



Minneapolis / Hennepin County Office to End Homelessness

Research, Planning and Development Department

A-2308 Government Center

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Heading Home Hennepin March 10th, 2010 Community Working Meeting Summary

Prevention:

At the March 10th meeting, the majority of the discussion in the Prevention group focused on existing goals that were outlined in the plan. Most support was for improving services for ex-offenders and youth and adult discharge; targeting and measuring current prevention efforts were also at the top of the list. Other areas of discussion included examining prevention for homeowners and renters who are facing foreclosure, and continuing to expand FHPAP.

Recommendations	Comments	Votes	
Expand FHPAP	update plan, concrete strategy to reach goals in plan	7	1
Expand Providers/populations Served by FHPAP		0	0
Improve Youth Discharge	Job Training - Employment Services; improve communication with community and institutions; broaden perspective of education, develop skills; utilize Faith Based programs, culturally specific programs	2	2
Improve Adult Discharge	Prevent discharge to homelessness, connect housing resources to existing in-reach programs at corrections, utilize Faith Based programs,	7	2
Family Support for Ex-Offenders	more education for families of ex-offenders; more support systems not only for family; research "Living Way Christian Center"; Create opportunities to become active members of community; support networks for family w/offenders; AA, ALANON; advocacy with ex offenders - mentoring; utilize Faith Based programs	4	1
Identify Conflict Resolution and Mediation Services		1	0
Expand Parent Support Outreach Program		0	0
Expand Refugee Housing and Services	strengthen prevention, more focus on Rapid exit	2	0
Services for Single Adults	Additional funding needed	3	1
Hospital to Home Pilot	Long Term Medical Respite Programs	4	0
Target and Measure prevention efforts for more efficiency		15	3
Foreclosures, Homeowners, and Renters		4	1
How are we measuring our goals		1	0

Outreach:

The Outreach groups at the March 10th meeting discussed the success of existing outreach programs and expressed concern that they continue to be funded, and perhaps expanded. Conversations supported a broader outreach effort, such as connecting to mental health resources, developing culturally specific outreach efforts, and leveraging the work of volunteers to assist with outreach. Strengthening mental health resources received the most votes as a new area to develop. The other two areas that received the most votes were leveraging more funding for street outreach and examining local ordinances that criminalize homelessness. There was a suggestion that volunteer law students may be interested in helping with this type of research. Two other topics were discussed that related to other parts of the plan. There was considerable discussion regarding the use of volunteers to support outreach efforts, as well as assist people once they have been housed. The groups also expressed desire to support a public education campaign and/or conduct outreach in suburban Hennepin to reach hidden homelessness.

Recommendations	Comments	Votes	
Develop 24/7 Outreach (Coordinated Outreach)	Find more funding; utilize volunteers; convene outreach providers to coordinate; bridge youth to adult	7	3
Support Act Teams		2	0
Examine Ordinances that Criminalize Homelessness	Ask law and Humphrey students to do research; connect with Community Court	7	1
Strengthen Medical Respite Programs		0	0
Strengthen Mental Health Resources		15	2
Expand Culturally Appropriate Outreach	Split into 2: Native outreach+ medical outreach; apply for grants; connect with Indian Health Board	14	3
Suburban Outreach for Youth and Families	Hold Suburban Summit on Homelessness (NW,W,S); raise \$70k to hire outreach worker; include FHPAP & DCEH	3	0
Increase Volunteer Outreach Assistance	Connect PHC, DCEH, Hands on Twin Cities; orientation to future volunteer opps after PHC; Connect w/ Sys. Imp.	6	4
Expand Outreach Service Area	Expand housing resources/case managers specifically connected with outreach clients	2	0
Outreach to families in suburbs	develop informational brochures	4	0
Community Education Campaign	especially panhandling; combine w/Systems Improvements	5	1

Housing:

At the March 10th community working meeting there was a robust discussion focused on the plan's housing goals, and on new areas that need more focus in upcoming years. While there was support for the existing efforts defined in the plan, there was some agreement that there needs to be a focus on the most realistic goals, and that some of the goals may need to be set aside for the time being. Among those that are not working and will be on hold are the goals on Suburban zoning, suburban density bonuses, and comprehensive plans. The community identified a number of new areas of focus, such as creating programs for people transitioning from GRH housing to market rate housing, exploring options for providing services and housing for undocumented workers, creating a more comprehensive housing continuum for youth (including shelter, host homes, and permanent supportive housing), creating an outreach and housing mechanism for homeless seniors and veterans, improving efforts for matching participant needs with appropriate resources, providing housing and supports for ex-offenders, using volunteers to help provide informal community supports, expanding rapid exit to include domestic violence shelters, and educating the greater community about homelessness and how to end it.

