

Meeting Notes
March 17, 2006

State Advisory Council on Homelessness

Attendees: Cecil Cheeka, Cathy Cochran, Judy Combes, Melinda Dyer, Kim Eads, Cece Glenn, Joe Ingram, Megan Karch, Jean Kim, Mary Looker, Chris Lowell, Jack Peters, Nola Renz, Jerry Towne, and Kathy Wahto.

Interested Parties: Corine Knudsen

Guest: Ken Stark

CTED Staff: Caryn Horn

Opening Remarks and Introductions: The group introduced themselves around the table and two new members were introduced: Cecil Cheeka representing the Urban Indian group, and Joe Ingram representing the homeless or previously homeless group.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes were approved as presented for the meetings dated September 28, 2005, and December 15, 2005.

Mental Health Update: Ken Stark gave an update on the Mental Health Transformation Grant he oversees in the Governor's Office. Cathy Cochran and Joe Ingram are co-chairs of the homeless section of this grant. The transformation group needs input from SACH members by April so they can work on consolidation and finalization of the report due in September. Input from SACH members at the meeting included:

- Services need to be available at shelters so consumers are not going in several directions for different services.
- No one to help those in crisis when they arrive at shelters. There is a lack of continuum.
- No clear set-aside for homelessness through the RSN. Mental health services have not been prioritized for homelessness. At the shelters there is no case management for mental health.

Update on Interagency Committee on Homelessness: Since the Governor vetoed having the head of state agencies sit on the committee, she agreed to appoint high-level senior management from the state agencies. The following have now been appointed: CTED – Stephen H. Buxbaum (lead agency on committee); Department of Corrections – Katherine Bail; Department of Health – Mary Looker; DSHS – Blake Chard; Veterans Department - Alfie Alvarado-Ramos; Employment Security - Peggy Zimmerman; OFM – Theo Yu. The first formal meeting will be held the first week of May however Stephen Buxbaum will be meeting with the individual

members between now and May. Concerns included including OSPI and Department of Transportation as members. Two members of SACH are included in the committee and we have representatives from the other agencies on our council. SACH's pending Executive Order defines SACH's role in more detail.

Report on Changes to ESG: A memo from Stephen Buxbaum was presented regarding Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) program changes in method of fund distribution. Several cities are within the entitlement area and should be receiving funding. The public comment period on the amendment will begin on March 2, 2006 and end on March 31, 2006.

Veterans Report: Information was presented on how the Veteran's Department has helped the homeless...mostly with jobs. Also distributed was the 2006 Homeless Veterans Action Plan.

10-Year State Plan on Homelessness: Legislation planned last year has required CTED to develop a 10-year plan to end homelessness. This plan is due the end of July. The counties have completed their plans and they are posted on the website and will be sent to all SACH members. The Interagency Council will be guiding preparation of the state plan. The SACH members were asked to name what they felt are the critical items that would make the state plan a success. The responses were:

- State plan shouldn't just consist of compilation of local plans.
- Carry forward key ideas from Policy Academies (HF Policy Academy materials are w/HATC).
- Include public education component.
- Choose a community – do a pilot/model reflecting interagency collaboration (bring resources to bear in mind a pilot site).
- Recognize needs of all homeless populations.
- Establish goal of 100% end to homelessness (local plans should have a plan to end homelessness).
- Plan should include clearer ideas from locals on what state agencies need to do.
- Need to identify needed legislative fixes.
- Do not lose focus on serving children and vulnerable youth.
- Involvement of Interagency Council – need to talk policy. Need to establish concrete goals for a collaboration and coordination.
- Need balance of urban and rural interests.
- Define clear relationship between state and local plan.
- How does state plan help local plans?
- What are unique components of a state plan (i.e., what state can control)?

SACH Membership Update: SACH membership needs to be built up. At present there are six vacancies although the Governor's Office is planning to make more appointments soon. The vacancies include one county representative, business representative, four non-profits (two of which are expired terms). If SACH members know of anyone who would be interested they need to contact Annie Conant.

Discussion on Operating Policies: The Governor's Office offered samples of operating policies and AHAB's policies were also presented to assist SACH in developing their own operating

policies. The operating policy sub-committee was asked to review these documents and present policies for SACH at the next meeting.

Member Updates: Members gave updated information on the activities of their organizations.

Planning for Next Meetings:

- Next Agenda Topics
 - Update on 10-Year Plan
 - Point in Time Count
 - Ken Stark - Results of draft Mental Health Grant
 - Draft policies and procedures
 - Sound Families evaluation
 - Interagency Council update
 - Policies and membership discussion

Adjourned

The next meeting will be June 14, 2006, at the Red Lion Hotel, Seatac.

Remaining meetings for SACH are October 11, 2006, and December 7, 2006. **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**