



EVANSTON HOMELESS TASK FORCE MINUTES

May 6, 2011

Present: Sue Calder, Co-Chair; Karen Singer, Co-Chair; Joyce Bartz, Debbie Bretag, Sidney Caselberry, Paola Flores, Kav Hagopian, Oscar Hawthorne, Karen Hunt, Bill Kolen, Joe Liss, Kate Mahoney, Kevin Mott, Sue Murphy, Paul Selden, Janet Winslow

Absent: Alderman Dolores Holmes, Alderman Ann Rainey, Dan Lewis, Walter Cody, Paul Hamn, Janice Lindquist, Rev. Velda Love, Dorothy Williams

Staff: Sarah Flax, Housing and Grants Administrator, Ron Blumenburg, Mary Ellen Poole, Housing Planner

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 am

II. Approve Minutes

A motion to approve the April 1, 2011 minutes passed unanimously.

III. Welcome & Introductions

- A. Co-Chairs, Sue Calder and Karen Singer welcomed the Task Force and introduced the panel.
- B. Sue Calder passed out current data on homeless in Evanston. 547 individual people that is homeless in Evanston.
 - a. Paul Selden reviewed the characteristics of the homeless population that they see: mental illness, race, etc.

IV. Unfinished Business

N/A

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

- A. Debbie Bretag from Housing Options for the Mentally Ill reviewed her programs.
 - Defined "mental health" to provide some context and to emphasize that people can recover from mental illness.
 - Explained the "ACE" test: Adverse Childhood Trauma and how that relates to mental health and homelessness.
- C. Khen Nিকে from the IL Dept. of Human Services
 - a. Reviewed the Williams v. Quinn lawsuit

- b. Gave an overview of IMD's and the history of deinstitutionalization of persons with mental illness.
- c. Today there are improved medications and a model of providing an assertive community support team. They are using the Housing First model to move people into the community.
- d. The result of the lawsuit is that people have the choice to live in the community if they wish. The state expects around 250 to move the first year and 500-750 in the following years. Many people will not want to move. Catholic Charities is administering the voucher program which is the bridge subsidy.

D. Betsy Tolstedt, Department of Veteran's, Evanston office

- a. Benefits available to veterans were reviewed
- b. Evanston resources for veterans were discussed
- c. Housing First model is used

VI. Communications

- A. The chairs asked the task force what they would like to learn about in the next few months.
 - 1. Models and Best practices
 - 2. Funding Streams available for homeless housing
 - 3. Areas that are missing/lacking capacity that we should address

The next meeting will be Friday June 3, 2011 at 7:30 am. Location: Parasol Room at the Civic Center.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ellen Poole, Housing Planner