



HOMELESS TASK FORCE

MINUTES

November 18, 2015

5:30 p.m.

Central Library

Talbert Room

In Attendance

Task Force Members: Vicki Boatman, Ron Kupferstein, Joseph Sullivan, Bill Blair, Hector Valdez, Ralph Bauer

City Staff: Kellee Fritzal, Captain Dave Bunetta, Stephanie Beverage, Catherine Lukehart, Muriel Ullman, Bill Nelson

1. Public Comment

- Susan Welfinger, BID Manager of the Downtown Business District, supports the efforts of the task force and thanked them for their service. She may be forwarding information to them she feels is important. She is also in attendance if the Task Force has any questions for her
- Joe Dagle, a resident, indicated that he is anxious for action items that await and looks forward to progress with the homeless population.

2. Minutes Approved - After discussion from Members Kupferstein and Boatman, the minutes of October 14, 2015 were approved unanimously. Members Kupferstein and Boatman were concerned that Kellee Fritzal did not submit the cover letter and survey for Homeless service providers for final review by the Task Force. Instead, Fritzal sent them out without final review, not in accordance with page 5 paragraph 7 of the minutes. Motion by Joseph Sullivan and seconded by Vicki Boatman.

Due to the Presenter not arriving, Agenda Item Number 4 was moved ahead to discuss.

4. Review of Vice Chair Ralph Bauer's Proposals dated October 22 and November 3, 2016 - Hector Valdez made reference to Ralph Bauer's proposals and stated that no votes will be taken on them at the meeting. Any recommendations by the Task Force will be handled at the January meeting. Vice-Chair Bauer indicated a desire to write up a motion, as he feels that we need to have all seven City Council members approve his recommendations. Bauer felt that Lloyd Pendleton offered the best evidence that housing the homeless was less expensive than the enforcement/medical costs of allowing people to remain homeless. Bauer also feels that a Department and Director of Homeless are required with direct reporting functions. The City's Homeless population is increasing and is a permanent part of society and we have to address it.

3. Presentation by Karen Williams of 2-1-1 Orange County - Karen Williams announced the news that on Tuesday, November 17th, the County Board of Supervisors on a 5-0 vote approved the purchase of a

building for a 200 bed year round shelter with services. Ms. Williams discussed that 2-1-1 is a non-profit organization that merged several years ago (2012) and the main focus is to coordinate services to those in need, as well as prevention and outreach. If anyone calls "2-1-1" they will be interviewed and, if appropriate, connected to resources and different agencies that provide services.

HUD is shifting to a primary focus on the chronically homeless (permanent supportive housing) and rapid re-housing. It is focused less and less on transitional housing, so the funding in that arena may be eliminated or severely restricted. 2-1-1 works with the County of Orange and with the County's Task Force to End Homelessness. As part of the Task Force, they are the lead Agency with the coordinated entry program. There are organizations/non-profits and some cities that are in charge of surveying all the Homeless residents in an area, to determine their "ranking." The higher the numerical ranking (more issues), the higher up a person will be placed on the shelter/housing list. However, Ms. Williams noted that, although the newly homeless is the larger growing number in many cities, it will be the lowest ranked in the coordinated entry program. This includes the many families living in cars.

Ms. Williams discussed that there are 46,000 people on the Orange County Section 8 Voucher program and that this list will be going away. In fact this is the first time that there is a 30% return rate on vouchers, since the applicants cannot find housing. With the coordinated entry program, all housing vouchers will be used for the highest ranking chronically homeless. They are working on an apartment database so they can even do a Master Lease to obtain units.

Ms. Williams stated that the Anaheim shelter is not the end all. That there will be a need for additional shelter and the next focus will be in the South County area. She mentioned that there will be a need for additional shelters, in the 50 or 100 bed range with multi service centers. Ms. Williams noted that the Laguna Beach Shelter is year round, but 95% of the beds must be for Laguna Beach residents. The Anaheim shelter will have support services and people can stay for no more than 30 days. Discussion occurred that the cities of Anaheim, Santa Ana and Brea and those cities that gave money will only be able to use the Shelter. Karen did not believe that was the case; however, Captain Bunetta confirmed that at the community meeting prior to the County vote, that only 5% of the beds will be set aside for the police department and the remaining beds would be priority to those cities.

