

**FIVE COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
LOCAL HOMELESS COORDINATING COMMITTEE**

**Minutes
February 17, 2010
11:30 am - 1:00 pm**

**Southwest Behavioral Health Center
3rd Floor Conference Room
474 West 200 North
St. George, UT**

<u>MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:</u>	<u>REPRESENTING:</u>
Anne Yero	Canyon Creek Women's Crisis Center
Teresa Banks	Department of Workforce Services
Colleen Tucker	Job Corps
Sherri Dial	FCAOG
Kara Coop	Dixie Care and Share
Jane Lewis	FCAOG
Stephanie Volker (on phone)	Southwest Center Behavioral Health
Holly Malnar	DOVE Center
Sue Kimball (on phone)	Erin Kimball Memorial Foundation
LuWenn Jones	Disability Law Center & Utah DD Council
Ray Sim	Iron County Care and Share
Lloyd Pendleton	State Office of Community and Culture
Richard Rivera	St. George Soup Kitchen
Chuck Goode	Grace Episcopal Church
<u>EXCUSED</u>	
Frank Yoder	Resource & Re-entry Center
Paula Claymore	Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah

Welcome & Introductions

Ms. Teresa Banks welcomed all in attendance and asked everyone to introduce them selves.

Approval of the Agenda and Minutes

**Ms. Kara Coop motioned to approve the agenda and minutes of
November 18th meeting, seconded by Ms. Holly Malnar.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

HPRP Sub-Committee Information

Ms. Kara Coop explained about the HPRP information. Ms. Coop explained that the program is going well. She is working on trying to get the word out to people about the program. Ms. Coop explained the program and qualifications. The qualifications are that a client has to show prove they have applied for food stamps and TANF. Also, the client needs to be looking for employment and job search. The client needs to ask others for assistance first before qualifying for HPRP and show proof they are trying to better their situation. Ms. Coop commented that Dixie Care & Share needs to get the word out more about the program. Ms. Jane Lewis asked to have more information about the program and qualifications so that she can make a more educated referral to her clients. Mr. Lloyd Pendleton discussed the new TANL housing funds that have been provided to the D C&S and the ICCS. The TANF housing funds are available to families with children who need 4 months of assistance. The money is focused on the newly homeless not the long term homeless. Need to have local interagency meeting to review and understand the HPRP and TANF funding. The state specialist is Lani Nesbitt (Office of Community and Culture 801-538-8607). Lloyd suggested we organize a local agency meeting and have Lani on the phone to help walk through some clients.

Mr. Ray Sim informed the council that the Iron County Care & Share have exhausted all of their money they received for the time period. Requirements ICCS include meeting eligibility for income, do not require a letter from other resource, they do discuss possible other sources, if they are unemployed we do not require specific job search, rental requirement need to be meet. Focus of service is on individuals who need short term assistance. Mr. Lloyd Pendleton explained the importance of Case Management. The clients needs case management in order for the situation to remain permanent. Also a discussion about the CSBG/ARRA funding that has been allocated in the five county area for support services case management. CSBG funding has to report on employment outcomes. Lloyd discussed 'braiding' the money together to assist individual most effectively to meet the need of the cliental. Case management is the key to keeping people housed.

We need to have regular meetings that can assist agencies to walk their clients through the HPRP & TANF program.

Point in Time (PIT) Review

Mr. Ray Sim said that the count was very good for individuals that were sheltered by homeless but he felt the people that were not sheltered were not counted very well during the survey. Mr. Sim explained for example when libraries were contacted the employees didn't want to approach individuals and ask if they are homeless because the question may offend them. Law enforcement was helpful. There is no total number yet because some organization reported their number directly to the state. The numbers of the survey should be out by the end of March. Individuals are not counted twice. When approached the individual is asked if they have taken the survey so that people are not double counted. There is a shelter count and a street count. Are HPRP individuals being counted in the PIT? The higher risk is not counting enough people. Funding for homeless services are based on the homeless count. Another concern is how to count the double-up count. There is a line item number from the school districts to show the number of homeless school children that includes the children who are in a doubled up situation.

Housing Counseling Information

Ms. Sherri Dial informed the council there is a new housing counselor in the St. George Five County AOG office. The housing counselor is Mr. Dan Good from the Cedar City Housing Authority. Mr. Good assists with default and foreclosure prevention, also loan modification. Mr. Chuck Goode and Mr. Richard Rivera have been overwhelmed at the St. George Soup Kitchen house at the Grace Episcopal Church with people coming in and needing help. Ms. Coop informed that she has hired a new case manager with the ARRA money and HPRP money. The St. George Soup Kitchen collects information on the clients who come for a meal.

Job Corps

Ms. Colleen Tucker introduced herself that she handles admissions for Job Corps all over Southern Utah. Ms. Tucker passed out information flyers about Job Corps to the council members. Job Corps is for individuals 16 to 24 years of age. Other requirements included they need to have fulfilled any court obligation and be drug free. There is also a single parent program. Job Corps pays for all transportation, food, housing, and medical care. Mr. Lloyd Pendelton commented about the soup kitchen would be a great place to get referrals for Job Corps. The wait time for individuals to join Job Corps is on average 1 or 2 months. There is a range of training available depending on the choice of the students. Students with disabilities can receive an age waiver and can be older than 24.

The relationship is very important to helping people become more self-sufficient. They can be intimidated by the middle class assumptions of completing the paperwork being easy and achievement as a goal. Bridges Out Of Poverty is a class that teaches how to understand the supports needed to end poverty.

State Information

Stimulus funding - Jane
TANF

The normal funding cycle for Pamela Atkinson grant will be out around March 1st, 2010 and will be due March 28, 2010. All applications are going to be on WebGrant. There have been cuts in funding and the organizations that have had good results will have the best possibility for funding.

Housing Committee Update

Ms. Stephanie Volker announced there was a Balance of State meeting last week which was the second week in February.

Continuum of Care Sub-Committee

Plan to End Homelessness

Ms. Sherri Dial informed the council that the plan she has been working on and taken to the steering committee and has now been submitted to the state. Ms. Dial commented that we are in compliance with the state. The plan is to end chronic homeless by 2014. Mr. Lloyd Pendleton announced that Ms. Marty Burke has been hired to help rewrite the last five years of the ten year plan.

Need to begin working with the homeless data to implement the plan to end chronic homelessness.

Other Updates

Ms. Dial explained to the council about the V.I.T.A program (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) program that is free. The V.I.T.A program covers all of the Five County area. The V.I.T.A program is being done at several locations. The V.I.T.A program will be offered until April 15th. Ms. Dial handed out the council members the Utah Saves information and Utah State University Extension office classes that are offered. The classes teach people to budget and save money. Many of the council shared and updated things that their programs are doing.

Ms. LuWenn Jones explained that she represents the Disability Law Center and the Utah Developmental Disability Council and if anyone with a disability is having a problem she is willing to help connect individual to the services they are qualified to receive.

The St. George Soup Kitchen is beginning the process of building a new building that will provide different services including catering and weddings to help fund the soup kitchen. If you eat at Chilies on the first Tuesday of the month they will donate 10% to the soup kitchen.

Next Meeting

Ms. Dial explained that the next meeting date is not yet established because we are holding the time to work with the new public official.

HPRP/TANF sub-committee meeting will be Wednesday the 3rd at 11:30 at the St. George Soup Kitchen at the Grace Episcopal Church.

Meeting adjourned.