

Collective Impact on Homelessness Steering Committee Meeting Minutes 3.8.2017

Steering Committee Facilitators in attendance: Shaleane Gee

Steering Committee members or alternates in attendance: Janice Kimball, Mayor Ben McAdams, Mayor Jackie Biskupski, James Morgese, Jennifer Godfrey, Jennifer Steele, Jonathan Hardy, Kim Correa, Anne Burkholder, Laura Michalski, Janice Kimball, Palmer DePaulis, Matt Minkevitch, Josh Romney, Tara Rollins, Erin Trenbeath-Murray, Matt Melville (for Dennis Kelsch), Tiffanie Provost, Don Przybyla, Glenn Bailey, and Kathy Bray.

I. Welcome & Introductions Mayor McAdams welcomed everyone and introductions were made around the room. Mayor McAdams stated it has been an incredible 2 years. The committee has come so far and is in a great place today. Although there is much to discuss on the agenda, Mayor McAdams wanted to say thank you to everyone. Mayor McAdams thanked all of the women for all of the work that they do as part of the National Women's Day. He thanked the committee and the partners as well as the members of the public who are here and who have been engaged, and who will engage this month.

II. Legislative Update Mayor McAdams thanked everyone for hanging in there during a hectic legislative session. There has never been such widespread support from the state for homelessness. One of the next steps is to find a shelter outside of Salt Lake City. The recommended site needs to be given by March 30th. There is going to be a site evaluation committee that will be put together to evaluate sites and there will be a website where the public can give their input.

A little over a week ago Mayor McAdams joined Mayor Biskupski and state leaders to announce next steps for addressing homelessness, including a new direction of the shelter model. A copy of the proposal summary for HB441 was handed out and will be on the website. In response to the plan, it is anticipated that the full funding amount that was requested for the emergency shelter and ongoing support, as well as additional state resources for alternatives to shelter, system improvements that will help more efficiently coordinate existing and new efforts across the services delivery system region-wide, and resources to continue public safety and treatment initiatives that continue the work that began last fall with Operation Diversion.

Mayor McAdams emphasized that he anticipates full funding of the request and additional needs. Legislative support and mandates require compromise. But this is an incredible accomplishment. While there may be some concerns about specific details of the plan, it is certain that there has never been such widespread engagement and significant public commitment to addressing homelessness. This is the direct result of the two years of hard work by this Committee. Mayor McAdams thanked the committee members for their dedication.

This is the end of the second chapter of the collective work together – the most difficult and contentious chapter. The committee will be moving forward with next steps in anticipation.

One of those next steps includes identifying a shelter site outside Salt Lake City. At the request of the state, Salt Lake County was asked to facilitate a group of stakeholders in considering potential sites and making a recommendation to the State Homelessness Coordinating Committee for their ultimate approval and funding. The legislation requires Salt Lake County to get that done by March 30. Although that is only three short weeks away, Mayor McAdams believes a public process is essential. The public process will be abbreviated but thorough. Salt Lake County is forming a small site evaluation committee of stakeholders to assist. There will be multiple ways for the public to get information and provide input.

- A website will be available first thing next week that will have maps and detailed information about the sites and about resource center models.
- Open Houses will provide information and opportunities for the public to ask questions, voice concerns, and discuss the issue with me, with other elected leaders, with experts, and with stakeholders.
- Input can also be passed along to the committee through email and phone.
- Public comment will also be heard at a Site Evaluation Committee meeting.
- All public comment received will itself be made public as well.

In the materials provided, a schedule for public feedback opportunities was shared. There will be a link sent out for the website and more information to come. Mayor McAdams stated that this will not be easy or comfortable, but he trusts his team, the stakeholders, and he trusts and believes in the public process. Mayor McAdams encourages everyone to participate and to encourage others to participate.

Mayor McAdams stated that there have been many people from the public attending the HOMES meetings during the session and are up to speed on the bill. There also will be a final HOMES meeting this Friday, March 10, 2017. Mayor McAdams asked Patrick Reimherr and Jon Hardy to briefly summarize some aspects of the bill and address a few common questions.

Patrick Reimherr stated that the HOMES meeting on Friday will either be at the Salt Lake County building or the Capitol. Patrick spoke about the legislative bill on homelessness. There were some bills that were funded and some that were not. Jon Hardy stated that they are looking at the impact of emergency shelter and bill HB441. The state has a \$20 million dollar contribution but there is still a need for private donation. House Bill 36 was amended and will probably be passed today, March 8, 2017. Tara Rollins stated that there is a need for people to push for House Bill 36 to get passed so that homeless people can be housed. Tim Whalen stated he is trying to get money for treatment.

III. Shelter the Homeless Committee Update Last fall it was briefly discussed that Shelter the Homeless, which owns the land and property at the Rio Grande and Midvale Shelters and at Palmer Court, was being asked to evolve into a more active organization

that will expand its existing mission to also help our homeless service system become more efficient, coordinated, accessible and accountable. This will be moving forward over the next several months. To help with this effort, Salt Lake County offered to fund the organization's first full-time staff member for a transitional first year.

Mayor McAdams stated that Janell Fluckiger has agreed to serve in the capacity as Executive Director. Shelter the Homeless has a critical role in improving outcomes for those experiencing homelessness and for communities that host existing and future homeless service facilities.

