

Minutes of the Housing Subcommittee

September 18, 2007, 8:30 a.m., Asbury Theological Seminary.

Members present:

Krissy Todd, Chair; Cara Eule; Brian Wilson; Keylor Chan; and Steve Kodsi.

Members absent:

Thomas Griffin.

Staff present:

Yvonne Vassel, staff coordinator; Donna Wyche, Orange County; Andy Rosario, Osceola County; Rob Heenan and Buddy Balagia, Seminole County.

Guests:

Cathy Jackson, Homeless Services Network (HSN).

There being no changes to the minutes of the last meeting, they were unanimously approved.

Chan reported on his review of effective housing programs in other communities that have implemented 10-year plans. He said the common denominator appeared to be that there is coordination between all the various housing entities and they are linked by a computer referral system. They also have a common system of measuring their success, he said.

Jackson said the region already has a system in place that identifies 65 percent of beds/housing units available to the homeless. A truly effective system needs 100 percent participation, Jackson added. The Committee briefly discussed, without conclusion, what level of funding would be needed to implement a comprehensive housing program. Wilson said Denver spent \$8 million at the start of their 10-year program and has put in \$13 million each year since. "We currently spend about \$3,000 per homeless person so we're not going to have any savings by going to a more comprehensive program," he said.

Eule asked whether anyone had knowledge of any upcoming changes in the Section 8 program. Wyche and Jackson said the program is likely to remain in its current form, as there does not appear to be a thrust, on the Federal level, to change it.

The Committee briefly discussed funding and possible sources. Jackson said it would cost \$5.8 million to provide 750 beds by the year 2011. "It would take every dollar currently in the local continuum of care," she said. "There would be no funds for anything else."

Jackson suggested to the Committee that the local United Way could be solicited to help fund the supportive care portion of supportive housing for the homeless.

Jackson said there is also a great need for emergency shelter beds in Osceola County – which currently has none – and Seminole County, which has very little. But, in order for it to be effective it needs to include intensive case management.

Wilson said one thing the Committee needs to consider is whether, for its final recommendations to be implemented, they will need to be directly funded by government entities.

Todd said the Committee would spend its next meeting working on the sample matrix being used by all the committees. The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:26 a.m.

The next Committee meeting is scheduled for 8:30 a.m. October 2, 2007, at the Asbury Theological Seminary, 8401 Valencia College Lane.

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