

Partnering to End Chronic Homelessness in Guilford County  
Implementation Leadership Council  
Meeting Agenda  
Wednesday, June 11, 2008  
11:00 a.m.

- I. Welcome
  
- II. Review & Approval of Minutes
  
- III. Old Business
  - a) Town Hall Meeting 5/30/2008 10:00 a.m.
  
- IV. New Business
  - a) Community Partnership Action Teams- Progress to Date/Potential Chairs & Lead Agencies
  - b) Jurisdictional endorsement of the ten year plan
  - c) Potential Guilford Center and FSP Partnership for \$60,000 for a Housing Coordinator
  
- V. Adjournment

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 9<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m.

**Partnering to End Chronic Homelessness in Guilford County  
Leadership Council Meeting  
June 11, 2008**

A meeting of the Partnering to End Chronic Homelessness in Guilford County Leadership Council was held in the multipurpose room of the YMCA in Jamestown on Wednesday, June 11, 2008 at 11:00a.m.

**Council Members Present:** David Miller, Sheriff BJ Barnes, Neil Belenky, Karen Bridges, Rev. Odell Cleveland, Mark Konen, Paul Lessard, Michael McNair, Donna Newton, Raymond Payne, Bobby Smith

**Council Members Not Present:** Billie Martin Pierce, Jim Roskelly, Andrew Scott

**Staff Present:** Jehan Benton, Myla Erwin

**Also Present:** Cyndi Blue, Michelle McNair, Desha Williams

**Welcome:** David Miller thanked everyone for coming and reminded them of the recent passing of Council member Greg Niles who was committed to ending chronic homelessness in Guilford. He asked everyone to remember the Niles family in their prayers and suggested that perhaps we might find a way to memorialize Greg as we get further along in the process.

**Review & Approval of Minutes:** There were no changes or corrections to the minutes from the May 14<sup>th</sup> meeting. The minutes were accepted as submitted.

**Old Business**

***Town Hall Meeting 5/30/2008 10:00 a.m.*** – David stated that the meeting was very well attended by a variety of service providers, community representatives and members of the faith community. Jehan noted that there were 110 people in attendance. David suggested that the venue was a bit small for holding roundtable discussions as space constraints made it difficult for some groups to hear one another over all the simultaneous conversations taking place in the room. This is something we will need to take into consideration in the event we decide to hold additional meetings of this type in the future.

Jehan explained that there were seven roundtable groups and their discussions focused on the Community Partnership Action Teams that we would like to start: Formation of Hope Teams, Education/Job Training, Day Centers/Coordinated Portal of Entry, Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services, Discharge Planning, Coordination of Mainstream Services and Gaps in Services, and a discussion based on an Insiders Perspective. Participants were asked to identify what efforts in the community currently existed to address their topic, what resources they felt should be tapped to achieve our goals and what players should be around the table to help in our efforts. The responses were very insightful and led to great feedback, particularly about contacts and certain agencies that we were not previously aware existed. Notes from the meeting have already been posted on the

website and Jehan is preparing to issue invitations to participants who turned in contact information cards to join some of the action teams.

### **New Business**

***Community Partnership Action Teams – Potential Chairs, Lead Agencies and Progress to Date:*** David directed everyone's attention to the document in their packets entitled *Community Partnership Action Teams* and stated that the key task will be to ensure that the list is inclusive and that necessary groups and correct individuals are involved in the process and on the right teams. These questions will need to be addressed at each Council meeting. He asked if Council members saw any obvious gaps in the listing of CPAT members. Neil suggested that each committee have a "heavy hitter", someone with a county-wide view. David asked Paul Lessard to suggest some individuals, and Paul said that Walker Sanders of the Community Foundation of Greater Greensboro would also be an asset to this process. He also asked Neil and Bobby to make some suggestions for membership on the teams. Neil suggested Judge Henry Frye be invited to chair the Discharge Planning team; in light of his background and the implications of the population being discharged, he felt that this committee might appeal to Judge Frye.

The group reviewed the list of Community Partnership Action Teams starting with the Day Center and Coordinated Portal of Entry. After reviewing the list, Michelle McNair stated that there was no true Day Center program in High Point, and Jehan noted that Steve Key was using a Portal of Entry Center model. She added that the Peer Recovery Drop-In center in Greensboro had already received a planning grant and was doing sessions with peers. Neil wondered if the High Point Road/Lee Street redevelopment group was involved with the Greensboro Day Center, to which Cyndi Blue responded that the city was talking to people in that corridor about the problem of people congregating in that area during the day, but she wanted to clarify that not all of them were homeless. Karen Bridges stated that everyone who receives HUD funding is required to pay for and use CHIN. She added that Steve Key had obtained grant money to train people to use it. She has considered applying for a grant to get one person to enter the data for other agencies that are not required to use CHIN. There were students at UNC-G expressing a willingness to assist in setting up the system. Jehan explained that not every agency who works with the homeless population uses that software and that most agencies felt it was not user-friendly. David said there needs to be an effort to create an easily navigated system.

The group discussed university partnerships and Mark Konen thought UNC-G was a good resource to tap into and suggested that we look at A&T as well. Donna Newton suggested partnering with the Service Learning Center at UNC-G and Sheriff Barnes added that Council should not overlook any available resources at High Point University. There is a new Masters Program in Non-Profit Management at HPU headed by David Walker we may wish to pursue. Jehan said she planned to reach out to interns for assistance with the Point in Time count and Project Homeless Connect. She added that there had already been some requests for internships to work on the TYP and at other agencies.

