

## Collective Impact on Homelessness Steering Committee Meeting Notes 12.07.2016

**Steering Committee members or alternates in attendance:** Mayor Ben McAdams, Mayor Jackie Biskupski, Erin Trenbeath-Murray, Jennifer Steele, David Litvack, James Morgese, Mikelle Moore, Kim Correa, Mayor JoAnn Seghini, Glenn Bailey, Josh Romney, Kathy Bray, Alan Pruhs, Palmer DePaulis, Matt Mellville (for Dennis Kelsch), Jennifer Godfrey (for Erin Trenbeath-Murray), John Wilkes, Pamela Atkinson, Janice Kimball, Matt Minkevitch, Tara Rollins, Tiffanie Provost, Mike Brown

- I. **Welcome and Introductions:** Mayor McAdams welcomed the group. Introductions were made around the room.
  
- II. **Recent Updates:**
  1. **Shelter the Homeless Committee Update:** Since our last meeting, County staff met with the State Homelessness Coordinating Committee. Salt Lake City requested \$2 million for resources centers, which was approved. These funds can be used for architectural design or homeless services. We are also working on private funding requests. We expect that most of the money which will come in for new facilities will be dependent on the Shelter the Homeless Committee. The Shelter the Homeless Board had a meeting in late November where they discussed moving forward with the proposal to slightly shift their mission and makeup, and take a more active role. We are hopeful the board itself will evolve and be staffed by January, as we move in to the legislative session. Salt Lake County has budget approval for a **one year** staff position for that board. There were a lot of questions about what this proposal means for Salt Lake County's oversight of the Collective Impact work. It would move the initiative out to a nonprofit board, away from the County; the staffing and board would be separate from County government, though the County Mayor would still play a key role.
  2. **Operation Diversion Updates:** We are also actively working to secure funding for a second phase of Operation Diversion. Salt Lake County and Salt Lake City are in active conversation for phase two and hoping that will go forward. We are asking the legislature to contribute Medicaid funding to Operation Diversion toward those who are Medicaid eligible.
  3. **Workgroup Updates:** All work groups are on hold until after the New Year due to some shifts we are making. Facility programming reports are up on the website, and there are a few hard copies available. We are still working on a smaller addendum to report on programming for a family housing facility and how that fits into the scattered site model.
  4. **Healthcare group** – Shaleane asked Alan if they've heard about the grant for the second site for 4<sup>th</sup> Street Clinic, which will be located at Palmer Court. Alan said they will know on Friday but he believes everything is set to go for January. They will need to be operational within 100 days of receiving the grant, which we believe is doable. We have the potential for additional funding to make this happen.

5. **Child Stability Work Group** – This initiative has grown into a much larger initiative, which extends beyond the homeless discussion. Therefore, some of that will peel off into other initiatives, separate but aligned with Collective Impact on Homelessness. We will combine efforts on coordinated entry, which conversation will also include the Continuum of Care. Salt Lake County has changed internal staffing to align Collective Impact and Continuum of Care, so that the same staff is working on both initiatives. This alignment is our top priority going into the beginning of the year.
- III. **Legislative update** – Patrick Reimherr said there is not much to update yet. We are waiting for the Governor’s budget, and there is a commitment from his office to help us on the hill. There was one major leadership change, Jim Dunnigan was replaced by Brad Wilson. Wilson has been supportive of our work, but we will have to ensure he’s as much of a champion as Dunnigan was. The State has earmarked funds for the healthcare issues which involve criminal justice and homeless populations. Part of our strategy for continuing Operation Diversion is tied to Medicaid funding. There is an effort to repeal the affordable housing set aside. Last session, there was an economic development rewrite which required the set aside. We feel like a repeal now would be a big step backwards, so we are keeping an eye on that. Federal legislation was passed to provide more funding for addiction treatment. The Mayor added that as part of the County's comprehensive recommendation on system reform, the real hope is that through additional services we are able to move people through the system, provide services and housing, and reduce the number of times the system is used by an individual. We are finalizing agreements with philanthropic donors to bring funding for treatment. Patrick stated that is huge because the state wants to see local commitment, so this goes far in ensuring our funding. Mayor McAdams added that he believes momentum is on our side.
- IV. **Salt Lake City Site Selection Update:** Mayor Biskupski said Salt Lake City is very close to finalizing land deals on 4 locations. They are hoping to complete and sign deals by the end of the week. She is grateful for the support they are receiving as they go through this process. David Litvack added that it’s important to keep in mind the agreement to have 4 sites was only a first step. David acknowledged the Site Commission work of Gail Miller and Palmer DePaulis. He also echoed the Mayor’s request for patience. They are getting there.
- V. **Rio Grande Area Screening Assessment/Survey:** Last month Salt Lake County coordinated an assessment of clients in the Rio Grande area, in partnership with the Department of Workforce Services, Utah Association of Community Health, The Road Home, Catholic Community Services, 4<sup>th</sup> Street Clinic and Volunteers of America. Assessments were conducted by third party screeners, trained by VOA and Salt Lake County. The data from the assessments will be entered into the HMIS system. We have preliminary reports today. Shaleane read through the PowerPoint presentation of the results, but it was not displayed due to a power outage in the building. It will be posted on our website. Janell added that these statistics are based on what they could very simply scan through, but added that they will be providing more in depth information as

they analyze the full results. The Mayor noted we should be cautious about drawing conclusions from self-reported data, but suggested that they should inform the decisions we make. Shaleane reminded the group that all data you will receive is self-reported, but it will be cross-cut with other data sets, providing a fuller picture. Shaleane thanked everyone who was involved in the screening. This was a huge effort and a tremendous step forward.

