

State Advisory Council on Homelessness

Attendees: Chris Lowell, Annie Conant, Rose Ann Jacobs, Kathy Wahto, Melinda Dyer, Megan Karch, Judy Combes, Kim Eads, Gary Williams, Diane Christie, Jack Peters, Marilyn Highberg, Nola Renz, Jean Kim, Bill Block, Joe Ingram, Cathy Cochran, Tom Penella, Judith Gidley, and Lael Duncan.

Interested Parties: Corine Knudsen, Mia Navarro, Sara Levin

CTED Staff: Tedd Kelleher, Nick Mondau, Jessica Stines, and Caryn Horn

Welcome and Introductions

Chris welcomed everyone then introduced new members to the Council, Judith Gidley and Marilyn Highberg. Introductions went around the table, then the member packets for the meeting were identified.

Approval of Meeting Notes from Last Meeting

It was moved, seconded and passed to accept the minutes from the last meeting.

State Mentoring Program Presentation

Tom Pennella spoke about the state mentoring program and urged everyone to become involved. He gave examples of how mentoring works and what the results can be. DSHS has partnered with Costco Wholesalers and others to promote youth mentoring. The primary questions are “Who mentored you?” and “How are you passing it on?” A recent program was set up to mentor foster youth and there is now a model group of 30 in Olympia. The program works with the 10- to 16-year-old age group, however the relationships usually continue beyond that. Tom was asked if the program could extend beyond youth to released offenders and he stated the program usually applies to the under 21 age group and has included the “Going Home” older youth. The Gates Foundation is donating \$5 million over the next three years for a study of 1500 kids in high risk environments who will be mentored, with services. Currently there are several mentoring groups, including the Girl Scouts, Big Brothers, Big Sisters, Boys and Girls Clubs, and Lunch Buddies. There are several faith-based mentoring programs and JRA has a program in place. At this time it is estimated at 20,000 kids are being mentored in this state. For more information go to mentoring.org.

Local Point-in-Time Reports

Tedd explained that a final number for the Point-In-Time count on January 25, 2007, would not be available until all the counties had their counts certified April 30, and the total counts will be published in July. A discussion followed on the difficulty of accumulating correct counts.

Homeless Children Count

Melinda presented a spreadsheet prepared by OSPI that reported the 05-06 school homeless count to the U.S. Department of Education. She believes this number is not duplicated and it's up from the previous year by about 1,000.

- **Assignment:** Jack or Tedd will bring the factor number for both state and federal homeless outcomes to the next meeting.

Federal and State Legislative Update

Jack Peters briefed the Council on the federal Continuum of Care funding awards for 2006. His handout showed where the funding went. There were over 5700 applications. The awards were approximately \$31 million. The McKinney NOFA has also been published and the application due date for that is May 30, 2007. There is a national satellite broadcast scheduled for March 22, 2007, regarding the McKinney NOFA, hosted in the home offices here and Spokane, or arrangements can be made to host it elsewhere. The application will be paper again this year, not electronically as previously hoped. The name of the HUD nominated replacement for Jack has been sent to the Governor for appointment, and Jack will stay on until that appointment comes through.

DSHS received a \$19 million federal grant for people 65 and under who are in nursing homes until they can get a home and services. This grant provides health care services only and is designed to help the homeless get into a home and keep the services they need.

Judy reported on the bills affecting re-entry, Substitute House Bill 1874 and Substitute Senate Bill 5070 which have both been voted out of committee. SHB1874 is focused on supporting evidence in the facility and work releases in the community to better prepare the person who's incarcerated for their re-entry into the community and by doing so, enhancing public safety. Department of Corrections (DOC) has been asked to increase the number of community justice centers, where DOC provides community based resources. SSB5070 sounds similar to SHB1874, but SSB5070 funds Neighborhood Corrections Initiative Teams combining resources of DSHS, CTED, DOC, and others to work on how to transition offenders from prisons into the community. SSB5070 creates a fiscal account for community transition coordination networks. Corine stated that the Washington State Coalition is in support of SHB1874.

