

Partnering to End Chronic Homelessness in Guilford County  
Implementation Leadership Council

**Meeting Agenda**

Wednesday, May 14, 2008  
10:00 a.m.

- I. Welcome
  
- II. Introductions of Leadership Council and TYP Staff
  - Jehan Benton
  - Myla Erwin
  
- III. Summary of last meeting
  
- IV. Ten Year Plan & Housing Support Team Overview
  
- V. Old Business
  - a) Press Conference 4/17/2008
  
- VI. New Business
  - a) Town Hall Meeting 5/30/2008 10:00 a.m.
  - b) Community Partnership Action Teams
  
- VII. Adjournment
  - The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 11<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.

**Partnering to End Chronic Homelessness in Guilford County  
Leadership Council Meeting  
May 14, 2008**

A meeting of the Partnering to End Chronic Homelessness in Guilford County Leadership Council was held in the board room of Family Service of the Piedmont in Jamestown on Wednesday, May 14, 2008 at 10am.

**Council Members Present:** David Miller, Sheriff BJ Barnes, Tom Campbell, Mark Konen, Raymond Little, Billie Martin Pierce, Greg Niles, Andy Scott

**Council Members Not Present:** Neil Belenky, Tom Bonney, Karen Bridges, Odell Cleveland, Paul Lessard, Michael McNair, Donna Newton, Jim Roskelly, Bobby Smith

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

**Also Present:** Cindy Blue, Michelle McNair, Mike Aiken

**Welcome:** David Miller called the meeting to order at 10:00am and thanked everyone for coming.

**Introduction of Leadership Council & TYP Staff:** David reintroduced Jehan Benton who is now officially on staff with the TYP and her Administrative Assistant, Myla Erwin. Jehan Benton reviewed her goals of making connections and networking throughout the community and focusing on developing resources and fundraising efforts. She assured Council members that she would be calling on them in the near future and looking to them for ideas and assistance and suggestions.

**Summary of Last Meeting and Old Business:** David reminded everyone that their last meeting focused primarily on details of the impending April press conference and securing Jehan's position. He stated that logistically the event worked extremely well, but cautioned that we must remain cognizant of the fact that this is a countywide effort and we must do all we can to ensure that the community and the press acknowledge this.. Billie Pierce recalled that the Guilford Center was instrumental in obtaining the grant to fund this initiative which put Family Service of the Piedmont (FSP) as lead partner overseeing the pilot project. She and her staff are very pleased with the number of consumers being served by FSP. She added that every effort should be made to reapply for this money before the grant runs out, especially with a new Secretary of Health & Human Services coming in. Tom Campbell clarified that this was a 26-month grant and which will expire on June 30<sup>th</sup>. Jehan added that our program is actually a pilot program for the state and she is in contact with NC DHHS Homeless Policy Specialist, Martha Are, already to see how we might reapply for funding should the new Governor and Secretary decide to continue with the Homeless Initiative.

Greg Niles commented that often while speaking, certain government officials will display a passion about homelessness and its impact specifically on children. One challenge as we move forward will be to keep our officials on track without alienating them. Mike Aiken noted that Greensboro Urban Ministry is looking at Housing First for Families, which is a comprehensive approach. David stressed that while we care about every aspect of homelessness, this group's focus is on those dealing with it as a *chronic problem* which has a very specific definition. He noted, that focusing on

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this specific population will free up resources that will in turn affect other individuals experiencing homelessness. Jehan stated that there is a strong focus on prevention and Supportive services that will directly target all people experiencing homelessness and individuals who potentially could become homeless.

Sheriff Barnes stated that a friend of his owned a large piece of property in Guilford County that he would be willing to let us use for a fundraiser. He offered to put Jehan in contact with the owner should the Council determine that it would like to undertake such an event. He also suggested that a group be formed to investigate purchasing abandoned or condemned properties and then asking Trebic to renovate these sites for use by the Housing Support Team. He then invited David and Jehan to appear on his television show, *Sheriff's Beat*, which will be premiering June 1<sup>st</sup> on public access, to discuss the homelessness initiative.

**TYP & Housing Support Team Overview:** Jehan reviewed the history of the 10-Year Plan which began as a countywide effort in 2006 to focus on chronic homelessness, which is defined as being homeless for over a year or having had at least three episodes of homelessness within three years along with substance abuse or mental health issues. The plan was started with a \$644,000 grant that was funded for 26-months and Raymond Little of Open Door Ministry is part of that program, along with Greensboro Housing Coalition and FSP. As noted earlier, this is a pilot program and we are anticipating that 50 individuals will be housed by the end of the year. We are being looked at as a best practice model for the state.

**New Business:**

***Community Action Partnership Teams:*** Jehan presented Council members a list of the Community Action Teams and reviewed the goals for each team.

Currently, there are two Community Partnership Action Teams meeting and tackling issues: Supporting Housing (Goods & Services) and Advocacy, Marketing and Development.

***Supportive Housing (Goods & Services):*** The Supportive Housing Goods & Services Team, largely comprised of members of the faith community, works with Mitch McGee supporting newly housed individuals by assisting in the securing of household items through Home To Home in High Point and Barnabus in Greensboro, as well as in-kind donations from private donors and church groups. They hope to build on the Hurricane Katrina model and develop Hope Teams that will link and direct the homeless to resources while building relationships with them. This Team is currently without a chairperson.

