



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

THURSDAY

JANUARY 5, 2012

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 (arrived at 5:05 p.m.), Johnson, Keller, Kennedy, McGowan, McInerney, Millhander, Mugrditchian, Serbin, Thomas

STAFF PRESENT: Mayor Quirk-Silva, Council Member Bankhead, Asst. to the City Manager Ferrier, Community Development Director Zelinka, Captain Bastreri, Housing Programs Supervisor Morad, Executive Assistant Pasillas

MINUTES: Minutes of the December 15, 2011 meeting were APPROVED as written.

INTRODUCTIONS

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

Member Mugrditchian – The need for a clinician to collaborate with the Fullerton Police Department.

Member Thomas – The need to have someone dedicated to working with the Fullerton homeless consistently.

Member Deloof – That there was funding available for housing.

Member Gallagher – The need for a homeless outreach team to partner with the Fullerton Police Department.

Member Millhander – Would like to see the Fullerton Police Department chaplain program expanded.

Member Kennedy – Funding challenge breakthrough (MHSA)

Member McInerney – Funding is critical for housing.

Member Serbin – Disconnect between what CAT is supposed to do and what actually happens – too many regulations/excuses why the County can't step in.

Member Johnson –

Member McGowan – There are a range of services already available, but the people on the front line can't possibly know them all, or what is appropriate in a particular situation; need a social worker to work with.

Member Keller – Need for a year-round multi-service facility in Fullerton.

Captain Bastreri provided the Task Force with an update on the recent murders of three homeless men, and the outreach that was being done to inform other homeless of ways to stay safe.

EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATIONS – “10-Year Plan to End Homelessness”

- Carolyn McInerney explained the 10-Year Plan and the 2020 Board.
- Karen Roper, Director of Orange County Community Services, explained how the County was working to align their services to support the 10-year Plan.

Questions/Comments:

- Would the recent elimination of Redevelopment Agencies have an impact on the 10-Year Plan?
 - Yes, it would have a large impact, but many of the programs discussed had already been approved and would not be impacted.
- How has the plan addressed North Orange County?
 - Most programs offered by the County are available to all Orange County cities, but some programs are limited to specific cities due to their funding source.
- How are the clientele found?
 - There are many organizations that want to help, but it is sometimes difficult to get the information out to the appropriate people.
- What is the one thing Fullerton could do to assist the homeless in our City?
 - Connect them to the needed services and open a year-round, multi-service center.
- What services/programs are available to help the severely mentally ill who need assistance, but don't like large settings, won't just “walk in”, and won't call 211?
 - Orange County Health Care's outreach team works to build relationships and help these people take the first steps to receiving services.
- What are some of the immediate “challenges” that confront current homeless programs/services that need to be “fixed?”
 - Current efforts are somewhat limited by funding. Very difficult for someone with multiple challenges to enter the system due to funding requirements. Need to have less stringent requirements (i.e. no mandatory drug testing or classes).
- How can the Task Force develop a plan that serves not only Fullerton, but is also part of a larger plan coordinated across jurisdictional/organizational lines?
 - The Task Force's work is being shared with the 2020 Commission, and it is important to be familiar with the goals and strategies of other cities so that resources can be pooled.
- If the Task Force recognizes an immediate need can action be taken without waiting until their recommendation is given to Council?
 - It would depend on what it was and whether or not funding is available.
- Need to look at ways the resources can be used in a meaningful way, and do something with the information that makes it accessible (i.e. Smartphone App)

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Sandy Stiassni gave a brief presentation on Fullerton's homeless/houseless that suggested the Task Force adjust its mission to focus on additional programs targeted toward low income housing.

Additional comments included:

- Give Officer DeCaprio a team, additional resources.
- Better advertise the "211" service (i.e. billboards)
- Organizations need to get the homeless involved in their own affairs
- Need a centralized intake location
- Would like to see a list of where the money is being spent
 - Advised that it is a public record and a request could be made

STAFF REPORT

Rob Ferrier explained the 11x17 handout that had been provided to the Task Force and contained the comments and ideas that had come from the MindMixer website and the post-it notes the Task Force had posted.

Al Zelinka explained that the next steps for the Task Force would be to look at what the County's goals are and the services they offer, and then the Task Force would be going over the first three columns on the "post-it" board.

Member Gallagher advised that she would be providing a report on the data collected at the listening conferences.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Kennedy adjourned the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

AGENDA FORECAST

The next meeting of the Task Force on Homelessness and Mental Health Services is scheduled for January 19, 2012 at 4:00 p.m. at the Fullerton Police Department Mural Room, 237 W. Commonwealth Avenue, Fullerton, CA.