



**Edmonton Leadership Committee to End Homelessness**

**August 21, 2008**

**8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.**

**Bissell Centre - Edmonton**

**Present:**

Linda Hughes  
Hal Danchilla  
Keith Harding  
Karen Mackenzie  
Spence Nichol\*  
Bruce Saville  
Silvia Vajushi\*  
Shelley Williams

Eric Newell  
Jay Freeman  
Carmel Harris\*  
Anne McLellan  
Fred Pheasey  
Franco Savoia  
Bob Westbury

Kathy Barnhart  
Roger Gouin  
Councillor Karen Leibovici  
Susan McGee  
Bruce Reith  
Archbishop Richard Smith  
Don Wheaton, Jr.

Katie Soles – Soles & Company  
Colleen Wilson – Brennan Communications  
Judy Walz - Mayor's Office

\* denotes designate

Special Guests: Jean Wilkinson and Larry Scarbough from the Alberta Secretariat for Action on Homelessness

**Regrets:**

Bruce Bentley, Tony Franceschini, Hope Hunter, Cliff Supernault, Dr. Gerry Predy, Elexis Schloss, Anne Smith

**Call to order at 8:10– Linda Hughes**

**Opening Remarks – Linda Hughes**

- Introductions
- Agenda approved with changes. Aboriginal Consultation postponed to next meeting.
- Minutes of July 18, 2008 were approved
- Linda invited Larry Scarbough to speak to the Committee. Larry informed the Committee that the second draft of the provincial plan will be reviewed at their

next meeting. The Provincial Plan will reflect what community is doing. Their plan will recommend additional new dollars to help with City plans in a positive and proactive way. The Minister will see the plan first and it will then go to cabinet. November is the timeline for the provincial announcement. Their Committee is interested in how our plan will mesh with the Provincial Plan. The municipal plans that are coming forward and those that are in place will continue to be what will drive the overall provincial initiative. The Province is not creating something new, just listening to the broader issues. The Provincial plan is intended to fit in with us. They see their role as monitoring, recommending funding amounts and making recommendations to the ministry on what are the priorities. They are focused on moving to addressing the problem rather than managing it. Their mandate has been unclear to this point. They are clarifying their mandate as to whether it is just homeless, preventing homeless but they feel this includes affordable and attainable housing.

- Linda invited Shelley to speak about Bissell Centre. Shelley informed the Committee that Bissell will be celebrating their 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2010. She gave an overview of their mandate and services and provided the 2007 annual report.
- Linda updated the Committee on media events. Committee members have been involved in a number of interviews that have been very supportive. The Journal will do a series on homelessness in the fall. Linda met with Yvonne Fritz who indicated she is waiting to see both our report and the Provincial Report. Linda suggested Implementation will be tabled for the September 9 agenda. A half-day meeting may be required to discuss the draft strategies and implementation. A facilitator may be required to help us. September 24 and October 15 are the next two scheduled meeting but an additional meeting may be required in November. An Implementation handout was distributed.

### **Summit – Purpose, Format, Timing – Hal Danchilla & Katie Soles**

- Hal posed the question - What do we want to get out of a summit? He felt the basic reason is to have people know we heard them, which gives us credibility as a group.
- People in the consultations were very well informed but newcomers will not be. The intent is to try to get back all the people we consulted with. We must establish what we are going to ask them – approval and blessing on plan, or inform them? We need something substantive to talk about. This influences the choice of dates – September 29 or November 18.
- Discussion ensued.
- The need for the subcommittees to meet again for input into implementation may be necessary which makes September unrealistic.
- People need to know they have had influence into the report.

- A November summit would provide more time to prepare the report, making the summit more meaningful. This however would postpone the release of the report into the new year.
- Jay indicated that the “big ideas” for strategies could be pulled together by the end of September. The price tag for services could not be ready by end of September.
- There was consensus that November would work best.
- Hal reported his committee will prepare the framework of what will happen between now and the November summit for the September 9 meeting.
- Jay reported the impact on the Provincial and Municipal budget is crucial to consider. Larry Scarbough noted that their Committee is anxious to hear a rough ballpark number. Jay noted that we know what may be reasonable to implement in next year’s budget. Larger process numbers will come later. At this point nothing specific has been identified for the City. Spence indicated a number has to be submitted to the Treasury Board by the 27<sup>th</sup> of August even if this is the first year’s implementation costs only.
- Affordable housing should be discussed as it is a strategically better fit for the Provincial Committee. It will be essential for the whole plan to make sure we are giving the Provincial plan what they need and make sure we fit.
- The Summit date will be booked for November 18 with early January tabled for the release.
- It will be necessary to coordinate communications with the Province

#### **Community Engagement Consultation – Hal Danchilla & Katie Soles**

- The Community Engagement Process – Final Report was reviewed.

#### **Cost of Homelessness Study – Sara Jimenez (RSM Richter Inc.)**

- Sara reviewed the final document and discussed the limitations of some of the findings. The costs for volunteer hours, donated gifts and in-kinds donations cannot be captured, although we must keep in mind that these are extraordinary dollars that could be spent elsewhere.
- She reported that very conservative numbers were submitted by the participants and these figures are the tip of the iceberg as to what costs could be. She reported that all agencies have room to grow in tracking but this study was a very useful starting piece.
- Our numbers are within the range of other Canadian Cities.
- In reporting these numbers we may need to use “somewhere in the range” of these numbers. Calgary used the strategy of “this is the cost to fix things, but if we do nothing it will cost this”. Jean Wilkinson reported that this cost study would be a great supporting document to take to the Minister.
- Both the process and limitations are listed in the report.
- It will be how we manage the specificity of the numbers and how we use them that will be important. We do not want the number to be the story, but break it down as to what makes up the costs.

### **Updates (Pathways and Streets to Home) – Jay Freeman**

- Pathways – Jay reported that Jill Kelland has been seconded from Mental Health for three months to develop a Pathways model for Edmonton.
- Streets to Home – Jay reported that Homeward Trust is sponsoring four frontline people to attend frontline training with S2H in September. Susan & Jay will be attending Manager training in November. A gap analysis will be done to look at what services are available now and what services are missing. Karen MacKenzie expressed some concerns regarding the fit for the Aboriginal population. She reported that four aboriginal representatives had traveled to Toronto and reported that the program may not be working to the extent it could be for this population. Franco reported he too had heard concerns with the Toronto program. Susan reported probably 30 people from Edmonton will be in Toronto for the training.
- Jay reported he is continuing to discuss a more robust agreement with Iain for an Edmonton model.

### **Draft Strategies (tabled) – Jay Freeman**

- The Key Initiatives documented was distributed. Jay reported that he felt this document was still too lengthy and may need to be reduced to only five main initiatives. The document will be distributed electronically so that feedback can be sent to Jay. It may be necessary to have the Subcommittees meet again to look at the strategies when this is complete.

Linda closed the meeting on a positive note - reporting that she had just read a US report that indicated homelessness had been reduced by 30% from 2005 to 2007 that is being attributed to 10 year plans and housing first models.

### **Adjournment & Next Meeting**

- Adjourned 10:00
- September 9 - 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon Heritage Room, City Hall

Tour of Bissell Centre followed.