



Edmonton Executive Committee To End Homelessness
June 17, 2008
8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.
Councillor's Lounge, 2nd Floor City Hall

Present:

Leadership Committee – Linda Hughes, Eric Newell

Prevention – Shelley Williams, Roger Gouin

Services – Hope Hunter, Franco Savoia

Housing – Susan McGee

Community Engagement – Hal Danchilla

Robert Baldauf, Jay Freeman, Judy Walz, Katie Soles, Samantha Johnston

Meeting called to order at 8:06 am.

Review of Committee Work to Date

Community Engagement

- The aboriginal consultation will be an action circle format, with one session currently scheduled.
- 53 homeless and recently housed people have been engaged.
- Momentum must be continued until the report is ready.
- Katie reported the majority of consultations have been supportive of the program. Business leaders have expressed support of the program.
- Discussion ensued around the Summit format in the fall. More consideration will be to the format of this engagement.
- The suggestion was raised that each committee member could be thinking about “what am I going to do different, not just “what are we going to do differently.

Services Committee

See Attachment 1

- The question of how specific the plan needs to be was raised.
- The initial target population of the committee was discussed.
- There was discussion around harm reduction and ensuring it fits with the way things are effectively done within Edmonton.
- The question arose as to whether Aboriginal responsiveness should be a stand alone part of the plan, or integrated throughout?
- Who should orchestrate the plan was discussed.

Housing Committee

See Attachment 2

- The landlord consultation was well attended.
- The landlords indicated a willingness to work with the program if the right supports were in place.
- Landlords suggested the RTA presented challenges for them.
- It is difficult to come up with a tangible number of units that will be available. It will be necessary to identify appropriate units.
- Landlords indicated there may be 200 units over the next year may be available.
- Concern in the consultations was raised about the perception of competing with the young business people that are looking to move to the city. The Military also expressed the same concern.
- When and where aboriginal specific housing is appropriate was discussed.

Prevention Committee

See Attachment 3

- The Prevention Committee established three working groups; Emergency Homelessness, Systems Prevention, and Finances.
- The Committee had questions on how specific they should get in implementation. The importance of not losing a lot of the discussion that surrounded coming up with their recommendations was expressed.
- Katie reported that from the discussion with MLA's, all of them have spoken on the need for a policy framework that isn't tied directly to the current government and will be sustainable.

Implementation

- The need for implementation has been discussed in all of the community consultations. It is recognized that the plan is all hinging on services, as well as having the commitment of money.
- Eric spoke on how part of the role of the committee is to educate the public on homelessness.
- Robert is to forward the business plan of the Calgary Committee to the Executive. It speaks on how their implementation is going to occur.
- Something tangible must be provided for the media.
- Reallocation of resources in Edmonton as opposed to reinventing the wheel within the service sector will be key.
- The implementation process must be started now. Finding the body who will head the Housing First Model will be crucial, as well as ensuring that there is a dedicated group committed to implementation.
- Keeping the community engaged throughout will help build the plan.

The Leadership Committee meeting will be next week.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:10 a.m.