Donna stated that we should consider local university partnerships (HPU, UNCG, A&T) as we look toward evaluation of the 10 year plan. Jehan noted that the plan has a section that says we will contract with a professional or university to evaluate our success. Currently, we are partnering with UNC-Chapel Hill's Jordan Institute to do a cost benefit study for our

Housing Support Team. Jehan let the Council know that evaluators were in High Point interviewing clients on June 10<sup>th</sup>.

Jehan told Council that the Advocacy, Marketing & Development Team had met four times prior to the Town Meeting and Bert VanderVeen, a local photographer, and Nicky Smith of Carolinonet have agreed to join this team. Nicky has offered to update the plan's website and will create a new, more functional website this fall. We are currently working with Welfare Reform's Copy Cents project doing a video which will begin taping on June 12<sup>th</sup>. The video will be used as a resource tool and to assist in presentations to businesses, faith groups and civic groups. Nicky has agreed to make the video available to download, but will also use the interviews directly on the new website so that when people click on certain buttons on the site, the interviewees will walk across the screen and talk to them. The Leadership Council can expect to see the first edits of the video.

Jehan also stated that thanks to Bobby Smith, Paige Monet, VP of Marketing from the United Way of Greater High Point and Tom Blount of the High Point Enterprise have agreed to join the Advocacy, Marketing & Development team. The team has been expanded to increase the number of members with marketing expertise. Their next meeting is scheduled for June 19<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm.

The Supportive Housing Goods & Services Action Team meets on Monday, June 16<sup>th</sup> and they are creating the County's HOPE Team model. They now have co-chairs for High Point and Greensboro; Dan Hodgson of Hope Outreach Center in High Point and Frank Moore, of First Lutheran Church in Greensboro. Dan is retired from the High Point Police Department. Several leadership council members thought that the two co-chairs would do a great job.

The Mental Health Coalition met two weeks ago and agreed to be the lead partner for the Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services Action Team. They will focus on advocacy and education, access and quality of care, and community impact (data/gaps). They have already participated in public education in May around Mental Health Month and in September they will focus on Substance Abuse since September is Recovery Month.

Michelle asked if we had had any contact with other localities that were further along in their plan than we were or made site visits to other cities with ten year plans already in progress. Jehan explained that we had just missed out on the funding period for a technical assistance grant that would have given us money to do just this. There is a small amount of money that might be available, approximately \$3-4,000, that may enable us to visit Chicago to learn what they are doing on discharge planning and do some site visits, but these funds must be used by June 30, 2008. She noted that we differ from other plans because we represent two cities and a county, but did note that she regularly speaks to directors in Asheville, Winston-Salem and Raleigh about their initiatives. David added that with Martha Are at the State level and others nationally, there was a good deal of cooperation when it came to sharing information and ideas.

***Jurisdictional Endorsement of the Ten Year Plan:*** Jehan told Council members that the State has no record that our Ten Year Plan had received a written jurisdictional endorsement of the completed plan from the City of High Point, City of Greensboro or Guilford County. Towards that end, she and David, Bobby and Neil have meetings scheduled with the two mayors for next week and are attempting to

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get a meeting scheduled with the Chair of the County Commissioners, Kirk Perkins, in the next week or so. Michelle and Cyndi stated that they thought the City of Greensboro and the City of High Point passed resolutions. They will check to see if a resolution is on file and provide Jehan with copies.

Sheriff Barnes suggested that we make an effort to reach out to the remaining eight towns that make up Guilford County. He suggested we send a letter to the other towns explaining who we are and what we're doing and ask them to identify a contact person that we can keep up to date about our progress. They should be invited to our events and asked to participate on the Community Partnership Action Teams. He noted that while many people may not realize it, Summerfield is the third largest town in the county. David asked the Council if we should pursue resolutions from the other eight towns. Sheriff Barnes said it was probably too soon to ask them for a resolution and he suggested that we do education first, then ask at a later date. Cyndi Blue suggested that Jehan call Betty Garret in the County's Planning Office since she maintains a list of contact people for the surrounding towns.

Donna discussed the importance of having all ten towns behind this effort and questioned whether or not the remaining towns see homelessness as an issue that concerns them. Raymond Payne stated that there are homeless people in Jamestown, but they travel back and forth daily to High Point to hang out or obtain services during the day and only return to Jamestown to sleep at night. Sheriff Barnes noted that one man used a bicycle to travel during the day and returned to sleep at a shelter at City Lake Park every night. He also stated that recently he was called to Summerfield because people were seen raiding a dumpster in a store parking lot, which while not illegal, was undesirable and of great concern to the surrounding merchants. While he had no proof, Sheriff Barnes said he felt certain that these people were going through dumpsters because they were, in fact, homeless. Jehan also noted that potentially there were encampments throughout the county and that while this population might not be as visible, they exist in every town and we need to educate all of Guilford County.

**Potential Guilford Center and FSP Partnership for \$60,000 for a Housing Coordinator:** Jehan reported that Billie Martin Pierce was able to secure a grant from the State for a position for a Housing Coordinator; Family Service of the Piedmont will potentially contract with Guilford County for this position. The grant stems from the state building on the Housing 400 Initiative and Key Program. Mike McNair pointed out that we have one Housing 400 site through the ARC of High Point which bought 6-8 units approximately 6 months ago. The position will be responsible for Fair Housing Education, SOAR education, will work with the tax credit properties and be the direct contact person for agencies in terms of assisting them with finding housing. Donna asked how this person would work with the Greensboro and High Point Housing Coalitions and Jehan said the person would partner with them to ensure coordination. This position will target low-income individuals, ex-offenders and the homeless population. In response to a comment from Cyndi, Jehan explained that this position will also function with the discharge planning group and work with jails and hospitals to assist with housing.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.