

MINUTES
Kentucky Interagency Council on Homelessness
Steering Committee
July 20, 2010

The Steering Committee of the Kentucky Interagency Council on Homelessness (KICH) was held on Tuesday, July 20, 2010, 10:30 a.m., Eastern time, 1231 Louisville Road, Frankfort, Kentucky.

Executive Committee Members Present

Rick McQuady

Steering Committee Members Present:

Tom Beatty, Cabinet for Health and Family Services
Shelly Benge, Kentucky River Foothills Community Action Partnership
Susan Best-McWain, Kentucky Disability Determination Services
D.W. Bouchard, Executive Director, Hazard-Perry County Community Ministries
Jason Dunn, Cabinet for Health and Family Services
David Christiansen, Central Kentucky Housing and Homeless Initiative
Walter Derricks, Community Representative
John Devine, Transportation Cabinet
Coleman Eldridge, Governor's Office
Lynn Flynn, Advocacy Liaison, Cabinet for Health and Family Services
Joe Hamilton, Jr., Louisville Metro Government
Natalie Harris, The Coalition for the Homeless
Wendy Hayden, Department of Corrections
Mike Hurysz, Northern Kentucky Housing & Homeless Coalition, Inc.
Barry Johnston, Green River Area Development District
Davey King, Kentucky Housing Corporation
Patrick McKiernan, Department of Veterans Affairs
Mary O'Doherty, Kentucky Domestic Violence Association
Andy Patterson, Phoenix Health Center
Steve Thomas, HUD CPD Representative
Jennifer Weeber, Hazard-Perry County Community Ministries
Beth Workman, Kentucky Domestic Violence Association

Steering Committee Members Absent:

Joanie Abramson, Kentucky Parole Board
Barbara Banaszynski, Volunteers of America of Kentucky
Anne Chaney, Department for Local Government
Michael Denney, Cabinet for Health and Family Services
Heath Dolen, Cabinet for Health and Family Services
John Esham, Governor's Office
Marlene Gordon, Coalition for the Homeless
Lisa Howard, Justice and Public Safety Cabinet
Karen King-Jones, Department of Juvenile Justice
Mary Marshall, Homeless Education, Education Cabinet
Tina Messer, Administrative Office of the Courts
George W. Scott, Office of Employment and Training
Anthony Wright, Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government

KHC Staff Present:

Melissa Benton, Kentucky Housing Corporation
Paula Johnson, Kentucky Housing Corporation
Rosemary Luckett, Kentucky Housing Corporation
Charla Jackson Peter, Kentucky Housing Corporation

Jason Dunn, Steering Committee chairman, welcomed the Steering Committee members and thanked those attending as a representative. Mr. Dunn welcomed John Devine of the Transportation Cabinet and Barry Johnston of the Green River Area Development District as new members to the Steering Committee and asked that each person introduce themselves.

Mr. Dunn asked for a review of the Steering Committee minutes of March 16, 2010. Wendy Young made a motion to approve the minutes. D.W. Bouchard seconded the motion and the members approved.

Mr. Dunn noted the next agenda item, Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness and the Executive Summary. He said the plan and summary were released in June and presented to the Executive Committee.

Melissa Benton, Kentucky Housing Corporation (KHC) KICH staff coordinator, announced that the Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness and the Executive Summary packets are on the table for review. Ms. Benton attended the National Alliance to End Homelessness Conference. She attended one of the pre-sessions that focused on foundations, in which representatives of the Gates, Robert Wood Johnson Foundations, and other known foundations were in the room. Ms. Benton stated that Barbara Poppy is the new executive director of the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH). The purpose of the session was to find other funding sources outside of state and federal funds that can support the federal plan to end homelessness. A new group was formed, Funders Together, which had their first board meeting at the conference. The primary purpose of this group is to support the strategies of the federal plan on ending homelessness.

Ms. Benton also stated that no federal dollars have been associated with the plan. She understands that the U.S. Department of Housing Urban Development (HUD), the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and the U.S. Department of Education work together to support the federal plan. They realign whatever resources are available in the current budget to support the federal plan.

Michael German is Kentucky's regional coordinator and he will help realign Kentucky's Ten-Year Plan to match the federal plan. It was also discussed to hire more staff to do more technical assistance in the states. While many states have ten-year plans, some are active and some are not. Some states have Web sites. Based on conversations Ms. Benton heard, Kentucky is not perfect but is ahead of the game in many ways, having done an update on Kentucky's Ten-Year Plan. However, the Kentucky plan lacks addressing youth issues and is not veteran-specific.

Ms. Benton asked the committee members to look at the federal plan's summary and the four goals: (1) Finish the job of ending chronic homelessness in five years. (2) Prevent and end homelessness among veterans in five years. (3) Prevent and end homelessness for families, youth, and children in ten years. (4) Set a path to ending all types of homelessness. A discussion followed about the HUD Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing Program and the need to increase the number of available housing assistance vouchers.

