



## Ten Year Plan Implementation Leadership Council Minutes

**Date:** Wednesday, December 10, 2008 @ 11:00 am – Family Service of the Piedmont Board Room

**Council Members Present:** David Miller, Karen Bridges, Mark Konen, Billie Martin Pierce, Michael McNair, Jim Roskelly, Bobby Smith

**Council Members Not Present:** Sheriff BJ Barnes, Keith Barsuhn, Tom Campbell, Rev. Odell Cleveland, Paul Lessard, Donna Newton, Andy Scott

**Also Present:** Desha Dickson, Michelle McNair,

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

<b>STATUS OF ASSIGNMENTS FROM LAST MEETING</b>		
<b>WHO</b>	<b>WHAT</b>	<b>STATUS</b>
Jehan	Contact Joe Barnes at UWGHP regarding Ministerial Alliance in High Point regarding Ten Year Plan.	Will schedule a meeting during early Spring.

<b>PROGRESS AND DECISIONS</b> (What key decisions were made during the meeting?)	
<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>DISCUSSION/DECISIONS</b>
<b>Opening and Welcome</b>	David Miller, Chair opened the meeting at 11:05 am and thanked everyone for attending.  Jim Roskelly was recognized for his work on the Task Force in helping the Ten Year Plan come to fruition.
<b>Review &amp; Approval of Minutes</b>  ▪ Approval of November 12, 2008 Minutes	There were no changes to the November 12, 2008 minutes. The minutes were accepted as submitted.
<b>Old Business</b>  Housing & Economic Recovery Act of 2008 – Mike McNair	Mike reminded everyone that the City of High Point and the City of Greensboro had submitted applications for grants on November 3rd. These funds will be used to acquire, repair and sell foreclosed or distressed properties or to acquire and demolish them. The City of Greensboro has also applied for funds. HUD will not make a determination on the applications until January, but he fully expects that Greensboro and High Point will both have their applications approved; the question is how much money both localities will receive. The minimum amount they are eligible for is \$2 million each; the maximum is \$5 million. He suggested that receiving these funds would make it possible to have a community-wide impact as housing across the economic strata has been effected by foreclosure and all neighborhoods have been touched.

<p>Advocacy &amp; Marketing – New Website</p>	<p>Jehan reported that the new website would officially be launched in January, accompanied with a press release and the purchase of two new domain names: <a href="http://www.partnersendinghomelessness.org">www.partnersendinghomelessness.org</a> and <a href="http://www.partnersendinghomelessness.com">www.partnersendinghomelessness.com</a>, which will be redirected from the current browser <a href="http://www.partnersforhomeless.org">www.partnersforhomeless.org</a>. She displayed the new site for Council members, highlighting some of the features that would make it user friendly and top of the line compared to what other Ten Year Plans are using. Visitors will be able to access facts about the issue of homelessness quickly, as well as find resources, learn about events or volunteer opportunities, available trainings, ways to donate, etc. Jehan noted that she was looking at free or low cost payment collection options to make donating simple for those inclined to respond give online. Mike McNair stated that the City of High Point uses Choice Pay for online payments and suggested coming under their umbrella to offer free “donate now” services, or to use whoever the County or Greensboro uses rather than reinventing the wheel.</p> <p>Jehan also noted that the site would feature a countdown clock for the Ten Year Plan showing how much time was left until 2016. Bobby suggested that we also “count our successes” by counting down the number of clients we place into permanent housing out of the original 200 targeted. David stated that this number might change but we could count down the percentage of the target population housed on the homepage. Mike also asked about external links to other agencies and organizations, and Jehan told him there would be links to the United Way, the City Councils, the County Commissioners and partner agencies. We will also be looking at doing an annual report card for the second year of the plan now that there is more data to report but the Advocacy &amp; Marketing Team is reviewing an appropriate format, as well as how to compare our data with that coming back from the Jordan Institute in the next few weeks.</p> <p>David mentioned an issue that arose when someone from a partner agency linked the County’s Ten Year Plan to their agency’s goal of ending all homelessness in a recent television interview. A newspaper commentary also questioned the actual goal of the Ten Year Plan. He asked how the Council would like to address confusion about the Ten Year Plan when it continues to arise in this manner. The majority of Council members agreed that an editorial response was appropriate. Jehan stated that when the new website launches in January, it would be accompanied by a full blown awareness campaign. Billie suggested that a “talking point sheet” be developed and given to all Council members containing three to five bulleted items. This would bring more credibility to the plan and keep everyone on the same message whenever they had an opportunity to speak to the media about the Ten Year Plan. Billie also suggested that Council members and their staff sign an agreement regarding what is said about the Plan to ensure everyone is on the same page. Mark Konen agreed to speak to Rev. Aiken to see if he could help Mike understand how important it is not to misrepresent the Ten Year Plan and our mission.</p> <p>Michelle noted that “chronic” was no longer part of the initiative’s name; but Jehan explained that the majority of our work focuses on strengthening the continuum of care and increasing coordination between mainstream supportive services and providers of housing for all people. Jehan stated that the Advocacy &amp; Marketing Team has been looking into getting David on The Max Meeks show and NPR in the future but much of their focus thus far has been spent on getting caught up and implementing the plan.</p>
<p><b>New Business</b></p>	
<p>Education &amp; Job</p>	<p>Jehan reported that the Education &amp; Job Training Action Team had identified</p>

