

## **Plan to End Chronic Homelessness in the Five County Area by 2014**

**Sections that need to be specific to the five county area:**

### **Homeless in the Five County Area**

#### **No changes pg 2**

Leaving the information based on the 2005-2007 data

#### **Excerpt #1 (pg. 4)**

##### **Five County Area**

The Five County area has served the homeless with two emergency shelters, Dixie Care and Share for those in St. George and Iron County Care and Share (ICCS) for those in Cedar City. In addition, motel vouchers have been used in other counties. Two domestic violence shelters – the D.O.V.E Center in St. George and the Canyon Creek Women’s Crisis Center in Cedar City assist with needed services. There are also provisions in Iron County and Washington County for transitional housing. ICCS provides some transitional housing in Iron County. They have a total capacity of seven (7) beds. The Cedar City Housing Authority has four (4) transitional units. These units are for homeless families only. The Erin Kimball Memorial Foundation provides transitional housing and support services for homeless families fleeing domestic violence in the region. In addition to their twelve (12) set-aside apartment units located within Washington County, the program offers assistance to families in the outlying regions by providing leased housing in the participant’s community of choice. There are twelve (12) food pantries with at least one pantry in each county serving low-income families and individuals.

Utah’s present system and resources have proven inadequate to the challenge of significantly reducing, let alone ending, chronic homelessness. The Five County Local Homeless Coordinating Committee is willing to utilize the new housing first approach and to work toward ending chronic homelessness in the five county area.

#### **Excerpt page 5**

##### **Cost to the Five County Area**

No Specific cost studies have been conducted in the Five County area concerning homelessness; so, costs of homelessness derived from studies across the state will be used.

## **Excerpt pg 6**

### **Five County Area Commitments**

In coordination with the State of Utah's Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness, the five county area agrees that the goal is "every person within southwest Utah will have access to safe, decent, affordable housing with the needed resources and support for self-sufficiency and well-being.

The Housing First strategy is a key to ending chronic homelessness. As mentioned in the State's plan, housing is an essential basic need. Living in one's own home also brings new freedoms and responsibilities and marks the transition to adulthood in contemporary American culture. Finding and maintaining a home is a fundamental indicator of success in community life. Placing the chronically homeless in permanent supportive housing is less costly to the community than living on the street. There is a need to find affordable housing that will accommodate previously homeless individuals.

On October 22, 2008 an elected official assisted in the reorganization of the Local Homeless Coordinating Council. The representative is Apple Valley Mayor Mary Reep. The committee is prepared to take on the challenges of updating and completing the plan to End Chronic Homelessness by the Year 2014 and provide an avenue for coordination and collaboration between organizations. There will continue to be the Housing First Committee who will coordinate services and funding with the Continuum of Care in the Balance of State and oversee the pilot projects for ending homelessness. The Five County Local Homeless Coordinating Committee (FC LHCC) will complete the plan to end Chronic Homelessness and coordinate a unique partnership including elected officials, government programs, non-profit organizations and other related individuals in the five county area.

There are many agencies involved in the FC LHCC including Dixie Care and Share, Iron County Care and Share, Erin Kimball Memorial Foundation, DOVE center, The Safety Net, Five County Association of Governments, Washington County School District, Resource and Re-entry Center, Housing First, Red Rock Center for Independence, Southwest Behavioral Health Center and the area Housing Authorities. There will continue to be additional outreach to all programs that work in connection with ending homelessness. The need is also paramount to include more elected officials on the FC LHCC and this expansion will be an ongoing goal.

**Excerpt Pg 9**

The Five County Local Homeless Coordinating Committee represents a broad range of community stakeholders (see Attachment VII for current membership). The committee seeks to coordinate all activities that serve the homeless in the Five County area. Currently The LHCC has a subcommittee coordinating efforts to complete a homeless housing project in Washington County, a workgroup completing the Plan and at its discretion, may appoint subcommittees and workgroups to further the various goals.

**Excerpt pg 10**

**Area Profile**

The Five County Local Homeless Coordinating Committee (LHCC) is responsible for the overall coordination activities on behalf of the homeless for the Beaver, Garfield, Iron, Kane and Washington Counties. The area is located in the Southwestern corner of the Utah and includes the following cities:

Beaver	Garfield	Iron	Kane	Washington	
Beaver	Antimony	Beryl	Kanab	Apple Valley	Pine Valley
Greenville	Bryce	Brian Head	Alton	Central	Pintura
Milford	Bryce Canyon City	Cedar City	Big Water	Dammeron Valley	Rockville
Minersville	Boulder	Enoch	Glendale	Enterprise	Santa Clara
	Cannonville	Hamilton Fort	Orderville	Gunlock	Springdale
	Escalante	Kanarrville		Hildale	St. George
	Hatch	Lund		Hurricane	Toquerville
	Henrieville	Modena		Ivins	Veyo
	Panguitch	Newcastle		La Verkein	Virgin
	Ticaboo	Paragonah		Leeds	Washington
	Tropic	Parowan		New Harmony	
		Summit			

