



Edmonton Leadership Committee to End Homelessness

**February 22, 2008
8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
City Hall, Heritage Room**

Present:

Linda Hughes	Eric Newell	
Bruce Bentley	Reverend Gregory Bittman*	Linda Cochrane
Hal Danchilla	Roger Gouin	Keith Harding
Hope Hunter	Susan McGee	Anne McLellan
Tom Olenuk	Elexis Schloss	Fred Pheasey
Bruce Reith	Bruce Saville	Franco Savoia
Janet Skinner	Anne Smith	Shelley Williams

Regrets:

Allen Benson	Tony Franceschini	Larry Pollock
Archbishop Richard Smith*	Sheila Weatherill	Donald Wheaton, Jr.
Councillor Karen Leibovici	Audrey Poitras	Hon. Dave Hancock

* denotes designate

Call to order: 8:00 a.m.

Introduction – Linda Hughes, Chair

- The Chair thanked the Leadership Committee for their attendance and updated the committee on some of the work that has been done by Jay Freeman. A work plan has been completed and October has been targeted for completion of the Ten Year Plan (Tab 5 in Binder).
- Linda introduced our newest member, Peter Goldring, MP for Edmonton East and a special guest, Tim Richter, VP/Project Manager of Calgary's Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness.
- The Chair reviewed when the next dates of the Leadership Committee will be: March 19, April 16, May 27, June 24, September 9, September 24, and October 15. All meetings are scheduled to run from 8:00 AM to 10:00 AM. Locations TBD.
- Linda also addressed the issue of alternates attending on behalf of Leadership Committee members. Alternates are allowed to attend the Leadership Committee

in the absence of the Committee member, provided that the alternate is at a senior level in the organization that the Committee member represents, and provided that it is consistently the same alternate that attends.

- Linda also announced the co-chairs of the four sub-committees: Hal Danchilla and Elexis Schloss, Community Engagement; Shelley Williams and Roger Gouin, Prevention; Hope Hunter and Franco Savoia, Services; Susan McGee and Arnie Gabel, Housing. Linda invited other members of the Leadership Committee to join one of the sub-committees.
- The agenda was approved as submitted.

Logistics

Jay reviewed the contents of the Reference Binders distributed to members at the meeting, with particular attention to the budget and work plan. The proposed budget (Tab 4) of \$400,000 for development of the Ten Year Plan was developed in consideration of the Calgary Plan and budget. The budget provides for research and best practices review, including a cost of homelessness study; community engagement; and public awareness and communication. In addition the City of Edmonton will provide in-kind project management, logistics and communications assistance. The draft work plan (Tab 5) allocates March and April for research and best practices by the respective sub-committees, with strategy development completed in May and June. Based on the strategy development the Plan will be drafted in July and August. The draft plan will be reviewed and revised by the Leadership Committee and sub-committees in September, with a 'soft-release' of the Plan in October to seek wider input. A community summit is planned for spring, date and details to be determined by the Community Engagement Committee.

Hal & Elexis spoke to the need for a communications plan that would support/mirror the work plan. Hal made a distinction between communication, research and consultation. While all three aspects are required they are distinct aspects of an overall communications plan. Supporting communication materials (brochures, newsletters, key messages) need to be prepared for the Leadership Committee and each of the sub-committees. Communication needs to be timely and targeted. Consultation with the homeless, those that have successfully left homelessness, the corporate community and the broader community is also a critical component of the Plan. Hal emphasized that if we are going to consult, it is critical that we monitor results and report back to those consulted. There was much discussion of the importance of being respectful and trustworthy when consulting the homeless. It was felt that some of the homeless serving agencies could assist with the consultation.

To gauge public views and support for dealing with the homeless situation, Hal recommended polling be done at the beginning of the Plan and toward the completion of the plan. The main purpose of the polling would be to inform the development of the Plan, as opposed to a public relations exercise.

Presentation by Bruce Bentley – Pathways to Housing

- Bruce Bentley spoke to a presentation made by Dr. Sam Tsemberis, founder of *Pathways to Housing* held in Edmonton on February 15th. A number of Committee members attended the session. *Pathways to Housing* follows a *Housing First* model, whereby permanent independent apartments are provided to individuals who are homeless and who have psychiatric disabilities and substance abuse disorders. The program also offers treatment, but does not require treatment as a prerequisite for housing. The video which was shown to the Committee was produced by an American TV newsmagazine and followed one individual housed through the *Pathways to Housing* program. A copy of the DVD can be made available to any Committee member.

Presentation by Tim Richter, Vice President/Project Manager, Calgary's Ten Year Plan – Ten Essentials to End Homelessness

- Tim's power point presentation is attached.
- Key messages were:
 - If you follow the Ten Essentials (Tab Ten) you will be successful.
 - Building an economic case is pivotal.
 - Addressing the chronically homeless is the key. Calgary estimated that on average a chronically homeless person costs the 'system' \$134,000 per year, while utilizing a Pathways model costs \$34,000 per year.
 - Four key components to the Plan – Data for outcomes; closing the front door (e.g. Homeless Prevention Fund); open the back door (e.g. rapid re-housing programs); and building infrastructure (e.g. increase incomes, expand housing opportunities).
 - Homelessness is a complex and individual process.
 - Poverty is the common denominator in all homeless.
 - Ten Year Plans are System Plans – consider how homeless can navigate through the system.
 - While 65% of people that experience homelessness find their own way out, the most vulnerable become trapped.

Roundtable Discussion

- Peter Faid of Community Services Consulting Ltd. led the Committee through a visioning exercise. Peter's report is attached.

Next Steps

- The co-chairs are responsible for selecting other members for their respective committees, including additional Leadership Committee members. Sub-committees to commence meetings in March. Jay to provide resource materials for each committee. Sub-committees to report back to Leadership Committee on a regular basis.

Adjournment & Next Meeting

- Next meeting March 19 at 8:00am. Location to be announced, but the meeting is planned for a homeless serving agency.