

**FIVE COUNTY
LOCAL HOMELESS COORDINATING COMMITTEE**

Minutes

February 16th, 2011, 11:30 am-1:00 p.m.

Five County Association of Governments

1070 West 1600 South Bldg B

St. George, UT 84770

| <u>MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:</u> | <u>REPRESENTING:</u> |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Ray Sim-Vice Chair | Iron County Care and Share |
| Diane Sheridan | Canyon Creek Women's Crisis Center |
| Johnny Heppler | St. George City Police Department |
| John Bramall | Hurricane City Council / Resource & Re-entry |
| Faye Hubbard | Department of Workforce Services |
| Dannie & Sheral Condie | Cedar City Transient Service for LDS church |
| Lorilee Walters | DJJS / WCYCC |
| Stephanie Volker (on phone) | Southwest Center Behavioral Health |
| Jane Lewis | Five County CAP |
| Colleen Tucker | Job Corps |
| Shelly Cline | Veterans Administration |
| Frank Yoder | Resource & Re-entry Center |
| Sherri Dial | Five County AOG |
| Lloyd Pendleton | State Office of Community Culture |
| Al Hernandez | Dept. of Veteran's Affairs |
| Rueben Garcia | Dixie Care & Share |
| Kent Thurgood | St. George LDS Church/Transient Services |
| Linda Trujillo | Utah Food Bank |
| Britton Lund | Washington County Library |
| Jessica Rivera | St. George Soup Kitchen |
| Cameron Hatch | Dept. of Veteran's Affairs |
| <u>Excused</u> | |
| Chair Ben Nickel | St. George City Council |
| Jan Thompson | Department of Workforce Services |
| LuWennJones | Disability Law Center & Utah DD Council |
| Heidi Miller | Cedar City Housing Authority |
| Michelle Post | Erin Kimball Memorial Foundation |
| Paula Claymore | Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah |
| Bob Green | Washington County School District |
| Lynn Jorgensen | Veterans Administration |
| Jean Goode | Family Support Center Safety Net Program |
| Holly Malnar | DOVE Center |
| Keisha Greenwell | St. George Housing Authority |
| <u>Guests</u> | |
| Frances Dodds | Resource & Re-entry Center |
| SherelleZulliger | Resource & Re-entry Center |
| Nora Wilson | Resource & Re-entry Center |
| Judy Jordan | Resource & Re-entry Center |
| Ron Humphries | LDS church & Department of Community and Culture |
| James Standlry | WCSO |
| Perry Lambert | WCSO |
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Welcome and Introductions

Vice Chair Ray Sim with the Iron County Care & Share welcomed all members in attendance. Mr. Sim asked all in attendance to give introductions and announce the agency they are representing. Ray Sim welcomed Stephanie Volker on the telephone.

Approval of the Agenda & Minutes

Ray welcomed a motion to accept the December 15th, 2010 minutes and the agenda.

**A motion was made by Frank Yoder to approve the Agenda and accept December 15th, 2010 minutes, seconded by Kent Thurgood.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

HPRP/TANF subcommittee information

Ray turned time to Ruben to report on the HPRP/TANF funds. Ruben announced that he did not have any information to share with the committee although he stated that the Dixie Care and Share has been really busy. Lloyd suggested that Ruben should provide information including of how much money has been expended, how many people have been served, and how many have become self-reliant. Also it is important to talk about how to get the funds so the other agencies can help clients to access the funding.

Dixie Care & Share and Iron County Care and Share have been granted funds to help with housing needs. He explained the HPRP and TANF are separate grants. Homeless Prevention and Rapid Rehousing Program (HPRP) & TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) provides individuals assistance with rent and utilities although with TANF there must be a qualifying child in the home. The child need to have a social security card.

Ray provided information that the Iron County Care and Share is utilizing the funds very effectively. The areas being served by the Iron County Care & Share include of Iron, Beaver, Garfield and Kane Counties. Ray announced that the Iron Care & Share is utilizing 100% of the Homeless prevention money and about 75% of the Rapid rehousing money this year. Utilizing 100% of TANF funds.

The money assists individuals that are homeless get into housing or remain in housing. Ray reported 65 families that consist of 252 individuals have received services through the TANF grants. Ray also related that with the HPRP grant 50 families and 132 individuals have been served with homeless prevention. To access the program you can call Billie or Karina at the Dixie Care and Share if you are in Washington County. The other four counties can contact Brandi Jackson at the Iron County Care & Share.

Holly asked questions about the funding. Ruben said he is having trouble with the funding on a reimbursement allocation from the state. Holly was told that the Dixie Care & Share was only offering thirty days of support for housing and that it takes a long time to get help. The Dixie Care and Share has looked into a line of credit to help front the funds to use them more effectively. The maximum time of support with HPRP is eighteen months and TANF is four months.

The Dove center is having a difficult time accessing the funding for clients.

CSI update

Ray turned the time over to Jane Lewisto talk about the CSI (Community Sharing Information) workshops. Jane explained that the focus of Community Sharing Information workshops are to strengthen the skills of case management in the area. The workshops will begin skill-building

agenda working with mentors and employees to better serve the needs of clients. The January workshop focused on eight different ways to engage a client during the assessment process. In April there is a poverty simulation workshop that will be held on the 26th. People who work with the poverty population or make decisions about resources should attend to better understand the barriers to self-reliance.

The next workshop is a Poverty Simulation that helps to address the needs of the poverty and homeless population on April 26th.