#### VI. **Questions & Discussion:**

- Shaleane was asked if the percentage of people living on the street was correlated with available shelter beds. We did not ask that question, but we will be reporting on all of the data. Janell added that, in her experience being down there, most of the people sleeping on the streets have chosen to do so. Shaleane was asked to send out the numbers they have so far, and she said they will do that as well as post them on the website. Patrick was asked if the Good Landlord and Ban the Box were going to be discussed in legislative session, and the Mayor responded that they are being talked about.
- Shaleane was asked to describe the philosophical concerns about some of the questions on the assessment. She explained to the committee that she was cautioned by the consultants who created the VI-SPDAT tool, that some of the questions can't get directly at policy because the answers are based on perception. While that's fair, we still wanted to connect it to what else we know and see what their responses were. For example, we asked where people would sleep during the winter. We don't have those results, yet but we will be sharing these results since this is a Collective Impact concern. Janell added that the VI-SPDAT was created to assess vulnerabilities and while the additional questions weren't pertinent to that, they are pertinent to what we wanted to find out as a community.
- A question was asked if there were any issues with language barriers. Shaleane said there will be some indication once we process the information.
- Shaleane was asked if they inquired about how long people had been in Utah, and if they came from another area. Janell added that they still have to do a lot of work to analyze the full results, which is why we are just presenting basics in this meeting. There will be full analysis and more details in the next meeting.
- Kim Correa thanked the group for doing this work, and the Mayor agreed.
- Matt Minkevitch gave an overview of what the facilities look like as temperatures drop, as they have experienced a spike in demand. Approximately 140 people have indicated they will be staying outside, which is an increase, and the family shelters are both fully occupied. They had 1,409 individuals on Nov 28<sup>th</sup>, which was a record high in their agency. There was 1,383 the night before and the night after it was 1,364, both of which also would have been record highs. They've alerted the County and State to the spike in demand. Usually the highs hit in January or February, so we could expect the next round of spikes to be a little higher. Matt underscored what Mayor McAdams said about helping people get out of the shelter and move into housing. They are continuing to focus on that effort, and that's empowered them to maintain the capacity they have.

Shaleane added that The Road Home is giving weekly reports of capacity and use to the City and County. She also highlighted that the number of people is important, but the “flow” is most important, more than capacity.

- Daniel Shipp asked Shaleane to repeat the stats for homelessness in the last three years. “How many times in the past 3 years have you experienced homelessness?” 3.5 episodes in 3 years. 22% reported that they’d only been homeless 1 time, but that one instance of homelessness lasted the entire 3 years.
- Daniel Shipp asked if these mechanisms allow us to know how many chronically homeless individuals we have on our street right now, since these questions directly relate to chronic homeless. Shaleane said we will need to align this with other data and continue analyzing the information. What we were primarily interested in was related to flow and disabilities, we don’t know that yet but we will be able to show that eventually. Janell added that our purpose wasn’t to identify chronically homeless, but some of that will match up with what we have. Daniel thanked them both and appreciated this effort, and said going to the population in a scientific and methodical way was a great way to do it.
- Laura Michalski and Matt Melville said that they have seen a small increase in the number of homeless, but they are unsure if it is health related. They’ve seen more campers coming in, but it’s difficult at this time of year. Janell clarified that they are seeing the same number of people this year as last, but many homeless people have more luggage than ever before. Many of the people are on opioids and have decided to give up the place they’ve been renting and going to live on the streets with all of their personal belongings so there is a higher demand for storage.
- A question was asked about getting a control group, or asking people coming out of incarceration since people suffering from opiate addiction cannot admit that’s the reason for them being homeless. This would help us compare to other information, as many who need mental health or drug addiction assistance will not admit it. Mayor McAdams said that we will be looking at that, and Shaleane said we are going to be working on this over the next year and discussing it in great depth. Also, we are connecting our initiatives with criminal justice, school systems and several others.
- This will be a long and ambitious process as this was just a first step toward all of that, and some of the questions were generated from criminal justice, behavioral health and physical health. This will be part of our legislative intent, our desire to connect all of these areas. We were asked to do this in other areas and we can do that, but keep in mind this was a first step. It was also requested that we do this more than once a year, which will be coming next year. This is all under the umbrella of Collective Impact and Coordinated Entry.
- There was a concern that there is not a program more effective to transition people out of the area. HOST specifically is not effective in providing the information. Shaleane agreed we have an uncoordinated system, some places don’t work, and some need improvement. There are many existing services that people don’t realize are available. These services are not coordinated so the information is not getting to people who need it, and this is all part what we hope to improve with this process.

- An attendee made the comment that this is an amazing thing being done, since asking people to give their name and social security number is a difficult thing to ask and many are very sensitive to provide that information, but can tend to skew the answer. Shaleane said that's a normal part of data collection, so we will just factor that in.

VII. **Closing Remarks:** Mayor McAdams thanked everyone for their time. We will see you in January.

**Meeting ended 9:45 AM.**