

edmonton
committee
to end
homelessness



Edmonton Leadership Committee to End Homelessness

October 27, 2008

8:00 to 10:00 am

Councillor's Boardroom – 2nd Floor City Hall

Present:

Linda Hughes	Eric Newell	Fred Pheasey
Anne Smith	Bruce Reith	Peter Goldring
Dr. Gerry Predy	Bob Westbury	Jay Freeman
Judy Walz	Shelley Williams	Janet Skinner
Elexis Schloss	Franco Savoia	Carmel Harris*
Bruce Saville	Father Gregory Bittman	
Bruce Bentley	Susan McGee	Keith Harding
Hope Hunter	Councillor Karen Leibovici	
Karen MacKenzie	Kathy Barnhart	

* denotes designate

Regrets:

Linda Cochrane, Anne McLellan, Cliff Supernault

Introduction, Approval of Agenda and Approval of Minutes – Linda Hughes

Call to order at 8:10. Agenda accepted. Minutes were not yet available for approval.

Pathways – Jay Freeman/Jill Kelland

Jill was seconded from Capital Health. Powerpoint Presentation. Can rent subsidy portion be separated out from the figures (the answer is about \$900,000). Additional money is about \$700/month supplement. How many teams would be needed or people needed. Should chronically homeless be mentioned in the title. Shelley – is there any sense of start up target group (hospital discharge). Jill would look at who the top ten emergency users are and target that group. A combination of people initially. By targeting top 10 you may get a mix. Shelley- any research on whether this ends as we get ahead of problem. Longevity research. Impact on team – how many teams are needed. At some point there could be a shift to health support rather than homeless, or perhaps clients would graduate from this ACT team. Keith – what model would be used for information sharing. Different agreements would be needed for each of the systems you need to communicate with. Anne Smith – can you quantify the number of people this

program needs to serve. The guess is about 600 but this is not scientific. Anne – how within the team do you accommodate the different cultures, particularly aboriginal. Make of team with perhaps aboriginal people incorporated. Community worker on team to connect with the community.

Bob Westbury – How does it fit within the whole plan? Critical piece of puzzle. The detail of Boyle McCauley would not necessarily be identified in the report. The detail is not in all the rest of the planned document. Bob’s caution is that we do not have two distinct entities involved in the program. Boyle McCauley would be a contractor. The Homeless Commission would contract with Homeward Trust then to Boyle McCauley. We need to manage this process. We do not want to wait to provide this service. Do we have an opinion on what could be stopped if something needs to – to get funding for Pathways. Bruce Reith – likes Boyle McCauley.

Bruce Saville would like to see more clarity in numbers. This approach looks at just the homeless people who accessed the hospital system from emergency room, inpatient stays, and the people in Alberta Hospital. Fred agrees we can’t use numbers that aren’t justifiable. Bruce Bentley agrees the numbers may not be used as they are confusing. Jay’s number that works for him is the 9.3 days/stay and the homeless number is 66 days/stay. A clear explanation on the numbers will be necessary in the final report. Jay and Jill would like to make an application for funding. Should wait and not get too far ahead of ourselves. Roll out all at once not pre-emptively. Two steps out of balance. A more formal application should be brought to the group. Keith thinks we should be shortsighted not to take this forward. This is a stand alone and could serve a very critical part of the need for the homeless. This may not be the number one priority of the group. The rapid exit plan is being announced this week. The Province indicates they would be prepared to fund now. Partnership application with Boyle McCauley, stateholder group of the plan and Homeward Trust. The real issue is who is applying for the money.

Strategies Feedback from Sub-Committees – Committee Chairs

Services – Franco Savoia

- Overall the Committee agreed the direction of the strategies is on track.
- As the report is being written for the Community, the language needs to be revisited so that the average person can read and understand the plan. A Glossary of Terms may be helpful.
- Families that need to be reunited with their children need to be addressed in the plan.
- As the aboriginal population is over-represented in homelessness, more specific targets must be added to the plan.
- Services must be decentralized and spread throughout the City.
- The term “rapid exit” should be used in the document.
- The notion of acknowledging that fact that ongoing maintenance will be necessary must be incorporated. Long term funding is critical as recovery is a long term process.

- Incenting providers may not be needed in our environment.
- We may need stronger opinion on HEP as this is currently becoming more restrictive.
- Poverty must be referenced in the report.

Prevention – Shelley Williams

- Community Engagement document summary must go out to the individuals invited to the Summit so they can see what information was gathered.
- Specific numbers of targets and costs must match throughout document
- Discussion around the word responsibility and leadership around the city. Clear comments on shared responsibility of the three levels of government must be laid out.
- Imbedding government services into the community to lessen bureaucracy must be stated.
- Youth piece needs to be stronger.
- Education of the community to nullify NIMBY was be stated.
- Stronger statement in document around poverty.
- Subcommittee did support the document

Housing – Susan McGee

- Build on strength of community as part of the plan.
- Time references in the document must be definitive. The first three years could be referenced and the term “currently” could be taken out.
- Some inconsistency in narrative and schedule. The schedule should align with the document.
- Supply for families may need shifting. Reunification of families may need consideration. Bachelors or one bedroom stated needs may be too limiting.

Linda summed up the Subcommittee recommendations:

- Poverty needs to be addressed in the report.
- More Aboriginal specific content is needed.
- Emphasis on existing resources and collaboration is needed.
- Maintenance
- “Eliminating” may be a better word than “Ending” Homelessness.
- The correct wording is necessary around the City’s role. Anne Smith recommended that when presenting to City Council that the community’s ownership of plan be addressed and then through role clarification demonstrate what may work for governance structure. The shared responsibility aspect of the plan can be addressed in a preamble.
- Jay, Karen and Anne will work as a subcommittee to rework the wording.

Summit – Elexis Schlosss

- Video will be done to set the stage for the Summit on the journey the committee has been through.
- The invitations have gone out.

- Linda and Eric will Chair the Summit.
- An extra hour has been added to the timeline. The hope is to attract 400 people.
- Invitations will not be sent to the media as this may affect the tone of the meeting.
- Front end press meeting may be necessary at the end of the day.
- A different form of the strategies document should be available at the Summit with a written comment section on the side so participants may leave the document with their comments behind for review by the Committee.

Adjournment & Next Meeting

- Adjourned 10:10 am
- Next meeting - December 2 - 8:00 am – 12:00 pm Heritage Room, Main Floor City Hall