



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
TASK FORCE ON HOMELESSNESS & MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES  
FULLERTON POLICE DEPARTMENT MURAL ROOM**

**THURSDAY**

**NOVEMBER 17, 2011**

**4:00 P.M.**

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order by Chairman Kennedy at 4:06 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Members: Deloof, Gallagher, Harvey, Jaramillo, Jennings, Johnson, Keller, Kennedy, McInerney, Mugrditchian, Serbin, Thomas

**ABSENT:** Members: Anh, Hale, Haynes, Lee, McGowan, Milhander

**STAFF PRESENT:** Council Members Bankhead and Quirk Silva, Asst. to the City Manager Ferrier, Community Development Director Zelinka, Captain Bastreri, Cpl. J.D. DeCaprio, Housing Programs Supervisor Morad, Community Center Supervisor Espinoza, Executive Assistant Pasillas

**MINUTES:** Minutes of the November 3, 2011 meeting were APPROVED as written.

Chair Kennedy explained a poster on the wall where Committee Members could place "sticky notes" with things they learned along the way.

### **INTRODUCTIONS**

The Committee introduced themselves, and reported on one thing they learned at the last Task Force meeting:

- Member Serbin – the need for transportation
- Member Mugrditchian – the need for outreach at the Armory
- Member Johnson – need to sit down and plan out the solution
- Member Jennings – the need for housing, first
- Member McInerney – how to get the message out about what services were available
- Member Deloof – that the CAT Team needs to provide a quicker response time
- Chair Kennedy – the need for permanent, supportive housing
- Member Jaramillo – the precarious nature of the Armory and the need to have it open from November through April
- Member Keller – the need for year-round, stable emergency shelter
- Member Thomas – the need for restroom facilities, bus passes, and transportation to the various services offered
- Member Gallagher – the high threshold to access the available housing
- Member Harvey – the limited availability and access to resources

### **TASK FORCE MEMBER FOLLOW-UP**

Report on November 13 Listening Conference - Member Gallagher reported that the Listening Conference had been attended by approximately 40 people, which were broken into eight small groups. They planned to hold the third conference at the Armory once it was opened, and would

need extra facilitators to assist. The date will be determined once the Armory opens. They were also planning to hold focused small group sessions in non-English speaking areas.

Mindmixer – Member Keller reported on the Mindmixer website, [fullertontaskforce.org](http://fullertontaskforce.org), that was now operational, and explained how the site worked and the information that could be gathered. Director Zelinka stated that a press release would be sent out on Friday, November 18, and flyers were provided to the Committee Members, and would be placed on the public counters at City Hall and the Library, and copies given to the Police Department and Code Enforcement Officers to hand out. There were currently four topics on the site, and more could be added later.

### **EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATIONS** – “Parent, Family, and First-Responders Perspective”

Sue Serbin – Ms. Serbin shared her experiences as a parent of a mentally ill child. She stressed the need for: laws that would allow patients to receive treatment before they become a danger to themselves or others; treatment centers that could treat the mentally ill over their objections if it was determined they were unable to make a reasonable decision; regular training for the police department; a way to track the mentally ill; and increased funding from the state.

Janice Deloof – Ms. Deloof discussed her experience as the parent of two mentally children, one of whom had committed suicide. She explained the need to help families deal with the threats of violence that often accompany mental illness, along with help dealing with the police department and criminal justice system.

Corporal DeCaprio, FPD – Corporal DeCaprio explained his position working with the homeless in the City and some of the challenges he faces. Some of his suggestions were: a year-round emergency shelter; bus passes he could hand out; the need for detox centers, primarily for alcohol. He also discussed how the Armory let people who stayed there out at 5 a.m., and the fact that they had nowhere to go at that hour (parks don't open until 7 a.m.)

Ron Thomas – Mr. Thomas explained his experience with having a mentally ill child and made the following suggestions: need for board and care facilities that would offer structure and monitor medications; need for bus passes, food, clothing, and rain gear; need for lock-up facilities; need for a police department oversight committee.

### **STAFF REPORTS**

Member Gallagher commented that it was helpful to have Cpl. DeCaprio at the meetings and Capt. Bastreri responded that he would see if it could be worked out for him to attend future meetings.

The next meeting would be the lived experience and Members Deloof and Thomas would coordinate the presentation.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

The following people spoke on the noted topics:

- Nomi Lonky – need money; get community involved
- Madeline Leon – vision of an apartment complex for the homeless where you could find their strengths and give them jobs that would benefit them

- Susan Wright – sensitivity training for the Police Department; empower the officers with the tools they need; need more money to help
- Mr. Hale – the homeless usually negative attention, it was nice to see what was being done with the Task Force.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Kennedy adjourned the meeting at 6:05 p.m.

### **AGENDA FORECAST**

The next Task Force meeting is December 1, 2011 at 4:00 p.m. in the Fullerton Police Department Mural Room, 237 W. Commonwealth Avenue, Fullerton, California.

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