



Consumer Advisory Council Meeting Summary

September 15, 2010

Consumer Advisory Council members present:

Ariyetta	Jaclyn	Margaret
Anthony	Latrice	Paul
Blue		

Members absent:

Daniel	Nancy
Dara	

Community present:

Bill Block	Kristine Gullin
Gretchen Bruce	

Welcome and Introduction.

The meeting was called to order at 6:03pm. The July 21 minutes were reviewed and approved. Gretchen proposed that future CAC meetings end at 7:30pm. The committee approved a new meeting time of 6-7:30pm.

Public Comment

Jacklyn announced that PSKS is raising money to purchase a building and will be hosting a fundraising dinner on October 23 at Westlake. The cost is \$75 per plate.

Blue explained that he decided not to move to Texas due to a promotion at work.

Feedback from Governing Board, Funders Group and Interagency Council

Governing Board

The Governing Board met on July 28 and focused on what should be done with the mid-plan review (a draft of the July 28 minutes was included in meeting packet).

Funders Group

The Funders have been discussing increasing collaborations with mainstream systems with child welfare. Also at the last meeting, five visitors from HUD and HHS attended to observe how the Funders Group works.

IAC

The IAC met on September 13 and listened to a presentation given by Someireh Amirfaiz, Refugee Women's Alliance (ReWA), on immigrant and refugee's vulnerability to and experiences of homelessness, and current best practices for helping this population.

Other Feedback

Blue asked for an update on GAU. Latrice said if you have used 24 of 60 months then you were cut off of GAU benefits August 31 unless you were eligible for and switched to GAX. People that were cut off of GAU are still applying for a hearing to receive an extension of benefits.

Ariyetta asked about the TANF cut off after 60 months. Latrice said that cuts to other DSHS programs, such as Take Charge, are being made as a way to respond to increased TANF rolls.

Mid-Plan Review

The Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness Mid-Plan Review summary reflecting input from the first workgroup meeting which was held on September 9 was handed out. The goal is to outline where we are with what was outlined in the original Plan, what has changed (best practices, economy, efforts, social systems) and what the goals are for the next five years. The workgroup made it through to V. re-evaluation of "what will it take to end homelessness."

Jaclyn gave her input of the meeting held on September 9. It's hard to define where we are at in the Plan. We want to end homelessness, but want to end poverty too. There was concern at the meeting over why the number of homeless hasn't gone down when we keep building housing and adding vouchers.

Ariyetta doesn't feel that the strategies outlined in the Plan in the plan are addressing the problem. One strategy doesn't work for everyone. She then clarified that it's not so much the strategies that are wrong, as there aren't enough resources to implement them. Latrice agreed that funding to support the strategies is the real issue.

Margaret wanted to know "what about tent cities." Bill said they can be located wherever someone wants to host them. The cost to run a tent city is more than a shelter. Tent cities are more of a political statement than a

solution. Jaclyn added that tent cities have no barriers like shelters do which is why they are more appealing in some cases.

Focus Group

A summary of possible focus groups that were discussed at the June 16 meeting were posted on the wall and CAC members voted on the three groups they would like to talk to. The top three are:

1. Landlord Liaison Project Clients – experience, program improvements, added services
2. Service Providers – the frontline providers, what works, what doesn't, improvements
3. Homeless with physical disabilities and/or chronic disease

The goal is to host a focus group in November, February and March.

October CAC Agenda

On the agenda for October:

- Focus group planning
- Legislative advocacy and breakfast
- Mid-plan review

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 pm. Respectfully submitted, Kristine Gullin, CEH Staff