

CITY of Auburn Mayor's Task Force on Homelessness
DRAFT Meeting Summary for Meeting 2: Tuesday, December 17, 2015
5:00 – 7:00pm
Auburn Senior Activity Center

MEETING ATTENDANCE					
Task Force Members & Alternates:					
Sylvia Fuerstenburg <i>For Sarah Christiansen</i>	✓	Alexis Schleiss	✓	Carla Hopkins	✓
Alexander Foster	✓	Leticia Figueroa	✓	Jeremy James	✓
Josh Wheeldon	✓	Dennis Grad	✓	Nancy Wyatt	✓
Virginia Gannon	✓	Jeff Escobar	✓	Ron Roberts	✓
Debbie Christian	✓	Cara Brinkley	✓	Diane Cimino-Kelly	✓
Laura Kniss	✓	Denise Daniels	✓	Kathie Blaschke	✓
Ted Leonard	✓	Matt Wetter	X		
Staff Support Team:					
Dana Hinman	X	Tami Kapule	✓	Bill Pierson	✓
Erica Azcueta	✓	Daryl Faber <i>For Jamie Kelly</i>	✓	Kristin Winkel	✓
Karen Reed, Facilitator	✓	Eric Robertson	✓		✓
Guests:					
Megan Gibbard	✓				

The meeting convened at 5:00 p.m.

Welcome, Introductions Review of Agenda. Karen Reed, Task Force facilitator, welcomed the group and reviewed the agenda. She noted that there was one comment card submitted at the first task force meeting (transcribed in meeting packets) and no public comments received on the City's website since the last meeting. She thanked the Task Force members for completing the homework assignment from the first meeting. She noted that there were sign-up sheets for several site visits that will take place in January; all Task Force members should sign up for at least one site visit and staff will follow up with scheduling detail. Site visit locations include: AYR's Arcadia House, meal sites hosted by The Auburn Food Bank, and Multi-Service Center's transitional housing sites.

Co-Chair remarks. Karen noted this will be a standing item for future meetings.

Approval of summary notes from Meeting #1: Diane Cimino-Kelly moved to accept the notes, Ted Leonard seconded the motion. Meeting notes were approved as submitted.

Review and Approval of Task Force Charter. Karen reviewed the proposed Task Force charter, circulated at the last meeting and incorporating a couple changes. Nancy Wyatt moved to accept the charter; Virginia Gannon seconded the motion. The Charter was approved in the format included in the meeting packets.

Recap from Meeting #1. Karen reviewed some of the major take-aways from the presentations at the first task force meeting, including,

- Major causes of homelessness: 1) growing shortage of affordable rental housing 2) simultaneous increase in poverty; other contributing factors: common health problems, rise in rental market rates
- Annual One Night Count in King County only considers the visible sheltered & unsheltered, but does not include those that are couch-surfing, in jail or in hotels; 132 in Auburn in 2015;

Response to Task Force Questions. Karen noted that responses to the questions from Meeting 1 are in the packet, including copies of materials being circulated this evening.

Homework from Meeting #1: Task Force and Staff Team Responses on Concerns and Underlying Causes of Homelessness. Karen presented a short PowerPoint summarizing the major themes in the homework responses:

- Concerns: Most frequently mentioned: safety of residents, safety of the homeless population, lack of services locally or nearby, negative views, trash
- Underlying causes: Most frequently mentioned: drug/alcohol addiction, mental illness, lack of affordable housing, poverty, lack of income; being homeless is a choice of some, lack of sufficient services
- Questions: What's the current situation in Auburn? What can we do to help? Is the Community willing to help? Ideas as questions: Can we make available more emergency shelter in Auburn? Can we secure more supportive housing? Can we produce a map of local resources?

Karen referred to a preliminary chart of services available in Auburn and South King County. It was noted that there is an Emergency Weather Shelter in Auburn, but no Transitional or other Emergency Shelters.

Presentation & Discussion: Overview of Systems to Address Homelessness, Megan Gibbard, Program Manager, Youth and Young Adult Initiatives, All Home. Megan shared copies of All Home's strategic plan and gave a presentation around systems in place in King County to address homelessness. She noted that Mayor Backus is on All Home's Board; the strategic plan for All Home is that homelessness is **rare, brief and one-time**.

Megan spoke to the **Continuum of Care**: homeless individuals have a variety of needs. Within different population groups, the interventions are different. For example, those under age 18 have services, mandates and laws that are different than those for other demographics. Outreach services address immediate needs; Emergency Shelter provides temporary residence to provide safety & protection from exposure; Transitional Housing assists in the transition from shelter to living independently; Stabilization services include support services, homelessness prevention, rapid rehousing, support to find housing in the private market.