Many may already know Janell through her work with Collective Impact. Mayor McAdams is looking forward to working with her and supporting her during this crucial crossroad. Janell thanked Mayor McAdams and Mayor Biskupski for their support. She stated that this is going to be a group effort between the city, the county and the state. Janell stated that the groundwork has been done over the last two years with the funding, the planning and the agreement. Now we will start seeing results from everyone's efforts. Janell said that the legislature really wants to see results so if they need to get involved to help they will. Janell said that she has already met with most of the committee members already and is looking to move forward collaboratively for providers and homeless clients.

IV. Rio Grande Area Screening Assessment/Survey/Discussion Shaleane showed a power point presentation which will be on the website.

- David Litvack asked if the legal issues were criminal as well as civil, such as eviction. Shaleane stated that was correct. David asked if the data breaks it down. Shaleane stated that thanks to the Criminal Justice Advisory Council, they were able to break it down from Operation Diversion.
- Mayor Jackie Biskupski asked if House Bill 170 would help with these legal issues and have positive impact. Shaleane stated she was unaware at this time and would need to look into that with the partners and the subject matter experts.
- A question was asked by the public if the person had just had their child(ren) if they are with them or if they are homeless. Shaleane stated that they were asked if they just had custodial care of their child(ren) who may or may not be there at the shelter.
- There was a question from the public if someone was homeless from a bad relationship, was it due to domestic violence. Shaleane stated that was not a question that was asked. They wanted to be very careful not to ask if they were the victim or the perpetrator.
- David Litvack asked that if someone had Medicaid previously and then lost it, is there any correlation with criminal justice. Shaleane stated that it has not been looked at yet. They are planning on looking into it and they have the ability to do it through this current effort.
- David Litvack asked if the time arrested is in the person's lifetime or if it is over a specific timeframe. Shaleane stated that this is over the course of one's lifetime.
- There was a statement from someone on the committee that the numbers for the trauma and abuse victims that were self-reported are actually much higher.

Shaleane stated that they do want to work with the experts to get a more accurate picture. They will show them the full data, including the comments that were made.

- Matt Minkevitch thanked Shaleane and Mayor McAdams and stated that he likes the systems-level approach and finds it quite helpful. He stated that there are individuals who are 55 years old or older that have service needs. Shaleane stated that there are two things that need to be done and that she would like to ask the committee to incorporate focus on the elderly and the youth. There have been a significant amount of youth according to the data that have been kicked out of their homes or dropped off at the shelter. The elderly is clearly a priority that needs to be included in the priority population.
- Matt Minkevitch stated that the data set included 13% of those who are African American or Black, which is quite consistent with their data set, which he believes is disproportionately high when compared to the general demographic.
- Josh Romney stated that there are people that have ties to Utah, but we are not only helping people from Utah but people from other states. Josh is very concerned that Utah is going to become a “magnet” to other state’s homeless populations. Josh stated that Utah can take care of our own people but when people start coming from other states to get help, then will be unable to adequately help our own. Jon Hardy stated that the data does not show that the majority of people are from other states. Josh stated that 15% to 20% of the people who are homeless are from other states and Utah is supporting them and it is very concerning. Jon stated that there were long term and short term homelessness and we need to really look at the data. Mayor McAdams stated that everyone needs to not jump to high level conclusions and the data shows that there is an issue. We are all trying to learn from this data. Men and women’s needs, causes and fears are very different from each other. We need to start looking at the system and realigning the needs that are specific for the men and women. Mayor Biskupski asked if Josh had a thought as to what Utah could do. Josh stated that Utah should look at the other six surrounding states to see if they are having the same homelessness problem or if it is just occurring in Utah and if we are attracting people. Utah also needs to check with the other surrounding states to see if they have approximately the same amount of homelessness or if Utah has a big influx. Glenn Bailey stated he would like to know how many native Utahans are coming forward, and how many people lived here before they became homeless, regardless of where they came from. These two numbers would really tell us if people are coming from elsewhere while they are homeless, because we have such great services. He stated that every big city in American has had an increase in homelessness. Mayor McAdams stated that Utah does not want to be a “magnet” for homeless people and it would be a worthwhile effort to research it.
- Tiffanie Provost thanked Shaleane for the data. Tiffanie asked if we are going to take the data numbers and correlate everything. She would like to have more in depth facts and create some analytics. Shaleane stated that is what the next step would be. Mayor McAdams stated that is a part of Coordinated Entry.
- Erin Trenbeath-Murray asked can homelessness be prevented and how can Salt Lake County make a larger impact on criminal behavior. Shaleane stated that this data is not about homelessness in Salt Lake County, it is only in a particular area on a specific day. Salt Lake County is already aware of some of the issues in the area.

There would be different data collected if there was information gathered about homelessness in Salt Lake County.

- Daniel thanked the committee for going out into the community and doing the research. Daniel stated that he has done research in neuroscience for over 10 years. He stated that quantitative data is different than qualitative data. He has administered the data to individuals for the past three years. Last year he asked “do you feel like this accurately reflects your needs to help us serve you better?” and they almost always answered “no”. Daniel stated that is concerning to him. Then he followed up with another question of “how do you think we can do better” and they answer “talk with me, ask an open ended question, let me tell you my story”. Daniel stated there is some data there that can be gathered that will better inform our efforts and help us to work on that relationship with them. Daniel stated we need to look at how we are impacting homelessness with these interviews and if we really value them. Daniel asked if Salt Lake County is going to be doing a better job at quantitative way to collect data. Mayor McAdams stated that we are always looking for ways to improve. We are always looking for continuous learning and continuous improvement.

Meeting adjourned at 10:03