



## EVANSTON HOMELESS TASK FORCE MINUTES-FINAL

July 15, 2011

**Present:** Alderman Dolores Holmes, Sue Calder, Co-Chair; Karen Singer, Co-Chair; Paola Flores, Kate Mahoney, Sue Murphy, Paul Selden, Janet Winslow, Dorothy Williams, Bill Kolen, Karen Hunt, Debbie Bretag

**Absent:** Alderman Ann Rainey, Dan Lewis, Walter Cody, Paul Hammn, Oscar Hawthorne, Joyce Bartz, , Sidney Caselberry, Kav Hagopian, Joe Liss, Kevin Mott, Janice Lindquist, Rev. Velda Love

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

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:41 am

### **II. Approve Minutes**

A motion to approve the June 3, 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-Break Out Groups**

- Groups were assigned examples plan and were asked to answer the following questions about assigned plans
  - 3-5 elements that were strong in the plan
  - Who is involved in the planning and implementing
  - Measurement of outcomes: types and process
  - Questions for Evanston's plan

Karen and Sue led the group in the discussion to answer the questions assigned.

#### Strong elements of example plans:

- Projected budget (Quincy)
- Target number and target time frame (Quincy)

- Quarterly meeting of task force members after implementation (Quincy)
- Public meetings to update public (Vermont or DC)
- Rental subsidies and new construction (Burlington)
- Closing the front door (prevention) and Housing First model (most plans)
- Extensive data collection, including ambulances, hospitals and police (Norfolk?)
- Succinct plans with data in appendix
- Outline specific groups/people responsible for specific tasks in plan (Burlington)
- Specific populations identified (Washington)
- Day Center in Atlanta reference (Quincy and Norfolk)

### Planning and Implementing

- Public/Private partnership
- Has to have a staff person-need the full time commitment
- Need to have a regional approach with Chicago, Skokie, etc.
- England has an approach that uses a model where each city has a council and homeless people register with the council. Homeless can only receive services in their registered council.
- Involve the Suburban Cook County Alliance as well as the Housing Commission
- Different plans for different populations
- Faith Community needs to be involved
- Hospitals and Police
- PhD Student to do all the data collection and analysis

### Measurement of outcomes: types and process

- Cost of homelessness
  - How many people move and stay in housing
  - Prevention numbers? How to measure this and how to fund this?
  - Data targets in schools. Look at grades, truancy, etc.
  - Paul Selden explained that right now, we would need 200 units for families, 150 units for single adults.
  - Number of organizations the task force talks to every year.
  - 10 year goal?
  - Data is critical to selling this plan to the private sector
  - Must develop the right questions to truly identify homelessness

### Questions for Evanston's plan

- Targeted Populations: Families, Chronic, Pregnant and Parenting teens
- Funding Sources available
- Current number of beds and social service resources
- Housing data:
  - Cost to society
  - Wage rates to rent
  - Units available to rent
- Prevention Goals
  - Funding and resources for prevention
  - Discharge planning
- Look at successful plans that are almost done like Santa Monica and Austin
- Look at Housing vouchers

- Look at time limits for housing assistance.
- Education and outreach campaign for Evanston. De-stigmatize the problem.
- Build the public will
- Use the appropriate spokesperson. Someone not typically used that would get the attention of private and public.

**VI. Communications**

The next meeting will be Friday September 16th, 2011 at 7:30 am. Location: Parasol Room at the Civic Center.

**VI. Adjournment-**The Meeting adjourned at 9:10 am

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ellen Poole, Housing Planner