***Advocacy, Marketing and Development:*** The Advocacy, Marketing and Development Team, chaired by Wes Ward from Westover Church in Greensboro, is working on developing a video which can be shared with congregations and local civic groups. They will meet next week to map out a communication plan. Jehan reported that the website is now two years old and was donated by Tech Triad and Carolinonet. Carolinonet president, Nicky Smith, will be joining the Advocacy team, as will Bert VanderVeen, the photographer who worked with us to develop the pictures for the ten year plan. She asked Board members to share names of any individuals they felt might be an asset to the group and have an interest or experience in marketing.

David stated that the Council and Action Team membership needs to represent the community well, Greensboro as well as High Point, in order to keep the community open and involved. People who may be well known in one locality will not be as well received in the other making well recognized and respected leadership imperative if these teams will seek to recruit community support. Towards that end, Jehan noted that all Leadership Council meetings would be centrally located in Jamestown, either at the FSP offices or in the event of a larger crowd, the Jamestown Town Hall. Also, the leadership council will recommend chairs for the community partnership action teams.

**Day Center & Coordinated Portal of Entry System:** Jehan reported that, under Dianne Bellamy-Small's leadership, a group had been meeting in Greensboro to discuss implementing a day center. Paul Gibson has expressed his interest in this area and a group of homeless advocates have been meeting in Greensboro as well. The Council was not aware of any group meeting in High Point at this time to discuss the issue of day centers and agreed to look into initiating discussions on this topic. Jehan will begin meeting with the Greensboro group.

While the concept is still evolving, a day center would be a single portal of entry where homeless individuals could gather, have mailboxes, take showers, receive information and referral about where to go for services, participate in support groups and receive peer counseling from people who have either been homeless previously or are still homeless but able to function at a higher level. Sheriff Barnes cautioned that in order to keep the public involved and sensitive to this issue, we must help them to see this as an outreach to empower people rather than one that enables them. Jehan told them that The Housing Support program uses a consumer choice model and provides incentives by helping individuals see the benefits in helping themselves rather than attempting to coerce them into doing things. She recalled that at a previous meeting someone talked about developing a software program known as a Consumer Relations Management (CRM) system that could be a part of the day center. This could be used to track the different types of services each consumer used and where they were referred to avoid duplication of services.

**Education & Job Training:** This team will be charged with increasing coordination between mainstream job training, employment and educational programs for low income, homeless, and ex-offenders. Also, this group would work on creating a market/system for employing these individuals. Raymond told the group that he tries to find ways that the individuals he works with can give back to the community by encouraging them to build upon their previous skill set and making them available to members of the community and local congregations. Andy will work on recruiting people for this committee.

**Discharge Planning:** Jehan then explained the need for adequate discharge planning, stating that there will be a team of agencies appointed to serve as a Discharge Planning Task Force charged with developing a coordinated effort to ensure that individuals discharged from hospitals, jails, foster care, etc have an appropriate place to return to.

Sheriff Barnes stated that his department had changed the way they handled discharges and began to direct people uptown rather than back into the areas of town where their offenses occurred. They changed the time of day they discharge people and began conducting exit interviews to find out where the individuals were planning to go upon discharge. In the past, too many people were released with

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nowhere to go and he agreed a plan was needed. He would like to have a "cheat sheet" of available resources to review when his department finds people in trouble in the street or is ready to release people who need resources. David will work on recruiting a chair for this committee.

**Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services:** Billie questioned the need for a Mental Health Task Force as one currently exists and told the Council that she would bring this up at her regularly scheduled staff meeting on May 15<sup>th</sup>. She noted that there was a Mental Health Coalition in Greensboro as well as one in High Point that included Substance Abuse. She suggested a conference call with Jehan to discuss how to avoid duplication in this area.

David expressed his concern that there should be more cross pollination across the Leadership Council and the Action Teams and sub-committees. Having served on several boards previously, Billie stated that she felt having the Council establish a vision to be expressed through Jehan and shared with each sub-group, then inviting them to present their findings and concerns to the Council on a scheduled basis would be more effective than having each Council member assigned to a particular committee. David suggested that Jehan use her judgment to determine how often and when committee presentations should be made and what their needs might be. He also encouraged Council members to feel free to participate on any committee that appealed to them in a self- appointed liaison capacity and if they felt there were any obvious voids, he encouraged to suggest membership for these groups.

As only two of the Action Teams were currently meeting, he asked for target dates by the June Leadership Council meeting for when some of the action teams might be expected to form and begin addressing the issues assigned to them. Jehan also added that there were two Action Teams slated to be formed on an as needed basis; they are Project Homeless Connect and Data Collection Analysis.

***Town Hall Meeting 5/30/2008 at 10:00 a.m.***

Jehan reminded everyone that on May 30<sup>th</sup> there would be a Community Planning meeting at the Jamestown Town Hall from 10am-12noon to solicit input from members of the private, faith and business communities as well as providers on the implementation of the Ten Year Plan. Martha Are will be speaking on the need for community involvement, implementation of the TYP and special strategies. Her presentation will be followed by discussion groups on a range of topics related to the action teams' goals. After a brief discussion, it was determined that there would be no press releases regarding this event, other than notices in community calendars to invite public participation. Billie suggested that each Board member display the event on their provider websites.

The Council agreed to move the meeting time from 10:00am to 11:00am effective June 11<sup>th</sup>. David stated that due to the importance of the task this Council has been assigned, he felt there should be a vice chair and in the future, perhaps an executive committee. On a motion by Sheriff Barnes, seconded by Andy Scott, Billie Martin Pierce was nominated Vice Chair of the Leadership Council.

With no additional business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 11:20am.