<p>Training Action Team – Cocoon Model</p> <p>Housing Education &amp; Opportunities Initiative ~ Housing Support Specialist – Anne White</p>	<p>low income, homeless individuals, ex-offenders and low-skilled workers as those people who would most benefit from an education and employment training model which would provide training, develop soft skills and address other issues that would lead to self sufficiency. They are recommending that a pilot program be implemented in High Point in the third or fourth quarter of next year and will bring this issue to the Leadership Council at their January meeting and ask them to approve the concept. They will be looking for an agency in High Point to develop the project, perhaps as an extension of a program they currently operate. She noted that Welfare Reform Liaison Project is currently operating a similar program in Greensboro and has been looking to expand into High Point, perhaps through Williams Memorial Church’s outreach or with the Salvation Army. Desha noted that West End Ministries is currently offering a program to develop soft skills in High Point and suggested partnering with them. Michelle made several suggestions regarding a Project Re-entry component and working with High Point Citizens Against Violent Crime and America Works to help people leaving prisons secure employment. She mentioned that Jim Summey was the new Executive Director of HPCAV and Marty Sumner was the High Point Police Department contact for America Works.</p> <p>Jehan reported that thanks to a grant from the Guilford Center, Anne White has come onboard as a Housing Support Specialist for Guilford County based at Family Service. A strategy that Partners Ending Homelessness developed is called the Housing Opportunities – Education Initiative. This initiative focuses on ensuring that Guilford County residents have access to safe, decent and affordable housing and provides education and training on landlord-tenant and Fair Housing laws. A training session will be held on Thursday, January 29<sup>th</sup> from 9:00am-12:30pm for property managers, landlords, real estate professionals, developers, public housing managers and leasing agents on landlord responsibilities and landlord tenant relationships, rights and responsibilities of tenants with disabilities under the Fair Housing Law, and reasonable accommodations.</p> <p>Anne is responsible for developing and annually updating a Strategic Housing Plan that includes an inventory of local, existing housing for DMH/DD/SAS consumers; strategies for filling the gap between existing housing and housing needs; identifying barriers to implementing those strategies; and means for assessing implementation of the Strategic Housing Plan. She will also work to educate consumers, families and service providers on accessing and maintaining affordable housing regarding the NC landlord-Tenant and Fair Housing laws and negotiating reasonable accommodations.</p>
<p><b>Additional Items</b> Operation Greensboro Cares</p> <p>Winter Emergency Overflow</p>	<p>Jehan reported that after having responded so quickly and effectively to the needs of survivors of Hurricane Katrina who relocated to this area a few years ago, the United Way of Greater Greensboro and The Community Foundation of Greater Greensboro have decided to work together again collecting donations for Operation Greensboro Cares in order to address the needs of people needing emergency housing and shelter this winter. The money collected will be disbursed to local agencies that serve the people in need in Greensboro.</p> <p>The first grant issued from Operation Greensboro Cares will be given to WE! to help fund the emergency shelter beds for winter overflow from December 15-March 15. Currently, three churches have agreed to house individuals who will need a place to sleep during the winter months and three others are considering either becoming an additional site or providing volunteer support. Each church will serve up to twenty set individuals for the three month period. In High Point, Steve Key and Salvation Army have been able to handle the overflow in prior years. Should the numbers increase, First Baptist Church on Main Street has indicated that they would consider serving as an overflow facility.</p>

Action Team Reports	A Leadership Council member had recently asked Jehan if other members would like to see a review of the local Ten Year Plan Strategies during the first quarter of 2009 or if they would prefer to hear Action Team reports. After a brief discussion, it was decided that the Council would hear reports from the Action Teams and then review the Ten Year Plan strategies.
Housing for Female Youth 17-23	There was discussion regarding the shortage of housing for female youth 17-23 who are not pregnant. Karen reminded everyone that Youth Focus does accept females at their High Point facility who are not pregnant and beds can become available at any time. Their new facility in Greensboro, which should open in the summer of 2009, is under construction and will have five bedrooms which will be able to house five women and their babies or single women. High Point Salvation Army has added 17 female beds and they are full and Leslie's House remains at capacity as well. United Way of Greater High Point will host a meeting in High Point during the third quarter about this issue.
Greensboro Day Center	The Day Center Task Force in Greensboro will go before the City Council in January to request \$200,000 from the Nussbaum Fund to hire a consultant. The Committee has transitioned over its leadership to co-chairs Rev. Willis Johnson Jr. and Bob Newton.
State Funding for Homeless Advocacy	In response to a question regarding the political climate and funding sources from the State regarding the issue of homelessness, Jehan stated that Governor Beverly Purdue is sensitive to the issue; and is hosting meetings around the state to gather information about specific issues. North Carolina Coalition to End Homelessness will organize a coordinated effort throughout the state around support of the Housing Support Team pilot project.
<b>Adjournment</b>	The meeting adjourned at 12:05pm.

<b>ASSIGNMENTS</b>		
<b>WHO</b>	<b>WHAT</b>	<b>WHEN</b>
Desha	Hold meeting in High Point regarding female Youth homelessness	3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter 2009
<b>NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, January 14, 2008 @ 11:00am – Family Service of the Piedmont Board Room</b>		