplaced)
- Explain we are trying to help the resident to keep their housing
- Discuss representative payee options with resident as needed
- May require a form of treatment if they continue to exhibit problems that jeopardize their housing
- If individual gets married or becomes pregnant the HF program will continue assistance with plan to transition to long term family services.

Christine reported that a member from the Wichita Homeless Services Coalition was asked how to receive updates on the City of Wichita- Sedgwick County 10 Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness. Janet suggested the TECH members be invited to the next Oversight Committee meeting. She also asked for Deann Smith to be invited for an update on the Resource and Referral Center, and a member of AECH to report on the kickoff on the funding for the Winter Emergency Overflow Shelter. The kickoff will be held on July 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:30am at the First Methodist Church.

### **Housing First Update:**

Shelly Haupt provided an update on the Housing First program to include the number of individuals housed, approved, and exited. Shelly reported on the success of receiving donations for the program. Melissa requested data on the outcomes of the Housing First program, particularly the number of individuals in treatment. Shelly, Ann, and Christine explained the success seen thus far with the program and positive outcomes.

**Review of Work Plan:**

Work Plan was reviewed by Oversight Committee. The transportation issue will be moved to the first quarter of 2010. Melissa reported she would like to into ways to increase county funding through the SuperNofa before the application is due. Christine will inform the Oversight Committee when the SuperNofa funding will be available. Melissa offered to advocate to Washington if necessary to work on increasing Sedgwick County funding.

**Police Report:**

Officer Nate reported on the Point in Time count information; the Count may be done in the summer of 2010 to compare to the numbers seen in the winter. HUD requires the count to be done every other year, next being 2011. The county may consider the summer 2010 count since many providers believe there are more homeless in the county in the summer. More information on the Point in Time count is available on the United Way of the Plains website.

Officer Nate reported there are over 300 people attending the Diacanose lunches. Police are looking into ways/alternatives to assist in managing the large crowd since space is becoming an issue.

**As May Arise:**

Jack reported that the VA has land available on their property for a Transitional Housing program. Bids will be reviewed by community providers to develop/establish a transitional housing program on their property. Community provider will be responsible for building and running the facility. Veterans will have preference and will continue to work with the VA with appropriate services.

Sue asked for an update on the Quarterly Community Education meetings CCHA requested of the Oversight Committee. Christine reported that the Continuum of Care is researching this request further to determine the necessary functions being requested of the Oversight Committee. This issue will be discussed at a later meeting once more information has been received.

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

**Next Meeting:**

Thursday September 24<sup>th</sup> from 3:15 to 4:30 at the Ark Valley Lodge, CDDO, 615 N. Main St.