

MINUTES
Kentucky Interagency Council on Homelessness
Steering Committee
March 16, 2010

The Steering Committee of the Kentucky Interagency Council on Homelessness (KICH) was held on Tuesday, March 16, 2010, 10:30 a.m., Eastern time, 1231 Louisville Road, Frankfort, Kentucky.

Executive Committee Members Present:

Penny Young, Executive Director, Homeless and Housing Coalition of Kentucky

Steering Committee Members Present:

Tom Beatty, Cabinet for Health and Family Services
Joanie Abramson, Kentucky Parole Board
Shelly Benge, Kentucky River Foothills Community Action Partnership
Susan Best-McWain, Kentucky Disability Determination Services
David Christiansen, Central Kentucky Housing and Homeless Initiative
Monica Davis, Education Cabinet
Walter Derricks, Community Representative
Susan Dixen, Office of Governor Steve Beshear
Jason Dunn, Cabinet for Health and Family Services
Colmon Eldridge, Office of Governor Steve Beshear
Lynn Flynn, Advocacy Liaison, Cabinet for Health and Family Services
Marlene Gordon, Coalition for the Homeless
Joe Hamilton, Jr., Louisville Metro Government
Wendy Hayden, Department of Corrections
Mike Hurysz, Northern Kentucky Housing & Homeless Coalition, Inc.
Davey King, Kentucky Housing Corporation
Karen King-Jones, Department of Juvenile Justice
Laura Kronauer for Anne Chaney, Department for Local Government
Patrick McKiernan, Department of Veterans Affairs
Mary O'Doherty, Kentucky Domestic Violence Association
Andy Patterson, Phoenix Health Center
Eric Perez, Transportation Cabinet
George W. Scott, Office of Employment and Training
Steve Thomas, HUD CPD Representative
Adrienne Bush for Jennifer Weeber, Hazard-Perry County Community Ministries

Steering Committee Members Absent:

Barbara Banaszynski, Volunteers of America of Kentucky
D.W. Bouchard, Executive Director, Hazard-Perry County Community Ministries
Michael Denney, Cabinet for Health and Family Services
Heath Dolen, Cabinet for Health and Family Services
Lisa Howard, Justice and Public Safety Cabinet
Tina Messer, Administrative Office of the Courts
Mary Marshall, Homeless Education, Education Cabinet
Anthony Wright, Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government
Linda Young, Northern Kentucky Homeless & Housing Coalition, c/o Welcome House

KHC Staff Present:

Melissa Benton, Kentucky Housing Corporation
Paula Johnson, Kentucky Housing Corporation
Rosemary Luckett, Kentucky Housing Corporation
Amanda Palmer, Kentucky Housing Corporation
Brenda Weaver, Kentucky Housing Corporation

Jason Dunn, chair welcomed the Steering Committee members and thanked those attending as a representative. Mr. Dunn welcomed Susan Dixen and Colmon Eldridge, Office of Governor Steve Beshear as new members to the executive and steering committees and asked that each person introduce themselves.

Mr. Dunn asked for review of the Steering Committee Minutes of January 19, 2010. Penny Young noted that the blank on page four that you would need to insert the word Insurance. Patrick McKierman made a motion to approve the minutes and the members approved.

Mr. Dunn noted the next agenda item Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness.

Ms. Benton noted that the reauthorization of the HEARTH Act that reauthorized the McKinney Vento Act. The United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) Announces Website for Stakeholder Input on Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness. USICH has launched a new interactive website called *USICH Preventing and Ending Homelessness* - fsp.uservice.com. *Public feedback forum will close on Monday, March 22, 2010.* This is one element of the transparent process of developing the Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness. The HEARTH Act called for USICH to deliver to the Plan to Congress no later than May 20.

This site is not just a repository for ideas. Once an idea has been posted, anyone can vote and comment on the suggestions and the most popular ideas will be displayed at the top of the list. *USICH Preventing and Ending Homelessness* will be reviewed by USICH staff and the ideas that receive the most votes and comments will be assessed for possible inclusion in the FSP.

USICH strongly encourages you to forward this opportunity to any interested parties so they too can submit their input via the electronic feedback process. We have icons that your organization can add to your website if interested. Users will need to provide basic information to register in order to submit their responses.

Ms. Benton asked if, we as KICH want to send anything formally regarding Kentucky to USICH? They are looking at all areas of homelessness, not just chronic homelessness.

