



## EVANSTON HOMELESS TASK FORCE MINUTES

March 4, 2011

**Present:** Elizabeth Tisdahl, Mayor; Alderman Dolores Holmes, Alderman Ann Rainey, Sue Calder, Co-Chair; Karen Singer, Co-Chair; Joyce Bartz, Debbie Bretag, Sidney Caselberry, Walter Cody, Paola Flores, Kav Hagopian, Karen Hunt, Bill Kolen, Janice Lindquist, Rev. Velda Love, Kate Mahoney, Kevin Mott, Sue Murphy, Paul Selden, Soo Shim, Dorothy Williams

**Absent:** Paul Hamn, Oscar Hawthorne, Dan Lewis, Joe Liss

**Staff:** Sarah Flax, Housing and Grants Administrator, Alisa Dean, Community Intervention Coordinator, Officer Ron Blumenburg, Mary Ellen Poole, Housing Planner

### **I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:34 am

### **II. Approve Minutes**

A motion to approve the January 21, 2011 minutes passed unanimously.

### **III. Welcome & Introductions**

- A. Mayor Tisdahl welcomed the task force and spoke of her goal to keep Evanston a diverse community.
- B. Co-Chairs Sue Calder and Karen Singer welcomed the new members and had everyone introduce themselves. Those not at the last meeting were asked to share what their goals were to learn from the task force. The items stated included: resources for the homeless, treating the underserved populations, services for Spanish speaking populations and dealing with the faith community.

### **IV. Unfinished Business**

N/A

### **V. New Business-Snapshot of Evanston's Homeless Population**

- A. The Funnel model demonstrating the 5 stages of homelessness was explained in depth by Sue Calder.
- B. Paul Selden went over the point-in-time count data that was collected Jan 2011.
- C. Paul Selden went through Evanston's historic response to homelessness that has mirrored the national response to homelessness. Paul outlined the history starting

from the de-institutionalization that occurred simultaneously to the tearing down of many the country's SROs.

D. Jennifer Hill from Suburban Cook County addressed the regional perspective on homelessness. She described the categories of homelessness: unsheltered, PADS, and transitional housing.

- Alderman Rainey asked about why more individuals were not in transitional housing? Jennifer responded that transitional housing is usually occupied by families because of many agencies make a judgment call that families should go directly into housing.

Jennifer went on to discuss the regional point-in-time count and Alderman Rainey made a statement that 1,200 people seemed like a low number for the region. Jennifer agreed and clarified that was just that specific night. The agencies see around 6,000 individual cases per year.

- Alderman Rainey asked Jennifer how Evanston compared with the region? Jennifer responded that we have an intensity of services, but an overall lack of emergency services. We also have great access to transportation.

#### **VI. Communications**

The next meeting will be Friday April 1, 2011 at 7:30 am. Location TBD.

#### **VII. Adjournment-**The Meeting adjourned at 9:00 am

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ellen Poole, Housing Planner