

Meeting Notes
February 23, 2005

State Advisory Council on Homelessness

Members Present: Doreen Cato, First Place – Chair
Corky Senecal, KCR – Vice Chair
Judy Combes, DOC
Jean Kim, Presbyterian Network
Nola Renz, Helping Hands House
Kim Eads, GA
Jack Peters, US Dept of HUD

Kathy Wahto, Serenity House
Megan Karch, FareStart
Melinda Dyer, OSPI
Jan Konestes, City of Spokane
Alan Painter, Seattle Housing Services
Cathy Cochran, DSHS
Rose Anne Jacobs, ESD

CTED Staff:

Annie Conant
Kathy Giglio
Theresa Stoddard

Minutes

There were not enough members present for a quorum to review and approve minutes from the November 18, 2004 meeting. Those minutes will be submitted again at the May 25, 2005 meeting for approval.

Welcome and Member Updates

Policy Academy – Theresa Stoddard

- The Policy Academy met for the first time in April 2004 to develop an action plan to end chronic homelessness.
- On January 4, 2005 a core group of the academy met to re-visit the action plan.
- The first two strategies of the action plan are to identify a champion for the initiative and to identify models that other states have used to end chronic homelessness.
- There will be an upcoming meeting to review progress on first two strategies. Date of this meeting will be e-mailed to SACH membership.
- There is a secondary effort to pull together current data to help identify chronic homelessness statewide and what current capacity is to serve.

Report from 1/20 meeting – Doreen Cato, Chair

- SACH called a homeless advocates leadership meeting to discuss its relation to the work of the Policy Academy and how they could support the academy's efforts.

- Draft letter to the Governor discussed at the meeting that suggested a cabinet level InterAgency Council (IAC) on Homelessness. (An IAC has been formed at the Federal level and it was suggested that the state do the same.)
- AHAB and SACH would report to the IAC and get directives.
- The Cabinet would have membership on AHAB and SACH.
- This homeless advocates leadership group may have a second meeting at the end of March.
- There was a question about broadening a statement in the letter regarding lists of initiatives so that key groups are represented, ie. Taking Health Care Home.
- Discussion about who would be on IAC: agency directors/deputies or agency assistant directors. Important to have key people who can make policy decisions.
- Suggestion to duplicate wording from ICH paper to letter so leaves open door for other agencies to join at another time.

Leg Update – *Corky Senecal, Vice Chair*

- For the first time, there is a House *Housing Committee*. All issues ranging from homelessness to affordable housing can be taken to one committee. Chaired by Representative Miloscia.
- The Washington Families Fund is being administered by AIDS Housing of Washington (AHW) with the support through a subcontract with the Corporation for Supportive Housing. A Letter of Interest was sent statewide in January. Over 150 responses from around the state. A Request for Proposals for funding from the WFF is due to AHW by March 4th.
- Representative Ruth Kagi who championed WFF last session will not ask for additional funding during this current session and encourages advocates to wait for program results. She will consider asking again in the 2006 session for additional funding.
- Housing Trust Fund \$100 million dollar increase looks good.
- Housing Advocacy Day was February 11th. Miloscia was the keynote speaker. The WFF was launched at the Sundial with a large turnout of advocates.
- HB 1810 is being re-worked into SHB 2163 with emphasis on creating IACH. The bill is very ambitious as it is the first time there has been any proposal to the legislature to end homelessness.
- In senate SB 5767 simplified version of 2163 also calls out for IACH.
- Corky shared a proposal that she, Annie Conant and Corine Knudsen worked on about how SACH and AHAB could work together if an IACH was established.
- The membership discussed the proposal. There were questions and about why SACH would be restructured to report to AHAB and not the IAC directly.
- HB 2026 is jointly sponsored by Association of Housing Authorities and the Rental Owner Association. It would provide rental assistance funded by document recording fees for emergency assistance, a voucher program and would be administered by local communities.

SACH Executive Order - *Doreen Cato, Chair*

- SACH's role is to make policy recommendations to governor's office.
- SACH is not an advocacy group.
- Weakness in current version of Executive Order is accountability.
- Weakness of group is involving business community.
- Suggestion to have membership be stakeholders and not involve State.
- SACH needs to think about suggesting change to Executive Order so that there is a clear role on 10 year plan and what role SACH will play in business community.

- Develop task force to re-write/edit Executive Order to better reflect what role SACH would like to play in developing the 10-year plan, interact with Inter Agency Council if formed and how it wants to function as a member group. Members to meet on March 28th are Nola Renz, Megan Karch, Doreen Cato, Jan Konestes, Alan Painter and Annie Conant. A draft of their work will be e-mailed to the entire SACH membership for feedback.

One Night Count, January 26, 2005 – Annie Conant

- Required by HUD.
- 25 counties participated.
- Preliminary results 8,279 individuals counted in 5,467 households.
- Better efforts during this count to include individuals living in cars, etc.
- HMIS infrastructure will be able to produce unduplicated count in future.
- Reason stated by individuals for being homeless: 1) unable to find affordable housing, 2) drug/alcohol, 3) job loss, and 4) family break up.

Nominations

Next meeting SACH members will need to nominate a new Chair and Vice Chair. Corky Senecal is the nomination chair and will facilitate the process.

2005 Meeting Dates

May 25
Sept 28
Nov 30