As far as the money part of the plan, it is believed that the mainstream resources are the crucial link to any of the accomplishments anybody can make. It is going to be difficult; they realize the system is part of the barriers. They are not asking states to rewrite the Ten-Year Plans, but to look at what is working, not working, and compare ways to realign more with the federal plan.

Ms. Benton stated that Shawn Donavon, secretary of HUD, made it very clear that through the years a lot of states and homeless advocates have felt that HUD was not at the table as a partner. He expressed numerous times that under this current administration HUD is a partner as far as wanting to end homelessness and wanting to look at the different partnerships to try to fix numerous problems. She also stated regarding the rental assistance program that there is a Web training next week about starting the process of realigning those vouchers.

There was a lot of energy at the conference. They know the plan is not perfect, but they feel like it is the first time the federal government has a plan in place that can target and align the resources that are currently available.

A report from the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) recommends that the federal Department of Education, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and HUD (1) develop a common vocabulary for homelessness and (2) determine if the benefits of collecting data on housing status in targeted and mainstream programs would exceed the costs. The agencies agreed. Ms. Benton will forward the link to this information. The GOA report stated a need for the definition of homelessness to be uniform among the agencies.

Natalie Harris with The Coalition for the Homeless discussed the emphasis on eliminating homelessness among veterans who qualify for benefits. She expressed concern about how to address services for veterans who are not eligible for VA benefits, but who have military service and are homeless.

David Christiansen of the Central Kentucky Housing and Homeless Initiative stated that the original Continuum of Care (CoC) process addressed local needs. Now it appears that the direction is to the federal level. Thought needs to be given to what is best at the local level, what is best at the state level, and what is best at the federal level, because all things do not work necessarily as well at one level as the other. The HEARTH Act in the rural area is going to make a substantial difference. At some point, it would be nice to balance these issues. Now with the plan for all states to come on board, somewhere there needs to be communication of the two different philosophies.

Pat McKiernan with the Department of Veterans Affairs made a presentation on services and programs for homeless veterans.

The Kentucky Homeless Veterans Program was created in the Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs and is attached to the office of the commissioner for administrative purposes.

The program provides a statewide network of:

- (a) Services that offer treatment for addictions, including but not limited to, alcohol, drug use, and gambling;
- (b) Services that lead to permanent housing;
- (c) Services that lead to employment; and
- (d) Concerned citizens and nonprofit agencies that provide shelter.

Mr. McKiernan stated the program is authorized to accept and expend moneys as may be appropriated from time to time by the General Assembly, and any moneys that may be received from any source including donations and grants. In July 2001, the Homeless Veterans Trust Fund (HVTF) was created with funding from the Veterans Program Trust Fund.

- FY 2007 expenditures of \$25,323.93 provided to 88 veterans and 59 family members - average amount of assistance \$252.85
- FY 2008 HVTF expenditures of \$35,349.49 to 139 veterans and 52 family members
- FY 2009 HVTF expenditures of \$48,203.79 to 166 veterans
- FY 2010 HVTF expenditures of \$53,844 to 195 veterans - average amount of assistance \$254.30
- Sponsored one Homeless Veterans event \$450.00
- Louisville Stand Down received \$3,000.00

Mr. McKiernan was asked if the annual Point-In-Time County veteran numbers were used and how veterans are identified. PITC numbers are not used and veterans are identified by their DD214 Form. A veteran can only use this fund once so he tries to find other resources before using this service. There is a two-page funding referral form which Mr. McKiernan will email to committee members. The definition of a veteran is two years of military service being federally activated by the President. The two years do not have to be consecutive. There is not a lot of follow up on past recipients. They understand this is a one-time fund. He stated that the Veterans Administration office would launch the E-VET Assist on September 1, 2010, a Web-based program to make referrals. This program's database will be manageable.

Mr. Dunn noted the next agenda item is KICH's Policy Subcommittee reports. The first report will be on services by Tom Beatty, Cabinet for Health and Family Services.

Mr. Beatty stated that they are trying to get outcomes for the SOAR initiative. The people trained are not necessarily in the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) and, if they are, they may not be reported. They have been working with Policy Research Associates and KHC HMIS. It could be an email stating that they have been trained and which would serve as database tracking to keep federal funds. There will be two trainings next month, one in Somerset and one in Louisville.

Mr. Beatty stated in reference to Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH), he has a draft Request for Proposals and once approved it will be distributed to all the centers.

Jennifer Weeber added two items regarding services. One of the goals of the Services Subcommittee is to create an online case management curriculum that can be utilized by all service providers across the state. The curriculum will be modeled after what is being used by the Cabinet for Health and Family Services. Modules should be ready for review by mid-August.

