



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

THURSDAY

JANUARY 19, 2012

4:00 P.M.

- CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order by Chairman Kennedy at 4:04 P.M.
- PRESENT:** Members: Anh, Deloof, Gallagher, Harvey, Jaramillo, Jennings, Johnson, Keller, Kennedy, McGowan, Millhander, Mugrditchian, Serbin
- STAFF PRESENT:** Council Member Bankhead, Asst. to the City Manager Ferrier, Clerical Assistant Radding
- MINUTES:** Minutes of the January 5, 2012 meeting were APPROVED as written.

INTRODUCTIONS – Rusty requested the audience to introduce themselves, then provided a brief overview of the agenda and the meeting mechanics

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE PROPOSED DELIBERATION PROCESS – Power Point (Rob F) Narrated by Rusty
Slide 1 – Task Force Purpose Statement
Slide 2 - Task Force Objectives
Slide 3 – Reviewing of the Learning

REPORT FROM THE FULLERTON LISTENING CONFERENCES – A PowerPoint slideshow was presented and briefly described. Comment was made that “food and meals” was not a category that surfaced as one of the top local needs. This was interpreted to be due to a successful local effort to provide meals/food.

If anyone was interested in reading the notes from each of the 21 interviews conducted during the Listening Conference, a full written transcription is available (see Kerry Gallagher).

REVIEW OF LEARNING SESSIONS – Rusty explained that this meeting would provide a rough and summary expression of ideas. Later meetings would examine these ideas to expand them in greater detail (recommendations/plans/prioritization).

The following comments were made:

Harvey – Need to match those in need with services available (ex. Vets qualify for VA services). Need to make contact with the homeless and assess what services they qualify for.

Gallagher – need for some sort of census, which is beyond the scope/ability of the Task Force

Deloof – Many mentally ill homeless will not be aware of their illness, or may deny it. Thus, it will be difficult to qualify them for services.

Keller – “Year Round Shelter”, “Multi-Offering”, “Shelter + Care”

Johnson – “Showers”, “Laundry”, “Lockers” (Immediate Needs)

Audience – 24/7 showers and bathrooms

Gallagher – Bus Pass Program was implemented in Santa Clara that included a photo ID so that the passes would not be resold/transferred to others.

Keller – Multi-Service center should be over-reaching and within that Multi- Service center there should be a Shelter and means to provide Immediate Needs

Jaramillo – “Supportive Services”, family outreach and counseling. Services specific to the needs of the families of the mentally ill homeless. Resources.

Deloof – Supportive Services may not be centrally located. Perhaps it is best that they are available at various locations.

Keller –“Outreach on the Street” is needed. Persons that are trained to conduct face-to-face contact with the homeless.

Millhander – Location to drop off donated items (such as flash drives) Need for a centralized co-ordinated address.

McGowan – Training for service providers (faith based or non-profits, or business establishments) to facilitate a centralized location, but also some small every day needs could be handled at multiple locations. There is a need for overall coordination of where services are available. There is a need to avoid abuse of the system and help as many as possible.

Serbin – What are existing resources that need improvement? Or more support? (Example, way to improve the Amory services)

Anh – Better coordination needed... a master plan to facilitate services offered. A “Road Map” so that each professional in the field doesn’t spend so much time trying to address individual needs. “Transitional and Mid Term Needs”, “Affordable Housing”, “Job Training”

Serbin – Review carefully successful programs in SoCal to see what Fullerton can borrow from.

Kennedy – Ongoing study. Perhaps a Commission to pursue further study and continue to make recommendations to the City Council. “Evaluate and Monitor” successful models

Anh – Don’t need to reinvent the wheel, just find what is working and replicate it.

Gallagher – “Access to Information” and a need to train persons that are willing to help. Provide easy to access Applications (phone Aps) with information that can be provided to the persons on the street by other community members.

Deloof – “Permanent Housing” Overall plan for Housing in Fullerton (MHSA) like Diamond Isle.

Keller – Other sources for Low/Mod funding?

Anh – Need people to obtain the grants and funding that could be utilized (Think Tank) A Grant Writer to find funding.

Deloof – “Accountability”. Who is accountable? What is next? “Implementation” How will things get done? “Structure”.

Serbin/Kennedy – the “What Next” category that may involve an on-going Commission or Task Force may actually be beyond the command/control of the City

Mugrditchian –“Partnership” (clinician with Police) “Prevention”. Outreach is needed before a response is required.

Deloof – “Community Education” (and information access) needs to be improved to help members of the community better understand mental illness. Ways to remove the “Stigma”; like the Arts.

Serbin – Some help is needed for families that are struggling with mentally ill that are not in the stat of actually being a threat to themselves or others (5150). Persons that are not identified by the system and have not yet qualified for services.

Jennings – Use Costa Mesa as a sample of how to consolidate information and provide a summary and recommendations to Council.

Anh – “Medical Care” to include visits to a doctor. Neighborhood clinics like St Jude; maybe a clinic on site at a full time shelter.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Audience Member (name ?) - There is a need to distinguish between homeless and severely mentally ill. Voluntary participation is required in order to receive treatment. None of the funding available will get to those that have a medical condition. Court-ordered treatment is needed.

Keller – “Laura’s Law” and farther reaching measures are needed.

Deloof – “Court-ordered Treatment” should be part of supportive services

Kennedy – Need to lower the threshold for involuntary services

Sofia – Need to differentiate between people that require medical/mental health services and those that are simply homeless. Sofia read through the notes from the 21 interviews and found that there were some interesting ideas/needs that were not outlined in the Listening Session Report:

- Charging stations for electronic devices
- Public Service Announcements (local radio) to disseminate information about services
- Hotel vouchers for individuals, not just families
- Need to help people to build self-sufficiency and build opportunities
- Various types of shelters needed
- Need to demonstrate caring

Margaret Bane – There are potential opportunities for contact with people that are mentally ill homeless, such as when they are discharged from a hospital or have interaction with the Police. “Crisis/Prevention Points”. Also spoke in support of Laura’s Law.

Audience – Need for a Social Worker or Advocate to be available at the shelters for people who do not identify themselves as suffering from mental illness. Someone with whom a relationship of trust can be established.

Dee Cassidy – Homeless are everywhere and transient. What is done in Fullerton needs to be replicated in other cities.

Kennedy – Shared a story about a situation that occurred in Dana Point when the City declined assistance from the Rescue Mission.

Serbin - Stated that she heard a report on NPR that Fullerton as the “strangest City in Orange County”

Audience – The Armory needs to be a separate category of concern. The services there need to be improved.

Non-Resident Volunteer – Wants to host a booth at one of the Fullerton Farmers Markets to collect money for this cause and to disseminate information to the homeless.

Audience/Keller – “Community Garden” should be one of the Supportive Services offered. It allows homeless persons to be occupied with a task and to feel that they are contributing.

Anh - Announcement that Section 8 is opening for applications on February 15. Homeless can submit an email address on their application if they do not have a mailing address.

Kurtis – Distributed a flyer that he put together listing the things that the homeless need and want.

Sunbie Harrell – Announced that the Neighbors United will hold a forum at the Main Library on Monday, January 23, 2012 at 6:45 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Kennedy adjourned the meeting at 6 p.m.

AGENDA FORECAST

The next meeting of the Task Force on Homelessness and Mental Health Services is scheduled for February 2, 2012 at 4:00 p.m. at the Fullerton Main Library Conference Center.