Recommendations	Comments	Votes	
Housing for Youth/Shelter/culturally appropriate youth housing continuum	Develop and fund a suburban housing continuum for youth; keep shelter in the Plan; Re-examine Production #'s; examine foreclosures for housing	18	8
Housing For Singles	Re-examine Production #'s; Explore Foreclosures for housing; Explore expanding 15% rule for GRH	3	0
Housing for Families	Re-examine Production #'s; Explore Foreclosures for housing; Suburban school strategies	12	0
Identify Housing Dev Sites in Suburbs		0	0
Encourage Transit Oriented Development		0	0
Change Award Criteria for Funding in Non-impacted areas	DONE	0	0
Housing Pool and Tenant Education	Promote existing Tenant Ed programs - LSS, CAPSH, Jeremiah	1	0
Family and Faith Support Program	Explore "host Community" concept	0	0
Expand Case Management for Youth		5	0
Expand Rapid exit	expand to DV Shelters	6	2
Expand Housing Inventory Models		0	0
Encourage Comp Plans -> zoning and barriers to Housing		5	2
Housing for Ex-Offenders	Identify Family Resources; Promote housing of Ex-O's to Landlords	14	0
Expand Housing Supports for Offenders	Explore intervention plans for chronic offenders	12	5

Step Down housing (transition btw programs)	Eg. GRH-> fair market	14	5
Family /Singles Mentoring and Community Integration		1	0
Streamline VASH	Analyze & Discuss problems, Work w/community on solutions; Expand Eligibility for VA programs; Look at discharge criteria (DDR); Agreed upon housing timeline	1	2
Senior Housing	Create in-reach to move Seniors onto benefits and into housing; Community support of in-reach workers through identification and referral	1	0
Expand Host Homes to Suburbs		0	0
Expand use of GRH to outreach and other shelters	expand	6	1
Focus on Fair Housing - Racial testing	Hold Suburban Summit on Homelessness (NW,W,S); raise \$70k to hire outreach worker; include FHPAP & DCEH	1	0
Explore Housing for Undocumented Homeless	Research best practices in other communities; Explore Private funding; Collaborate w/Latino & other communities to provide services; focus on undocumented youth	3	0
Expand Representative Payees	Expand Alliance of the streets model	2	0
Develop Baseline Data and Evaluation Measures	Better use of school data; capture historical data to develop baseline; Share data with community	4	0
Use Volunteers in a more productive manner	homeless mentoring system	7	2
Create a consumer Advisory board	users of services; Should be topic specific; connection between advice and change	0	0
more community education	educate affected community about resources; speakers bureau; create on-line resource-Hennepin homelessness 101; Add to HS and U of M curriculum;	17	9
GRH Transition	Change Legislation, develop work group to help Duane	13	6
Document Successes	in conjunction with "community education" group,	1	0
Match participant needs and appropriate resources	Coordinate with Metro Supportive services workgroup; break down walls between systems; coordinate and communicate between systems; research best practices (especially for teens and parents); Focused task forces for youth esp.; Quick effective connections to employment, childcare, housing for families; move folks along continuum appropriately; concerted efforts for teen parents	20	2

Service Delivery:

The conversations on Service Delivery emphasized clarifying three of the goals of the plan, as well as identifying new ways to go about moving forward on those goals. New ideas were generated but the major discussion item was developing more service funding for the entire continuum of services. The community agreed that this requires immediate focus and priority should be placed on developing an inventory map, creating flexible mental health services identified as best practices, a drop-in center for youth, and supporting children with early childhood education. The need for meaningful activities for individuals newly placed into housing was articulated but did not have people committed to developing potential strategies. It was determined that some of the goals of the plan are less urgent, such as creating system navigators, increasing access to Rule 25, leveraging federal funding, and creating no wrong door for veterans.