Ms. Weeber also reported that, under the leadership of Lee Alcott of Barren River Area Development District, the Continuum of Care Regions 1 and 2 put together a variety of resources for homeless rights. They have also put together a Homeless Resources Manual. Other regions could use these as a guide to create a homeless rights pamphlet for their area. Regions 1 and 2 each received \$1,875 for a total of \$3,750 from KHC and KICH that they used to print the manuals, which are also available on KHC's Web site, Specialized Housing Resources, KICH, under Resources to print.

Davey King, director of KHC's Specialized Housing Resources Department, reported that the Data Subcommittee last met on June 22 and discussed the PITC report that was released on June 30 in conjunction with the KICH Executive Committee. There are copies of the PowerPoint on the table that was presented to the KICH Executive Committee. The report is on KHC's Web site, with information by county and CoC regions, which can be very helpful.

As part of the PITC report, a new administrative policy (attached) was presented and adopted. It encourages all of the state agencies that are a part of KICH to be more active.

Mr. King stated there would be a PITC Summer Shelter Pilot Count on August 26, 2010 in Regions 1 (Rural) and 3 (Urban) in the Balance of State CoC. These were chosen according to the Housing Inventory Chart (HIC) and homeless numbers.

He said that two of the goals were to compare the winter and summer count in those regions and to test an on-line survey, which will be considered for use in the winter count. This on-line survey will be easier for KHC to manage and to provide the available data quicker.

Mr. King reported that some staff attended a Bowman User Conference and there will be an upgrade to ServicePoint in October. In data quality, Carol Anne Sell, Derek Harris, and Latise Hudson are moving forward by creating a report card. This report will let the agency know how well they are doing with entering data into the HMIS. This is a data completeness report and is very simple and easy to understand. It gives the agencies a letter grade of A, B, C, D, or F. This report is in the top five reports that are generated of which four are required. The Report Card was very well received and Bowman released it to users across the country. KHC's program staff can run a report to review each client's grade/percentage, along with specific information on clients that need to have corrections to their data.

Rosemary Luckett, assistant director of KHC's Specialized Housing Resources Department, stated that agencies which are HMIS-licensed can run the report and it can be used as a tracking tool. In addition, the report can cover the entire region for CoC purposes.

Mr. Dunn noted the next agenda item is KICH's Policy Subcommittee Reports. The next report is Prevention by Mary O'Doherty and Beth Workman of the Kentucky Domestic Violence Association (KDVA).

Ms. O'Doherty reported the next meeting of the Prevention Subcommittee will be August 10 at 2:00 p.m. The number one priority is the Homeless ID bill. They are working hard and would like to have someone from the Transportation Cabinet on the Prevention Subcommittee. Ms. O'Doherty asked John Devine if Todd Shipp could assist KICH in pushing the ID bill through the legislature.

Other priorities includes promoting education and training for discharge planning at public institutions and developing financial education programs to help prevent evictions. Another task the Prevention Subcommittee is going to attempt quickly is an inventory of existing financial education programs. KDVA staff can assist with collecting this information.

Mr. Christiansen stated that the Housing Subcommittee is on a hiatus because his intern is not working this summer. One of the items the intern is working on is Section 8 and public housing throughout the state. The subcommittee is also working on a comprehensive list of funding sources that are available for the homeless.

Another initiative KICH is working with KHC staff is to utilize KHC's database of housing providers to develop a localized system of providers who are sympathetic to working with a third-party entity to assist Kentuckians obtain and maintain housing. This task includes getting past some of the barriers to obtaining housing like credit reports, legal issues, and felony status that restrict individuals.

Coleman Eldridge, of the Governor's Office, stated he is looking forward to working the KICH Public Will Subcommittee with Ms. Benton and Mr. Dunn to see what the needs are. He will be talking with current leadership about their ideas and the next meeting is August 17.

Ms. Benton stated that each member has a packet that contains a copy of the Unmet Needs Pilot Project. The strategies evolved from the Ten-Year Plan. It was a recommendation to the Data Subcommittee that KICH look at unmet needs on data that is not being collected. Some individuals are not being served because they do not meet the definition.

Over the past year, KICH developed the criteria, collected the data, and it is now completed. The data collection was October 1, 2009 thru March 31, 2010. There were 25 agencies with 18 completing the six-month project. This is just a sampling of the reports. The agency submitted the data monthly using HUD's definition of homelessness, so it was self-reporting. Senator Neal asked Mr. King last month in his presentation about the unmet needs. KICH is looking at moving forward with the 18 agencies that participated and responded very positively.

From this point forward, in working with the Planning and Performance Department of KHC, this program will be offered January 1, 2011. Agencies will sign up and participate on their designated link with tools for collection so they can report data monthly. KHC will provide to the agencies quarterly a raw data Excel sheet. The agencies will be trained to create their own Excel sheets.