Mr. Dunn noted the short timeframe on responding to the request and asked that each subcommittee chair to review the web site and if KICH needed to add anything and to please forward those to Ms. Benton and himself.

Davey King noted that the National Alliance to End Homeless conference Jennifer Hoge of USICH moderated and gathered information and noted that rural homeless is an issue.

Lynne Flynne stated that the website was divided into areas of youth, single, veterans, chronic homelessness. Ms. Flynne suggested that KICH members vote. Marlene Gordon stated that HMIS is a big plus for Kentucky. There are only three in the country collecting data to show commonalities in homelessness. Mr. Dunn asked for other suggestions. Wendy Haydon asked about drug charges. Ms. Benton stated that this type is among the comments, in different categories.

Mr. Dunn noted the next agenda item is Ms. Haydon and Joanie Abramson to present Reentry in Kentucky an Overview.

See attached PowerPoint presentation on Reentry in Kentucky an Overview.

Ms. Hayden stated that despite these statistics selling reentry to the public is not an easy task. Employment is crucial upon release. Prior training and education is a necessity in the institution and in the community as a resource. We are lacking available programming slots in the institutions and drastically lacking in the community. As stated in the previous slide stable employment is the biggest predictor for reentry success for adult males.

Our population cannot continue to grow. Economic times make it difficult already for vocational programming slots, educational slots, cognitive behavioral treatment, etc and the Department is unable to build more prisons; this is not the solution anyway because we would not be providing the skills necessary for offenders to reenter successfully.

According to the Institute on Rehabilitation Issues, the National Disability Rights Network (2007) estimated that half of the incarcerated have disabilities including mental illness, cognitive disabilities, and/or physical and acute chronic disabilities. Our criminal justice system is taxed in managing a large number of persons with disabilities who end up incarcerated due in part to a lack of mental health and other public services.

As you can see, many of those served by your agency are also seen by the Department of Corrections.

Recidivism is measured by the number of offenders that return to state custody within two years of release. As you can see from slide six, the statistics nearly 1/3 of those admitted in 2008 were offenders that were released on parole however returned due to a parole violation (PV). A perfect example of the revolving door.

Kentucky Department of Corrections (DOC) received a technical assistance grant in May 2009 to provide a "kick off" training for reentry; Second Chance Act grant in October 2009; technical assistance on the Transition from Prison to the Community (TPC) model in October 2009; and established the Governor's Reentry Task Force

The above grants in 2009 to help us plan strategy. From the grant, we will have 11 additional reentry positions between the prisons and Jefferson County Probation and Parole. We will have two workforce development positions in Jefferson County, assistance in the development of statewide regional task forces to engage the community in their role in reentry, a reinvestment project in the Louisville area, and we are in the process of purchasing an assessment tool to measure an offender's risk of recidivating and to determine their criminogenic needs. The positions have been posted, registers received, and new and enhanced job duties have been set. We have also received approval to purchase the Level of Services Case Management Inventory (LS-CMI) as our assessment tool and plan to begin training in March or April.

The TPC planning has begun and we meet with CEPP monthly to better execute our mission. CEPP also assists the Department with the Governor's Reentry Task Force. We will have our second Steering Committee meeting in a couple of weeks at the Frankfort Career and Development Center, a minimum-security prison.

We recently developed a MOU with Eastern Kentucky University (EKU) as well. They will be evaluating our current programs to assess their effectiveness in reducing recidivism; this should allow us to determine what programs are evidence based in nature and should be kept and which programs will need to be discontinued. This will be an ongoing process with EKU.

DOC has identified that there are eight main criminogenic needs; Anti-social Cognition; Anti-social companions; Anti-social personality or temperament; Family and/or Marital; Substance abuse; Employment; School; and Leisure and/or Recreation

The LS-CMI will assist the DOC in determining the above needs for each individual offender. Those that are determined to be low risk of recidivating will not be placed in programming; statistics show that placing low risk offenders in programming may actually increase their risk. Those determined to be medium – high risk are our target population. The assessment tool will allow us to better target the offender's needs and will free up program space for those that will benefit most (the medium – high risk). DOC has done a good job of addressing the last four needs. However, there is no programming to address the top four needs. Nor does the Department have programming or resources in the community to address these issues and many others. Again, EKU will assist us in this endeavor.