Kellee Fritzel asked why Huntington Beach, who has committed over \$8 million to purchase and rehabilitate a 48 unit apartment complex, will not be able to have priority of place our homeless in the units when available, but rather the County through the Coordinated Entry program will have priority. Ms. Williams said she believed there was a process of exemption and indicated she would find out about it. Ms. Williams discussed that Colette's is the non-profit that is undertaking the coordinated entry program for the City, and that you need to score an 8 or above to be able to be placed for the potential for housing. She mentioned the Housing First program that Lloyd Pendleton created in Utah and how the cost of housing is less expensive than the cost of homelessness.

Task Force Member Boatman mentioned the need to coordinate the non-profit and faith based for coordinated services.

5. A. Discussion on December Meeting on Affordable Housing/HB Police Department - Kellee Fritzal requested, that the Task Force met in December. This will assist in an effort to get to Recommendations earlier. The Police Department will provide an update on items they have implemented and an overview of Affordable Housing options will be presented. Kellee Fritzal gave everyone her cell number for any questions or comments. She informed everyone that she would like to do a comprehensive presentation on the City's housing (projects, programs, assistance, definitions, etc.). Kellee encouraged everyone to review their binder and call her or email with any housing questions she could answer for them. Ralph Bauer indicated he would do so.

Joe Sullivan acknowledged that he did not have a solid understanding of the government sponsored programs that are available.

5. B. Discussion on how to Formulate Task Force Recommendations – Hector Valdez opened a discussion on how to handle the recommendation process. Joe Sullivan suggested created short and long term goals and thinks they should probably be discussed ahead of the January meeting. Staff prepared a comprehensive binder to each Task Force member, which included all Agendas, Minutes, PowerPoint presentations, survey results and a list of vacant industrial buildings, as requested by Task Force Member Kupferstein. There were no industrial buildings in foreclosure.

Kellee Fritzal indicated a willingness to meet twice in January if the Task Force wanted to do so. Vicki Boatman acknowledged that they have received a lot of information and suggested that the group be divided into small subcommittees which could focus on a few main ideas for recommendations in January. Ms. Fritzal responded that the Task Force could create subcommittees of no more than three people to focus on particular issues about which they are concerned. Ralph Bauer encouraged everyone to give staff recommendations and make the recommendations part of the agenda process.

Vicki Boatman suggested that staff make agenda items out of all suggestions sent to them to be part of the 12/9 meeting. Ron Kupferstein suggested more police officers, as well as an assessment of the cost of responding to homeless calls to date.

Ron Kupferstein suggested sending additional questions to the City in December so that the responses can be discussed at the January meeting.

Ron Kupferstein wants to know who the City's grant writer is and he was informed that it is Antonia Graham, who has pulled a team together for that specific purpose. Murial Ullman suggested the HTF create short term and long term goals.

5.C. Discussion and Update on Member Ron Kupferstein's Survey - Task Force Member Ron Kupferstein opened a discussion on the survey he created. Kellee Fritzal indicated a low response to said survey. She informed the Task Force that the survey was sent out twice and that she made phone calls to the recipients to encourage participation. Included in the comprehensive binder were the responses in the survey. Also included in the binder was a survey taken in March of 2015 from the housing and homeless service providers in Huntington Beach who identified and prioritized the needs of the homeless population from their perspective. Kellee Fritzal indicated that the groups to which the

survey were a good group of which to ask these questions. Bill Nelson reviewed the list of Service Providers that it was sent to and mentioned that it went to the main service providers. Kellee Fritzal mentioned that BCIS did submit their survey to her at the meeting.

In response to Ron Kupferstein, Ms. Fritzal indicated that she would encourage Fire and Police to respond more thoroughly to the survey for a monetary total of officer/firefighter time/dollars spent on homeless calls as well as all other department service time/money.

Vicki Boatman asked about other organizations in Huntington Beach who did outreach. She was informed that Mercy House does, but they are not in Huntington Beach, but will be in the future. However, both Collette's and BCIS provides services.

Vicki Boatman suggested coordination with human trafficking efforts due to underage exploitation in Huntington Beach.

Meeting adjourned 7:17 p.m.