Ms. Benton asked if agencies that are not in the CoC would be interested in participating in this project. Shelly Bengel, with Kentucky River Foothills, stated the project was beneficial, but the numbers are probably low because of lack of volunteers to collect the data. Also, Region 6 was very receptive and is still collecting the data.

The data indicated that there are different reasons why a person was not served. There are fixed choices on some of the areas and a section where the respondent could write in additional information. There were standards for ineligibility. A long-term goal would be to enter the information into HMIS so the data would not be duplicated.

Mr. Dunn noted the next agenda item is State Legislative Issues, Legislative – Administrative Policy Update by Jason Dunn.

Mr. Dunn presented to the KICH Executive Committee a Legislative – Administrative Policy. *The Kentucky Interagency Council on Homelessness (KICH) Steering Committee shall, as necessary, develop and recommend legislation affecting homeless individuals and present this information to the KICH Executive Committee for consideration of approval. Upon approval, the KICH vice chair shall work with the most appropriate KICH member agency, based on legislative subject matter, to further refine the draft legislation to the point where the member agency would be willingly supportive in making the legislation part of its legislative package. The KICH member agency, in making the legislation part of its package, shall utilize its resources and influence to help move the bill through the legislative process. The KICH vice chair shall assist the member agency in this effort, as needed, particularly if opposition is encountered by other groups, state agencies, or legislators. In no way does this policy obligate an agency to support or advance legislation that would be contrary to the goals of the member agency.*

Representative Ruth Ann Palumbo made the motion to approve the policy and it was passed by the Executive Committee.

Mr. Dunn noted that the only piece of KHC-related legislation currently pending is the identification card bill. Identification cards are an important factor for the homeless and KICH wants to reaffirm this as a priority. Mr. Eldridge made a motion to put forth legislation for identification cards for the homeless. Walter Derricks seconded the motion and it was approved by the committee. The next step will be to take it to the Executive Committee to reaffirm.

Andy Patterson, with the Phoenix Health Center, stated that effective July 1 Kentucky Physicians Care, which provides free medication to most of the area's homeless is requiring that homeless individuals have IDs. Ms. O'Doherty asked Mr. Patterson how the center is dealing with this. Mr. Patterson stated they are trying to establish a voucher system for individuals to receive an ID. It also depends on what medication they need, because the center can provide some medications without the ID.

Steve Thomas, with HUD Community Planning Development (CPD), reported that the HEARTH Act is a reauthorization of the McKinney-Vento Act, which was passed last May 2009 by the U.S. Congress. The definition of homelessness will be expanded and the existing Emergency Shelter Grant Program will become a new program called Emergency Solutions Grant. Also, a CoC piece and the Rural Housing Stability program. The public comment period on these programs has ended and will not affect 2010 grants but will affect 2011 grants.

Mr. Thomas said that training for the HEARTH program would be in Colorado September 14 and Atlanta September 27. They are going to talk about the CoC performance review and design and the combination of the Supportive Housing Program, Single Room Occupancy, and Emergency Shelter Grant. Information on the HEARTH Act can be found on the CPD Web mail. In addition, homeless information can be found on the www.HUDHRE.info.

Mr. King stated that the Kentucky 2009 CoC was awarded about \$1,400,000 million for new projects. There are two in the Balance of State CoC. One is in Estill County, which is a rental project sponsored by Kentucky River Foothills. The other is Housing Now sponsored by Kentucky Housing Corporation. Louisville also received a grant for St. Vincent DePaul, as well as Lexington for the Chrysalis House. This was very good news for Kentucky.

Mr. King said that KHC is now working toward the PITC, the HIC is completed and waiting for HUD to announce the grants. KHC has \$650,000 of funds for which four new projects applied in the Balance of State. They will be announced on August 5.

Mr. Dunn stated that the Public Will Subcommittee has a goal of getting KICH on the agenda of organizations that talk to the state and local officials to educate them about homelessness. He has contacted the executive director of Kentucky Association of County Officials (KACO) and KICH will make a presentation at an upcoming meeting.

Mr. Dunn went to the Owensboro Homeless Summit and spoke with Daviess County Judge Executive Reid Haire, who is working hard on the homeless issue and has agreed to assist in the presentation to KACO.

Judge Haire also suggested considering the Department for Local Government's Local Issues Conference in September in Louisville. Mr. Dunn talked to Commissioner Tony Wilder and sent them a list of workshops that KICH can present.

Ms. Benton said that on Monday, July 26, the Steering Committee/Leadership Group will be discussing these conferences further.

Ms. Benton reviewed some announcements. There being no further business to come before the KICH Steering Committee, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully,

Paula R. Johnson

Paula R. Johnson