Recommendations	Comments	Votes	
Opportunity Centers	VA Presence; Expand to Family Opportunity Center	9	0
Develop Inventory map	web based program with professional and community services; connect with 211, Handbook of the streets, and Wilder; Access front door services - strategic staff trainings on resources	15	1
Systems Navigators	Connection with legislative commission to end poverty, consistency of providers	3	0
Drop in Centers for youth	Convene Youth Providers; trainer/how to for creating Drop in	12	2
Increase Rule 25 Access	Funding for rule 25's at Opportunity centers	3	0
No Wrong Door for veterans/no wrong door for anyone	Developing stronger relationships/collaboration; discharge status - advocacy within the system	2	0
Child Care for Parents in Treatment	Grant Opportunity Emerging/other grants; using out of home placement	1	1
More Service Funding	Collaboration across sectors; need for Service Funding - Report Coming out; Efficient of service funding - appropriate; Funding for Aftercare ->educate funders and facilitate conversation; advocate collaboration; new frame for funding	36	5
Meaningful Activities - Community engagement with Housed People	Pilot of successful model projects/circles of support; Focus Groups of Clients - Empowerment and ownership; collaboration with parks and Rec; creative business/job opps in the suburbs; sustainable employment; advocating for federal funding	11	0
Leveraging Federal Funding (TANF, FSTEP)		3	0
Pregnancy Prevention	Community Sex Ed, Education of Preg Prevention geared toward all teens, coordinate with MN dept of Adolescent Health and Medicine	6	0
Flexible MH Services	Access for all health issues; Coordinate MH Efforts ->research best practices, base level for case managers; non-traditional services ie. Tx teams (Ohio); homeless specific training for therapists	12	4
Support Children with Early Childhood Ed	de-link MFIP with Child Care; Dept of Ed and DHS meet; Children's work group to study and recommend best practices; more funding for truancy prevention; matching children with schools where they thrive; Access state groups focused on early childhood mental health; connect with schools	13	5

Self-Support:

Each of the Self-Support group's four discussions touched on the importance of GA/EGA/MFIP in allowing people to build capacity for self-support. The part of the plan that received the largest number of votes was increasing employment opportunities. Action steps that were suggested in this area included partnering with the Department of Vocational Rehab and creating an employment program that collaborates with GRH. Developing youth employment and hospitality pilots are areas of the plan that have as yet not moved forward. While these two pilots received few votes, many ideas and action steps arose during community discussion on strategies to increase youth employment opportunities, such as developing an internship pilot with stipends, expanding traditional employment and social enterprise opportunities, and researching other models of youth employment initiatives. Two new focus areas surrounding education were identified by the community and received large numbers of votes. The first was a need for educational opportunities and placing an emphasis on people utilizing these opportunities. The second was a life skills mentorship program that would allow those who have become stable to mentor and teach basic life skills to others who are homeless or newly housed.

Recommendations	Comments	Votes	
Increase Employment Opportunities	Lobby for transition time from GRH to Employment; Encourage education (GRE, etc.); create employment program that pairs with GRH; create access to resources for ex-offenders; partner with the Dept of Vocational Rehab	20	1
Model Hiring Process for Mpls/Hennepin co		0	0
Employment Pilot for youth	Develop internship pilot and find funding for stipends; survey youth - find out what they want; expand traditional employment and social enterprise opps; research other models of youth employment initiatives	5	0
Hospitality Pilot for youth	Survey what would be needed for this work	1	0
Budgeting/Money Management	Moving agencies/govt units to support asset reform; participation in FAM/IOA (?) programs	2	0
EITC education and outreach		0	0
Transportation subsidies	Shift met council subsidies from monthly to annual; lobby for low-income discounts; expand discounts	3	2
Life skills Mentorship Program	Survey possible participants, find out what they need; identify clients that could be mentors	15	1
Supplementary Income	legislative action; develop strategies for these losing assistance	2	0
Increase Educational Opportunities		18	0

Systems Improvements:

Because the Systems Improvements area of the plan is less extensive than others there was a limited amount of discussion in this area. However, several great ideas and interests were produced as a result of the discussion. The main areas of interest were in aligning with the existing Cultural Competency Committee, aligning policies of local, state, and federal plans, and providing efficient and consistent services to shelter guests. No new groups were formed but new members will be added to existing efforts.

Recommendations	Comments	Votes	
Efficient Use of Shelter Capacity	Identify existing space; identify \$ sources; plan for operation; set goals for long term users; uniform intake; develop realtime, shared data systems;	8	1
Uniform Services to Shelter Guests	Get new staff up to speed; uniform intake; develop day time resources (lockers, storage, activities, services); address service capacity differences btw fams/youth/singles	10	1
Establish Family Services Network		0	0
Truancy Intervention		0	0
Cultural Competency Advisory board		7	4
Align Policies and Goals of Local, State and Federal Plans	County to county Policy differences	6	3
Extend Food stamps for youth	create a rule for if 3-month rule is re-instated	0	0
Increase access to EA for youth	EA unallotment - change legislation and add single adults; revise guidelines (less screening out); job training	3	1
Fast track applications for youth	EA form youth team	2	0
Coordinate Funder Requirements		1	0
Job Specific training across county		0	0

Thanks to all of you who took part in this fun and exciting process. If you were unable to attend the March 10 meeting there is still a place for you in these community efforts. Please let our office know if you are interested in becoming part of any of the efforts identified in this document, or if you believe there are gaps that were not addressed by the community at this meeting. Again, thank you for being part of this work, and please contact us if there is anything with which the Office to End Homelessness can assist you.

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