CTED has many bills still moving. SHB1115 is an amendment to Homelessness Housing Assistance Act (2163), adding in continuous quality measurement. It would involve CTED going through additional quality processes. It would involve CTED evaluating other state agencies in terms of their homeless services, evaluating every county, both their plan and implementation, on an annual basis. This is significant enough to warrant three FTEs to implement CTED's piece of the bill, not to mention the local work. Counties have the mandatory \$10 recording fee and this would add an optional \$10 to the recording fee. Local

governments would keep 90 percent and CTED would receive 10 percent. HB1359 is the “Affordable Housing for All” bill. It is the 2163 of affordable housing. It has similar performance measurements with \$7 million for the counties for planning and technical assistance, but no new recording fee. HB1921 is the expansion of the THOR program to serve other populations and HB1922 is to provide further services for youth aging out of the foster care system. It gives CTED responsibility for the housing program, but doesn’t have funding in it. In SB5959 the eligible populations of the mentally ill and offender population were specifically called out in the Senate version of the THOR bill. CTED has tried to make it clear to Legislators that whatever happens, the current THOR program for homeless families should be preserved.

Lael talked about asset building coalition work and a bill that was introduced and should be going to Appropriations. It establishes an individual development account program funded by a 1.5 percent tax in the B&O tax on payday lenders.

SSHB1118 has a requirement for state agencies, when they enter into contracts, to pay not the prevailing wage, but a “living” wage. Only CTED and Department of Ecology would be affected by this bill.

Recommendations for the Governor

Since ICH has prioritized discharge planning, re-entry programs, and homeless data improvements members felt SACH needed to comment and make recommendations on these issues. Additionally, SACH should be focusing their efforts on what could be reported to the Governor on key homelessness issues. When is the time to do that?...October (or even earlier), prior to the Governor presenting her budget in December.

Ideas to focus on would include strategies from the state’s 10-Year Plan:

- Prevention, Diversion, and Re-entry Strategies
- Short Term Emergency Response
- Housing Plus Services Strategies

Discussion followed that SACH should relate issues which are high on the Governor’s radar, and relate to homelessness, i.e., the number of homeless kids in school. Raising public awareness is a necessity. How we deliver the message is important. We could be using a process such as GMAP as the measurement. Chris suggested that members take the time to think about what the top 5 topics to focus on should be.

If one of the Governor’s priorities is education, and we have 14,000 children in the public school system who are homeless, maybe our goal/recommendation should be to put something forward that says no child in the public school system should be homeless, and figure out a way to break down the silos and/or leverage other funds to help the Governor achieve that goal. The Governor’s goal of “Thrive by Five” indicates that SACH should include all children, not just children in the school system.

Since SACH only has three more meetings this year we are limited in our processes. Items now under discussion to move forward on are 1) homeless children and early childhood education since children suffering from homelessness are dissipating the success the Governor wants for all

children and 2) better discharge planning for people who need supportive housing and how best to integrate the needs of homeless and at-risk into those plans.

The consensus was that these two points are what SACH should focus on to pull together over the next three meetings. Since we have two topics and our report needs to be completed by the September meeting, we should invite panels to the next meeting from each area. Then we can decide if we want to focus on one topic for the July meeting for our final report. Discussion involved panels to be considered for invitation and included: The Children's Alliance, Ken Stark from the Mental Health Transformation Grant group, DOCs Re-Entry Administrator-Candy Curl, and Corine Mason from JRA.

- Follow-Up: Bill Block will check with the appropriate agencies on who is pushing the issues we're looking at, what's moving forward, and how it is affected by homelessness or how homeless persons could be impacted by initiatives under development.

Member Updates

Due to time constraints, this portion meeting agenda was set aside.

Planning for Next Meetings

- **MEETINGS FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE YEAR ARE SCHEDULED FOR MAY 31, JULY 26, AND SEPTEMBER 7, FROM 10 A.M. TO 2 P.M.**