



Edmonton Leadership Committee to End Homelessness

May 27, 2008

8:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

**Heritage Room, Main Floor, City Hall
1 Sir Winston Churchill Square, Edmonton**

Present:

Linda Hughes	Kathy Barnhart*	Bruce Bentley
Linda Cochrane	Jay Freeman	Dr. Gerry Predy*
Keith Harding	Carmel Harris*	Hope Hunter
Councillor Karen Leibovici	Karen Mackenzie	Susan McGee
Eric Newell	Fred Pheseay	Elexis Schloss
Anne Smith	Archbishop Richard Smith	Don Wheaton
Bob Westbury	Shelley Williams	

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

Regrets:

Bruce Saville	Janet Skinner	Cliff Supernault
Bruce Reith	Audrey Poitras	

* denotes designate

Call to order: 8:15 a.m. – Linda Hughes

- Introductions
- Agenda was approved
- Minutes of April 16 were adopted as read with a spelling correction of Karen MacKenzie's sir name.
- The Mission/Vision/Values document was approved.
- Linda reported the Provincial Secretariat to End Homelessness has met on three occasions. They are tasked with producing a plan by October. Jean Wilkinson will keep in touch with Linda regarding their progress and may attend our Committee meetings to be aware of our plans.

Boyle Renaissance Presentation - Walter Trocenko & Harry Finnigan

- A presentation was made regarding the Boyle Renaissance project. See Attachment 1.
- Linda thanked Walter and Harry for the presentation.
- Discussion ensued regarding the diverse needs of the homeless and the need for equally diverse solutions. The Boyle Renaissance Project will play a part in a much needed housing solution. The Committee will continue to receive updates regarding this project.

Homeless Connect – Susan McGee

- See Attachment 2.
- The Edmonton Housing Trust Fund has committed to coordinate a Homeless Connect event on October 5. Susan will send a link for clips posted on www.youtube.com of homeless connect events from other cities. Susan reported Calgary had 650 homeless served the day of their event. The event was positively received in Calgary both the day of and days following. Susan was looking for Committee endorsement for the Edmonton event. A coordinator has been hired for Edmonton. The Shaw, Ione Challborne from Canadian Mental Health and Susan will co-chair.
- Shelley noted the key piece for Edmonton will be to ensure we are assisting as part of the solution and not just managing the problem. Jay suggested this will move towards more collaboration within agencies.
- Kathy Barnhart asked for confirmation that no one is turned away and received assurance that this would be the premise of such an event. It was noted that it would need to be communicated that a Homeless Connect Event is not the solution to homelessness or poverty in a day.
- Bruce Bentley noted that he felt the Committee has a mandate to draft a report, not to endorse events.
- Anne Smith would need to understand this event better before making a decision. The concern was expressed that the Committee may lose focus on the task at hand.
- Shelley observed that the event obviously met a need in Calgary but Edmonton would need a strong framework around how long we would do such an event. Shelley stated finding a home was part of the New York Homeless Connect.
- Susan stated there is much to learn from other communities as many other cities have a Homeless Connect event.
- Don questioned what variety of services would need to be provided.
- Elexis questioned the value of such an event if was only being entertained for one occasion.

- Linda suggested the Committee may not be ready to endorse this event yet and may need to review whether it is within the Committee mandate.
- Eric suggested that such an event may be part of the solution under Services as it helps agencies get to know each other. Eric felt the Services Subcommittee needs to look at it to see if it fits as part of their strategy.
- Hope suggested this could offer an opportunity for a good check and balance as a registration opportunity once a database is sorted out.

Housing First – Jay Freeman

- Jay reviewed the concept of Housing First. A document will be distributed by e-mail at a later date.
- Eric noted that scattered housing does impact delivery of services. The topic of social isolation was discussed. Jay indicated employment is a fairly common feature of housing first, which may require training for participants. Eric indicated the need for social relationships is key. Part of housing choice is location and whether people choose to remain within the same neighborhood or move to a new neighborhood.
- Susan indicated that to have the success that Toronto has had it is essential to have engaged volunteers and church organizations in creating community to help mitigate isolation. This may require redirecting volunteer energy. Hope indicated that Services will be bringing this forward in their discussions.
- Jay reported that a copy of Iain's presentation will be distributed via e-mail at a later date.

Sub-committee Reports:

Community Engagement – Elexis Schloss/Katie Soles

- See Attachment 3 & 4
- Target groups are being engaged. Youth sessions have been set up. The target number for the homeless will be 35 citizens. The business community needs to be more engaged.
- Linda suggested we should engage people right up to September. We are on next Downtown Business Association meeting agenda.
- Councillor Leibovici asked if groups that meet on a regular basis are being contacted. Katie indicated this has been done including Business Revitalization Zones, UDI, Edmonton Apartment Association, etc. have been invited. Councillor Leibovici inquired whether seniors and multicultural groups are also being included. Katie responded that they are included in the frontline worker sessions.

Services – Hope Hunter

- Hope discussed the necessity for defining program outlines and what is needed to make it work. She indicated the challenges were, how do you affect change and change the way people think, what are the incentives to change. The underlying issues are of poverty and hopelessness. The people on mats and sleeping in the rough will be the initial target group. The Services Committee is working on the assumption that housing will be available. The need will be to develop an Edmonton based model with the need for triage.
- A data system is a crossover in all committees. There is some frustration over committee members being at many different points and levels of discussion. Services intent is to model after Calgary's but make it Edmonton specific.
- Linda explained that Robert Baldauf worked on Calgary plan and has moved to Edmonton and has offered to help and provide advice to the Edmonton plan. Robert would like to focus us on implementation. He worked specifically on the data piece and Calgary estimated it would come at a cost of \$40-75M.

Prevention – Shelley Williams

- See Attachment 5.
- Shelley reported the committee has broken into three subcommittees, Emergency, Systems & Finance. Shelley suggested that when there are repeated ideas throughout committees they could well be key points. Prevention is doing some community engagement on their own.
- Kathy Barnhart inquired if there was any way their department could help. Kathy offered staff if needed.
- Shelley suggested the coordination piece is missing. Shelley stated there are companies in town that can work on software to create the ability for existing databases to talk to one another. Susan suggested that the committee chairs need to work on this as a separate task. Anne Smith stated she is not convinced the data system is the essential piece but rather the need for agencies to get together and agree on what is necessary and how it would work.

Housing – Susan McGee

- Susan indicated one challenge is the manpower needed to help with research such as what is the population and how does it breakdown.
- Housing has a half day session coming up. One goal will be to determine how many units, of what product needs to be achieved, in what time frame. Susan visited Meredith Milne in Calgary who was the Chair of their Housing Committee.
- Jay stated the template he had forwarded to the Committee Chairs was to use in between meetings to capture the big ideas and questions.

Other Business

- Linda suggested the Executive Committee needs to meet more frequently and a meeting will be arranged shortly.

- Susan suggested it may be useful to coordinate bus tour of what services/housing facilities are available.
- June 24 is the next Leadership Committee Meeting from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. There was consensus that the original deadline of the end of June for the wrap up of Committee work will be maintained. The Leadership Committee will continue to meet in July and August. The report writing can begin while meetings continue to occur.
- The Executive Committee will meet more frequently to consolidate ideas and work on implementation.

Adjournment & Next Meeting

- Adjourned 10:28 a.m.
- Next meeting – June 24 - 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. in the Heritage Room, Main Floor, City Hall