Southwestern Utah conjures up many images to the minds of those who live in or visit the region – red rock cliffs and mesas, pristine wilderness and desert, scenic national parks and monuments, hiking, camping, and other outdoor recreation. The population includes the population of members of the various bands of the Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah. Information by County includes, Beaver County is approximately halfway between Salt Lake City, Utah, and Las Vegas, Nevada. It is within the "Grand Circle" of scenic and recreation areas extending from Utah into Colorado, New Mexico, and Arizona. The Union Pacific Railroad, running north-south through the center of the county at Milford, is becoming increasingly important as a mover of goods and natural resources to and from Utah. Of prime importance is the transportation of Utah's coal to Los Angeles for exportation to the Pacific Rim countries. Beaver County relies heavily on tourism as part of its economic base. Agribusiness has become a major source of employment. Garfield County depends more on tourism and recreation for employment than any other county

in the state. Garfield County depends more on tourism and recreation for employment than any other county in the state. With Bryce Canyon, Lake Powell, state parks, and other scenic beauties, the county attracts many visitors each year. Garfield County also has one of the highest unemployment rates in the state because many of the county's jobs are seasonal. Iron County is currently experiencing rapid economic expansion. The area is well known as the host of the Utah Shakespearean Festival, the Utah Summer Games and Southern Utah University. Manufacturing plays a strong role in this rural area, however, trade and services provide the most employment. The Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument result the areas heavily reliance on tourism. A home-grown manufacturing company and an animal rescue organization also bring many jobs to Kane County's labor market. Rapid population growth and a booming economy have characterized Washington County over the past few years. With growth in all sectors, Washington County's economy is strong however, recent spikes in home prices have placed pressure on an already, tight labor market.

The Five County Area has an overall population of 195,817 (July 2006 estimate), 7.5% of the Utah total. The overall Poverty Rate of 12.7%, 24.5% higher than the state, and the Child Poverty Rate is 22.2% higher at 15.2%. The Unemployment Rate, 2.9%, is the same as the state, but less than the national rate. The Area Median income is \$41,115 compared to state average of \$47,224.

### Excerpt pg 10

#### **Homeless Prevention/Discharge Planning Strategic Initiative**

Jails, prisons, hospitals, the child welfare system, and mental health facilities often release people directly into homelessness. Coordinated **Discharge Planning** is crucial to stop these discharges into homelessness and to assure stable housing and some means for maintaining it.<sup>1</sup> There are several local agencies in need of assistance in discharge planning. In reaction to this need Washington County's domestic violence shelter, The D.O.V.E. center, attempts to find long-term housing for individuals that are victims of domestic violence and/or sexual assault. They currently partner with the Resource and Reentry Program and the Erin Kimball Foundation to achieve this goal. Often individuals released from jail end up in the local shelters such as ICCS. Due to the increase of individuals in homelessness the programs are using waiting lists; therefore, they are often unable to help. The Resource and Re-Entry Center in Washington County is organized to assist inmates and other homeless individuals find housing and employment as they are released from the Purgatory jail or other facilities. They currently own three trailers that may be available for housing homeless individuals.

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<sup>1</sup>

**Excerpt pg 13**

**Supportive Services Strategic Initiative**

Housing stability depends on these necessary supports: 1) housing assistance; 2) affordable health care with mental health and substance abuse services; 3) skill and employment training; 4) transportation; and 5) affordable quality child care. There are some resources available currently although they are minimal. For example, the D.O.V.E. Center provides referrals to affordable housing, referrals to the Doctor's Free Clinic or the Community Health Center for medical needs, as well as to Department of Workforce Services to apply for medical coverage, etc. They assist with transportation of shelter residents with bus tokens and taxi vouchers. The D.O.V.E. Center also utilizes referrals to the Family Support Center for respite care. The Erin Kimball Memorial Foundation provides transitional housing, specialized case management, educational support groups; connection to mainstream and community resources; online job and life skills training. In addition to emergency housing assistance, with their limited funding, ICCS provides funding for prescription vouchers, bus tokens, hotel stays, and other costs (i.e. medical, dental, rent, mortgage, utilities, etc.). In addition, Washington County School District's "homeless liaison" works to help provide a stable and consistent school environment for children affected by homelessness. This liaison provides help with immediate enrollment, immunizations, school records, birth certificates, school supplies and transportation. Lastly, the Cedar City Housing Authority provides rental assistance for eligible clients. They do a complete a criminal background check in which violent or drug related activity can make a person ineligible. They provide free bus passes to clients. For individuals participating in the Section 8, transitional housing, and/or housing first the Cedar City Housing Authority provides self sufficiency case management and planning.

Excerpt pg. 14

**Homeless Management Information Strategic Initiative**

The appropriate agencies associated with the Five County Local Homeless Coordinating Committee are dedicated to being involved in capturing and inputting accurate data through the HIMS system.

## Attachment VII

Name	Agency
Mayor Mary Reep	Apple Valley
Anne Yero	Canyon Creek Women's Crisis Center
Ty Tippetts/ Dotti Higley	Color Country Community Housing
Kim Yeoman	Disability Law Center
Kara Coop	Dixie Care & Share
Sherri Michel-Singer	DOVE Center
Stephen Lisonbee	Department of Workforce Services
Sue Kimball	Erin Kimball Memorial Foundation
Sherri Dial	Five County AOG
Bill Woods	Iron County Care & Share
Heidi Miller	Iron County Housing Authority
Jordi Roesti-Drew	Red Rock Center for Independence
Frank Yoder	Resource & Reentry Center
Chelsea Kunz Gambles	Safety Net/ Family Support Center
Paul Thorpe	Southwest Behavioral Health Center
Stephanie Volker	Southwest Center
Lane Ronnow	St. George Housing Authority
Jeanne Heath	United Way
Lloyd Pendleton	Utah Division of Housing & Community Development
Natalie Thornley	VA
Lynn Jorgensen	VA Outpatient Clinics
Bob Green	Washington County School District
Tami Fullerton	Washington County Youth Crisis Center