A second phase of this process will be targeted towards state offenders housed in our local facilities/jails. They are 1/3 of our incarcerated population however, the risk assessment will not be administered during the first phase of the reentry process to these individuals nor do these individuals have the same access to programming as those housed in institutions. At this time we have not begun administering the LS-CMI therefore we do not know if our lower custody inmates (many of which are housed in local jails) may be our higher risk to recidivate. This will have to be determined following use of the instrument and a plan will need to be developed to address these offenders.

Mr. Gordon stated that Adanta is working with jails in ten counties in south central Kentucky

Joanie Abramson stated that DOC is aware that the inmates need to do more. Currently there are nine members of the parole board are appointed by the Governor. The primary role of the board is to review the inmates file. Currently there are 21,000 housed in prison and jails. Last year the board reviewed over 16,000 files. There are only a handful of inmates that will not be released, these are death row and sentenced to life without parole. One way or another the majority will be released, either on parole with supervision or completing with full sentences and no restrictions and therefore no accountability. The Parole Board supports this reentry concept and to me reentry is our future.

The question was asked who could go to a halfway house. An inmate, parolees and halfway backs. Halfway backs are those on parole and have violated their parole and if they continue to violate they will be returned to prison. There are different class of felons- A, B, C, and D, with A being the most serious offense and D (example) drug, DUI and theft. The halfway houses have to be contracted with the DOC and meet guidelines and restrictions.

The percentage of release parolees are 58 percent. The serve out rate has decreased. A serve out is a released inmate and they have not restrictions. Ms. Abramson stated that the board would like to see inmate on some type of restrictions.

Mr. Dunn noted the next agenda item are KICH Policy Subcommittee Reports. Tom Beatty stated the Services subcommittee had a guest speaker Gerard "Rod" Barber who presented information and discussed the high cost of homelessness in Metropolitan Louisville (Cost of Homelessness in Metropolitan Louisville). Every dollar invested in social work, you would save money in corrections, a total save of \$2 dollars per \$1. Put funds in community based services, instead of higher based services. Target group for the Cost of Homelessness Study is legislators and business groups to put

together packages to use state money. Not using the money wisely. Costing about 5 million dollars a year for homeless services. University Hospital does report or count the total cost of care, whether or not you have insurance that has paid a percentage or not. There are Medicare, block grant dollars, etc. going into this cost.

How can we provide care/need and prevent the high cost institutional care, by community care services. Serious Mental Illness/Co-occurring Condition (SMI/CC) is 14.7% of clients, costing 56.8% of costs. Community based services cost almost half the cost of institutional services. Multiple pressures within the system. Pushing the Housing First initiative, looking at the permanent housing first, rather than trying to push emergency shelters. Medicare reimbursement does not provide the funding for intensive care. Doing the waiver will not save short term until units can actually be shut down in hospitals. Follow up issues with SSI cases.

Mr. Beatty and Ms. Gordon are working to get additional funding for Prevention Pilot Project. Ms. Benton suggested the possibility of Mr. Barber coordinate with them to incorporate some of the findings with the Pilot project. We have applied for the SAMSA grant.

Mr. Beatty stated their will be SOAR training in Prestonsburg on April 27, 2010 for Mountain Comp Care. They are possible trainings in Owensboro, Lexington and Richmond. Andrea Miller has been trained and Mr. Gordon will be trained in the next few months. Andy Patterson stated since they have been trained in SOAR 45 percent of 90 applications have been approved.

Ms. Hayden stated that Richard McClain would be conducting SOAR training for DOC employees.

Mr. Dunn noted the next agenda item if Data Subcommittee Updates and Mr. King will provide an update on the Annual Point-In-Time Count (PITC). Mr. King stated there were no major issues with the couch. All surveys have been scanned and the data will be compiled for a preliminary review by mid-March for the data subcommittee. We will report to HUD the end of April, and then make a public release. The Education Cabinet has collected data and will be incorporated into the overall PITC. The U.S. Census will be working with the local shelters to collect data to incorporate into the census.

Mr. King stated that a meeting was held with Bowman regarding the Service Point software used for collecting data in HMIS. A survey was distributed to users and the information was compiled and given to Bowman. Mike Hurysz noted that it was not user friendly. Mr. King noted the workflow was not intuitive. A Bowman representative with meet with us and review the data collecting information flow. The survey information will be made available to the committee

Mr. Dunn noted the next agenda item is Prevention and Public Will Subcommittee updates. Mr. Gordon had two prevention issues. The Louisville Task Force program was up and running. A board has been appointed by the Mayor. Secondly, the state picture Senate B49 is dead. Politics is preventing it to proceed. Senator Harris has sent the bill three times to the Senate floor with receiving a no vote each time. Senator David Williams has not been responsive to calls from the Governor's Office. Mr. McKierman stated his Commission according to bylaw could not support the legislation because it is not a veteran specific. Ms. Gordon stated that the Circuit Court Clerks office has been very helpful.