Megan noted that the data shows people living in every zip code in King County are experiencing homelessness. 43% of the Auburn population is "housing burdened" (e.g., paying more than 30% of their income for housing). Causes of homelessness include economic conditions, lack of resources, demographic composition, transience. Washington is ranked 49th in the US related to the lowest amount \$ invested in mental health issues. Brief & one-time: individualizing the approach to provide services and address issues quickly & aggressively.

Comments, questions and discussion included:

- Can you provide information on the Salt Lake City Housing First program at the next meeting? (Yes).
- The current coordinated entry system is frustrating.
- A One-Stop Center is needed—moving to “Hubs” in 2016.

Presentation and Discussion: Auburn Local Government Service Providers: Their Role, What they’re seeing in terms of homelessness, gaps and ideas.

Bill Pierson, Assistant Chief of Auburn Police:

- Mission & vision – the Police Department’s basic services include: 9-1-1, traffic enforcement, felony criminal investigations, special weapons tactics, records/warrants, community programs
- 6 homicides within the City limits this year; 3 at Les Gove: all 3 victims and suspect were homeless
- Challenges related to homelessness: homelessness is not a crime; mental illness is often prevailing; some choose the lifestyle, some are not interested in help
- The Police Dept. has limited resources other than jailing people. Simply being homeless is not a crime and even if folks are jailed they are likely to be back on the street in a few days.
- All officers go through crisis intervention training
- Voids in services: “I can’t go there for help because I’ve been trespassed”
- Incarceration puts them into a system that doesn’t treat their issues effectively
- Homelessness issues are the number one reasons for neighborhood meetings. “Unwanted persons” are the second highest category of calls to the police department.
- The solution can’t always be to “lock those people up”
- City has a Community Response Team (CRT) officers (Jason Blake & April Clapp) as well as a Muckleshoot Tribe Liaison (Stephanie Bennett)
- *Task Force suggestions and questions:*
 - *What will the police do about the homeless? (A: Our main tool is to jail people which is not a solution. Homelessness cannot be solved by the Police Dept.)*
 - *Can PD start using homeless as a demographic, to collect data? Data proves perception*

Tim Day, VRFA (Valley Regional Fire Authority):

- Mission & vision: EMS, Fire, prevention, public education
- Homeless challenges: complex needs, risky behaviors, limited social services, access & safety (makeshift camps)
- Service gaps in the data that’s collected
- Needs: unified approach
- Service strengths: CMT/vulnerable populations technician
- Starting in 2016: Community Medical Response Vehicle Program; 3-year pilot program (1 vehicle for a broad area in SKC)

Jamie Kelly, City Parks Planner:

- Mission: to protect the natural settings of Auburn; to provide a safe, clean, beautiful setting to enjoy our city’s vast Parks system (1,000 acres of Parks spaces within the City of Auburn)

- Les Gove Park and Veterans' Memorial Park are the two highest for crime and nuisance
- The Interurban Trail, White River Trail are two most impacted trails
- Challenges: messes associated with homelessness, shopping carts with belongings left unattended (they deserve a safe place to keep their possessions), undeveloped open spaces, the amount of time and effort spent by Parks staff to trespass offenders
- Pulled 4,000 lbs. of garbage out of one homeless camp
- Programs in response: address the situation, call the City's Community Response Team
- Goal: to keep the mess small by catching it early
- Prevention through environmental design: clearing out areas makes a difference
- Strengths: interdepartmental relations with PD, code enforcement as well as the Library System, Auburn Youth Resources and The Auburn Food Bank
- Gaps: limited staff, lack of communication
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- *Task Force questions and suggestions:*
 - *Could Parks add more public facilities, trash cans, etc.?*
 - *What happens to private possessions in camps when the City is going to do a clean up?*
(A: Parks staff will not enter, destroy, clean up without prior permission or contact (only if abandoned).

At the request of Denise Daniels, Task Force CO- Chair, Karen invited a citizen to speak to the group.

Petrina Yuenger said she is homeless and has been living on the streets in Auburn for over a year. Before that she lived in Auburn 10 years. She asked if anyone on the Task Force was homeless. She encouraged the Task Force to listen to the voices of the homeless. She described some of her challenges living on the street, trying to find housing and food and stay safe. She thinks of herself as a member of the Auburn community. She described challenges in dealing with community members, service providers and police.

Denise Daniels noted she will allow people to speak in the future if similar requests arise, although we do not have public comments as a formal part of each meeting agenda.

Karen reminded the group that the staff will be doing several focus groups with homeless individuals in Auburn and will be bringing transcripts of those discussions back to the Task Force.

The next meeting is Thurs., Jan. 7, 2016.

The meeting adjourned at 7:05 P.M.