



EVANSTON HOMELESS TASK FORCE MINUTES

June 3, 2011

Present: Alderman Dolores Holmes, Sue Calder, Co-Chair; Karen Singer, Co-Chair; Paola Flores, Kav Hagopian, Joe Liss, Kate Mahoney, Kevin Mott, Sue Murphy, Paul Selden, Janet Winslow, Janice Lindquist, Rev. Velda Love, Dorothy Williams

Absent: Alderman Ann Rainey, Dan Lewis, Walter Cody, Paul Hamnn, Oscar Hawthorne, Karen Hunt, Bill Kolen, Joyce Bartz, Debbie Bretag, Sidney Caselberry, Alisa Dean

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 7:43 am

II. Approve Minutes

A motion to approve the May 6, 2011 minutes passed unanimously.

III. Welcome & Introductions

- A. Co-Chairs, Sue Calder and Karen Singer welcomed the Task Force.
- B. Introductions were made by all present

IV. Unfinished Business

N/A

V. New Business-Who is doing what in Evanston?

- Mary Ellen Poole, Housing Planner for the City of Evanston reviewed the Families In Transition program.
 - i. Janet Winslow asked about the requirements of a sponsoring agency
 - 1. Mary Ellen responded that any organization can be a sponsor but they must have the financial capacity to provide a portion of the rent. Many agencies do not have that financial capacity.
 - ii. Kav Hagopian stated that he thought this was an incredibly inexpensive way to help a lot of people and make a big impact.
 - iii. Kate Mahoney asked if this was only for families.
 - 1. Mary Ellen responded that the current version of this program does target families.

- Denise Brown, Program Manager for Connections for the Homeless
 - i. Reviewed a handout outlining the resources for the homeless in or around Evanston.
 1. Karen Singer asked that Denise provide a more detailed breakdown of # of beds for emergency, transitional and permanent.
 2. Denise and Paul Selden reviewed Prevention services available to het community.

- Break Out Groups
- Results from Break Out Groups:
 - Major issues/Common themes
 - Problems with collaboration and communication
 - Knowledge of resources
 - Lack of affordable housing
 - Lack of a centralized way to communicate
 - Problem protecting confidentiality
 - Lack of funding
 - Lack of youth services
 - Too stringent guidelines
 - Need the ability to intervene early
 - Need for updated databases
 - There are special populations each with their own needs
 - Chicago/Outsiders coming in and using Evanston resources
 - Need to educate the community
 - Stigma around homeless
 - Less federal money, need more local money
 - Housing first

 - Strategies
 - Unused properties
 - Expand/Remodel the City's FIT program
 - Partner with landlords
 - Educating tenants
 - Prevention Strategies
 - Data sharing for maximum efficiency
 - Task Force Public Relations Campaign
 - Use Evanston 150
 - Minimize the period of homelessness
 - Raise more private money
 - Creative investment strategies to raise money for a trust fund
 - Job skills that can contribute back to the community
 - Habitat type of model to renovate
 - Expand employer assisted housing

 - What do we need to know?
 - Size of the problem
 - Sources and Uses of funds
 - Services and capacity of organizations
 - Successful models

- Discharge planning strategies
- The Housing Commission's Housing Plan

VI. Communications

- Each group will be assigned a model or models to read about and report back to the group.

The next meeting will be Friday July 15th, 2011 at 7:30 am. Location: Parasol Room at the Civic Center.

The group should come prepared with suggestions for Evanston 150

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

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ellen Poole, Housing Planner