

Coordinating Committee to End Homelessness (CCEH) Meeting Minutes



May 19, 2010
First United Methodist Church

Facilitated by: Jean DeMaster and Marc Jolin

Prepared by: Zane Potter

Reviewed by: Steering Committee

Present: Sonja Arigbon, Melissa Ballard, Caren Baumgart, Heather Brown, Gary Cobb, Ryan Deibert, James Delaney, Jean DeMaster, Patty Doyle, Ashley Egeland, Sally Erickson, Sarah Granger, Theresa Guerrero, Tina Hadley, John Hawkes, Donald Hice, Amanda Hurley, Abie Ilias, Liv Janssen, David Johnson, Marc Jolin, Beth Kaye, David Knapp, Oleg Kubrahov, Mary Li, Jane Netboy, Alison Mcintosh, Gina Montenaro, Rob Rankin, Sheila Riley, Leo Rhodes, Shannon Singleton, Larry Turner, Lynne Walker, Bobby Weinstock, Linda Wenning, Serena Wesley, David White, Renata Wilson, Margaret Van Vliet

Action Items/Next Steps:

- Marc Jolin, JOIN, stated that CCEH will submit comments on behalf of CCEH in response to the HEARTH Act Reauthorization, Proposed Homeless Definitions. Mr. Jolin urged agencies to submit comments of their own by the June 21, 2010 deadline. See <http://bit.ly/dgDss3> to submit comments.
- Jennifer Chang, PHB, announced that CCEH is receiving nominations for the CCEH 2010 Achievement Awards. A total of seven individuals or organizations will receive awards on the July 21, 2010 CCEH meeting. Nominations are due by Friday, June 11, 2010. For questions, contact Jennifer via email jennifer.chang@portlandoregon.gov or by phone: 503 823-2391.
- Next Meeting: Wednesday, June 16, 2010, 3-5 p.m., FUMC Room 202.

City of Portland and Multnomah County Budget Updates (Margaret Van Vliet, Portland Housing Bureau and Mary Li, DCHS Multnomah County)

Ms. Van Vliet stated that the Portland Housing Bureau's FY 2010-11 requested budget is essentially the same as the previous year's budget. The Bureau had sought to convert \$4.2 million of the general fund from one-time to ongoing, however the Mayor's proposed budget does not include additional ongoing funds. A special appropriation of \$1 million was awarded to PHB, which will help to address the immediate housing needs of unsheltered Portlanders. Finally, Ms. Van Vliet stated that in the coming years the Bureau's budget will shrink when the Tax Incremental Financing (TIF) funds decline.

Ms. Li stated that Multnomah County's FY2010-11 budget was a great year for new funding, especially for critical service programs. The budget principle adopted by the board was "don't thin the soup." Some of the highlights include: year-round emergency shelter for homeless families with children, secured funding for Bridges to Housing, a new position to focus on faith-based partnerships, expansion of teen parenting services, secured funds for a non-profit hotel, additional funds for healthy weekend meals for children and families, support to address and reduce sex-trafficking and expanded outreach to address homelessness in East Multnomah County and. Ms. Li stated now is the time to celebrate; however, 12 months from now the county may have budget cuts that will have a collateral impact on all programs.

Bridges to Housing – (Janet Byrd, Neighborhood Partnerships)

Formed in 2006, Bridges to Housing (B2H) is a unique cross-sector collaborative that provides permanent homes and support services for families with high needs experiencing homelessness in the four-county metro area. The evaluation of B2H was conducted by Portland State University's Regional Research Institute. The evaluation contained 3 parts – a longitudinal study, an outcome study and what happened if B2H didn't exist. The report focused on families who have been in the program for 18 months or more. B2H currently serves over 300 families, with over 129 families served in Multnomah County. An additional 10 families from Multnomah County will be served in June. Ms. Byrd stated that taken as a whole, families have made gains in safety, stability and child wellbeing. In addition, families have experienced impressive improvements in basic life skills, social support networks and progress towards education or employment. Ms. Byrd stated they are currently forming different strategies that combat the trauma families are facing in months 12 through 18 of the program. She encouraged audience members to view the 70 paged report at <http://neighborhoodpartnerships.org/>

One of the questions asked by audience members was:

- *What are the causes for dropping out of the program?*
The least successful participants in the program are those who have a history of mental illness and unfortunately cannot maintain access to mental health care. Evaluators have found that homeless families live with PTSD and begin to understand this trauma once they have been in the program for 12 to 18 months.

Community Discussion: HEARTH Act Reauthorization, Proposed Homeless Definitions (Ryan Deibert, Portland Housing Bureau and CCEH Steering Committee)

HUD recently published the proposed rule for the definition of homelessness, as part of the implementation of the HEARTH Act (Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing Act of 2009). The proposed changes to the homeless definitions will impact the eligible populations that agencies can serve with HUD McKinney funds. This is the first reauthorization since 1992. Some of the changes highlighted by Mr. Deibert included:

- New ESG and increased focus on prevention – The Emergency Shelter Grant will become the Emergency Solution Grant and the amount of ESG funds will increase from 10% of federal funds dedicated to homelessness to 20%.
- New Continuum of Care (CoC) Program – The new program will combine the Shelter Plus Care (S+C), Supportive Housing Program (SHP), and Single Room Occupancy Moderate Rehabilitation into a single program. Additionally, there will be simplified match requirements.
- Change in CoC application process and incentives – This will be similar to the existing process; however, more focus will be on performance measures through different measures.

Mr. Deibert stated that HUD is trying to align their definition of who is homeless with the definition used by other federal agencies through these changes. These changes will not be implemented until the FY 2011. Mr. Deibert stated that third party documentation of proof of homelessness will be a difficult process. Instead, a signed client statement should serve as acceptable minimum documentation. Lastly, the temporary residence in an institution definition has been changed from 30 days to 90 days. CCEH Steering Committee has recommended that this time be extended to 120 days. Public comments on these proposed changes will be accepted at <http://bit.ly/dgDss3> until June 21, 2010. For a full summary of the changes visit <http://bit.ly/bTWPNY>. Mr. Jolin announced that comments will be to HUD on behalf of CCEH stating that substance of the proposed definitions is OK. Yet, there are some concerns if the 3rd party documentation requirements are reasonable. Mr. Jolin stated agencies should submit comments of their own.

Other Announcements

- Marc Jolin announced that the CCEH Steering Committee will read aloud a message thanking the City Council for their continued support of homelessness services at the Community Budget Hearing on May 20, 2010.
- Dan White, Union Gospel Mission, announced that they currently have 25 openings for homeless individuals at their Life Change Center on 3 NW Third Avenue. The only qualifications are that individuals stay and change your life. Mr. White can be reached at 503 274-4483.
- Dignity Village is hosting an event that will include Gypsies from Romania and an orchestra on Friday, May 21, 2010. The event begins at 2 pm and is located at 9401 NE Sunderland Ave, Portland, OR 97211.
- Jean DeMaster, Human Solutions, announced a human trafficking film will be shown on May 21 in the Multnomah County Commissioners office at 2:30 pm. Research shows this issue impacts Portland and funding should be increased, especially for youth.