Ms. Dixen suggested a two-prong approach. Send emails and phone calls to Senator Williams and get the media involved. Debbie Yeter of the Courier-Journal works in this field. Colmon Eldridge stated that the officials are running for reelection. Rally a group to the capitol. Those individuals cannot enter because they do not have picture IDs

Mr. Dunn noted that Brenda Weaver has an announcement. Mr. Weaver recently went to the NCSH Conference in Washington and visited Congressman Davis's office. Congressman Davis supports homelessness in Kentucky. He has created and kicked off in the House and will lead the charge for Homeless.

Ms. Weaver wanted to forward to Congressman Davis information on KICH.

Mr. Dunn noted the next item on the agenda is Housing Subcommittee. David Christiansen stated that 2010 priorities are being diverted and is being charged with how the housing authorities use voucher and do a comparative special partnership with Keli Reynolds will help the Housing subcommittee.

Mr. Christiansen just left the Affordable Housing Trust Fund meeting – talking about increasing the insurance premium tax and would be effective March 31, 2010.

They know there is a need, but funding is hard to get and we don't have the votes

Mr. Dunn noted the next item on the agenda is Public Will Subcommittee.
Ms. O'Doherty stated that KICH has a Facebook page.

Mr. Dunn noted the next agenda item is State Legislative Issues. Penny Young stated there are four pieces to work on.

1. ID Cards as Ms. Gordon discussed earlier.
2. Payday Lending. Received air time on KET, there are 22 co sponsors. Please make phone calls to help get this passed. Jeff Grier refuses to have hearings. Ms. O'Doherty stated that the state is hiring a consultant to compile data. Ms. Gordon suggested that shelters collect data upon entry and enter the information into the HMIS data system. Questions. Have you used a payday facility. How many times. Are you currently using a payday facility. Mr. McKierman stated that the Disabled Veterans Foundation requested five requests for \$2,500 to help veterans to repay the payday lenders. Ms. Young stated that the individuals also need to make the calls to the legislators within their district. Ms. Palmer stated that KHC's Legal and Communications department are researching information regarding the personal stories to be placed on KICH's website. Ms. Christiansen stated that the individuals could be interviewed in front of the payday lenders.
3. Tax Bill. Representative Wayne stated that is has gone back to committee with an amendment.
4. Energy Bill. This bill went to a von energy committee and is also dead. Senator Rocky Adkins has a bill not as strong a KY's Bill and is waiting to be heard.

Mr. Dunn asked is there is any other legislative news. Ms. Young stated that the Energy Bill – Seven Counties Services is dynamic and has clients assigned to meet with Senators. She also stated that next year we need to be more visible.

Mr. Dunn noted the next agenda item is Federal Programs Updates. Steve Thomas stated that HUD will hold two national conferences in September. Denver, CO – September 14-17, 2010 and Atlanta, GA – September 27-30, 2010 for KY Hearth, HPRP and HMIS.

Mr. Dunn noted the next agenda item is 2010 Continuum of Care NOFA. Mr. King stated a draft of the definitions will be included in the draft regulations. Mr. Thomas stated that the 2009 CoC is in electronic format and they will review applications without any contingencies, plus renewals. March 22-23rd the information should be released.

Mr. King stated that the CoC handout regarding the new project applications for permanent housing initiative. KHC will be accepting applications for this initiative to serve disabled homeless individuals or families or chronically homeless individuals. The funding amount is approximately \$652,582 which is based on the 2009 amount.

Mr. King also noted the new CoC education requirements from HEARTH Act which will be discussed at the Regional CoC meetings and at the KICH and KHC levels. The application will be available soon in an eGram and on KHC's website.

Mr. Dunn noted the next agenda item is Announcements. Ms. Benton reviewed the announcements. She asked that the members complete the Housing Needs Survey.

The Executive Committee will meet May 19, 2010 at the, Bluegrass Community Action

Mr. Dunn thanked the group and stated that it is a real honor to serve as chair.

There being no further business before the KICH Steering Committee, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully,

Paula R. Johnson

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