



Edmonton Leadership Committee to End Homelessness

**September 24, 2008
8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Heritage Room – City Hall**

Present:

Linda Hughes	Eric Newell	Spence Nichol*
Bruce Saville	Jay Freeman	Fred Pheasey
Linda Cochrane	Franco Savoia	Bruce Reith
Bob Westbury	Susan McGee	Shelley William
Anne Smith	Janet Skinner	Hal Danchilla
Keith Harding	Karen Leibovici	Carmel Harris
Kathy Barnhart	Judy Walz	

* denotes designate

Regrets:

Cliff Supernault, Anne McLellan, Don Wheaton, Jr., Dr. Gerry Predy, Bruce Bentley, Archbishop Smith, Tom Olenuk

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

Call to order at 8:15. Agenda accepted. Minutes approved.

Information Items:

Budget – Jay Freeman reported that the four grants of \$75,000 each that the Committee had applied for were received.

Homeless Connect – Susan McGee reported that the event is coming together with 35 agencies currently signed on for providing service. The event will be October 5 from 9 am – 4 pm. A hot lunch will be available for the homeless. Approximately 200 volunteers have signed up, although a few more are still needed. Markers for police to handout to the homeless will be going out this week. Posters will be distributed and a media conference will be held right before event. The most impact in the homeless population is information provided 2-3 days before the event.

Homeless Count – Susan McGee reported the count will take place on October 21. The call for volunteers has gone out. Homeward Trust is working in conjunction with the

Minister's office. The previous methodology will be maintained but survey questions have also been introduced. This may be the last count as there has been increased focus on what specifically the count adds to the picture of homelessness. Calgary will count rough sleepers for the first time in this year's count. Edmonton uses three ways of counting; in cooperation with agencies including hospitals and jails, turnaways from shelters, and counts from shelters along with volunteers on the streets in chosen areas.

Homefest – Keith Harding – This event is sponsored by the Edmonton Coalition of Housing. An information poster was distributed to the Committee. There is intent to have a presence of the 10 Year Plan at the event.

Federal Announcement – Program Renewals – Jay Freeman reported a brief was sent to the Federal Government as a request to speak at a pre-budget consultation session. The consultation sessions were cancelled after the election was called. The Conservative Party has included an extension for 5 years of the affordable housing initiative, part of which is a homeless partnership strategy at \$388M annually. This fund has however not been increased since 1999. We receive approximately \$39M/year in Alberta, with \$6M/year for homelessness in Edmonton and \$2M for the RAP program. If we are asked to make another submission it will be harder hitting.

Cost Estimate for Plan Implementation - Jay Freeman reported he had provided the Provincial Secretariat with the numbers they had requested regarding the plan. The Capital Cost was estimated at \$347M over 10 years and Operating costs were estimated at \$743M, including supplement (not HEP). Rough notes were provided to Nichols Applied Management who are now in the process of putting the cost to the plan. The Homeless Management Information System was not included. We did provide a number for affordable housing to the Provincial Secretariat as well as they had specifically requested this. Our numbers were nearly identical to Calgary's.

Action Items:

Communication/Community Engagement - Hal Danchilla reported that Katie Soles has booked Hall D at the Shaw Conference Centre and has been meeting with facilitators for the Community Summit. Hal will write a briefing note and send it out to Committee members. Katie will be instructed to send out an e-mail to everyone that took part in the first consultation sessions so they may book their time. The Committee decided that Colleen Wilson's contract should be extended. An independent writer for the report will be retained. A longer term strategy following release of the report must also be planned.

Cost of Homelessness Study – Jay Freeman reported that although we initially saw this report as a pivotal piece we need to proceed without it as we have challenged some of the data the consultant has provided and they are working to correct this. The consultant has been asked to look at the five categories and do some comparisons like emergency visit by ambulance vs putting them in apartment with support services, etc. Nichols Applied Management has been asked to do a more thorough review of other costs of homelessness studies. It was decided that the Cost report was not strong enough to do a stand alone

announcement but there are valuable pieces that can be woven in to a larger message. The Community Engagement Committee will look again at how we should proceed with our messaging.

Objectives/Strategies:

- Subcommittees have expressed the desire to meet again and fine tune the strategies once Leadership has produced their final version. The goal for today's meeting is for general sign off that these are the right recommendations and to ensure we are not missing anything.
- The document was discussed and a few changes were recommended. The revised document will be circulated when complete.

Implementation:

- The Executive Committee met and worked on the implementation piece. The common goal is to have community oversight, collaboration as well as independence.
- Jay presented the Executive Committee's implementation chart.
- A discussion ensued around the intricacies of implementation. Some concerns raised were with the management body having the authority to direct agencies and the make-up of the Advisory Council.

Next Steps

- Bring implementation structure back to next meeting.
- Ask Susan to make 15 minute presentation on the Homeward Trust.
- Executive to discuss what might be flushed out of implementation structure.
- Jay & Linda to redraft strategies and circulate to committee.
- Future meeting dates will be forwarded to the committee as soon as possible.

Adjournment & Next Meeting

- Adjourned 12:00 pm
- October 15 - 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Heritage Room, City Hall