Utah Food Bank

Ray turned the time to Linda Trujillo with the Utah Food Bank. Linda announced that the new Food Bank in St. George is now open. The Food Bank is a food collection and distribution agency, we collect food and distribute to agencies. When there is a donation to the Food Bank the food goes to the partner agencies not to individuals. The Utah Food Bank opened a warehouse in St. George to better serve the pantries in southern Utah and provide a wider variety of food, higher quality and more food. There is a greater ability to provide fresh foods in a timely manner. Linda explained that the Utah Food Bank in St. George will serve the communities in Southern Utah and the food pantries. Linda reported that having the Food Bank in St. George will save money on transportation costs. The Food Bank began handling the grocery rescue program in Washington County. To become a partner agency they need to apply and be a 501(c)3. Lloyd also mentioned the Food Bank needs volunteers to help. They are located at 4416 South River Road Drive in the Fort Pierce Industrial section, near the Blue Bunny Plant. Linda provided the office phone number of the Food Bank 1-435-656-9122 for anyone interested in learning how to use the services. The Food Bank is part of Feeding America.

Homeless Veteran Stand Down in 2011 Follow-up

Al Hernandez with Veteran's Affairs explained that the VA is going to be opening a Veteran clinic in St. George. The VA has set up a five-year plan to end chronic homelessness for all veterans. The VA is trying to integrate the five-year plan with the state of Utah's ending chronic Homelessness by 2014 plan. The VA presented at the capital of the idea. Al discussed the event that took place in Washington County to provide outreach to homeless veterans. There were many great community providers that were involved in the Stand Down. There were a total of ten community providers and eleven homeless Veterans attending the event. The VA will be working on providing housing for homeless Veterans.

There is also going to be a treatment center for drug and alcohol addiction, counseling, and case management. Al hopes to hold this event in Washington County every year. The event was very successful and will be better marketed for next year. There was an article in newspaper about the event. Al announced that there was a veteran that got a job at the Veteran Center providing transporting other veteran's to appointments.

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Democracy Day

Sherri Dial discussed Democracy Day at the Capital. Sherri reported that every year Democracy Day is held at the Capitol to discuss services at the state level with legislators. Sherri explained that

most agencies budgets are being cut by about 7% that trickles down to community services. The budget cuts dramatically effect the assistance that is provided to the homeless and those in poverty being able to survive. Sherri encouraged everyone to contact the state legislature and educated the representative about the needs of the communities.

Point In Time (P.I.T) updates

Ray announced there were a lot more surveys from the Point In Time count than last year and they were sent to the State Office. The Point In Time count provides additional information of the homeless situation in every area of the United States. Ray announced that there were many more organizations participating this year and thanked them.

Community Action Legislation

Jane Lewis to talk about the possible budget cuts regarding Community Service Block Grants and community action programs. Jane stated that President Obama during his state of the union address mentioned cutting Community Action Programs that are funded by the Community Services Block Grant. Jane explained that community services block grants provide the only programs that are tasked to mitigate and eliminate poverty. The funds are used to support food pantries, shelters, provides transportation, day care services for young parents to continue education, case management, and literacy programs in the five county area. Jane announced that we just received a letter stating that four Utah County pantries are going to be closed. The budget is in continuing resolution until March 4th. Jane provided information to send a letter to the President and legislators from the committee to support local community action programs. Jane also encouraged members to go to the website www.capworks.org and sign the petition that will be sent to President Obama.

**A motion was made by Jane Lewis for the committee to send a letter to President Obama as a collaborative-based letter supporting Community Action programs, seconded by Dianne.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

State Office Information

Lloyd Pendleton reviewed the information on why the Local Homeless Coordinating Committee meeting was coordinated and the purpose of it. Lloyd stated that in 2002 President Bush started an initiative to end long-term chronic homelessness. The State of Utah committed to end chronic homelessness in the state of Utah. Lloyd discussed that the state of Utah figures there are about 2,000 chronic homeless people. Lloyd explained the definition of a chronic homeless person is an unaccompanied adult (18 years of age or older), has a disabling condition that could be mental or physical and has been homeless 4 times in 3 years or homeless over a year. Lloyd stated that research shows individuals that are homeless cost the state a lot of money by using community services that are emergency services (emergency room, jail, etc.). Lloyd has spearheaded the project to End Chronic Homelessness by 2014 (a ten year plan). Lloyd announced the state has organized twelve Local Homeless Coordinating Committees in Utah. The intent of the committees are to bring together all communities and agencies that are impacted by homelessness to help resolve the issue and hopefully get homeless persons off the street and into housing.

Lloyd talked about creating more housing for those that are leaving the shelters and crisis centers. Ray asked Lloyd to explain how far the state of Utah is on the plan to end chronic homelessness. Lloyd replied that the state has is five years into the plan and since 2005 there has been a significant decrease of 58% in homelessness. Lloyd explained there has been 600 units of housing built on the Wasatch front. There is also a tremendous amount of Case Management taking place and this year the focus is on how to help individuals become employed. Lloyd announced there has been great progress with all of the services being provided. The 2011 Point in Time Count has not yet been released this year. It was discussed there were a lot more individuals counted this

year in the five county area compared to last year partly because many agencies contributed to getting an accurate count.

The Veterans Administration is now responding to a new Presidential goal to end Veteran homelessness in five years. They are now actively engaged in working with the councils to end homelessness.

The new pilot is everyone can be employed. The pilot is working on how to find sustainable employment for each person who is now housed as part of the ending homelessness project. Helping people to be prepared to be employed and paid. It may begin with volunteer work or supported employment. Housing first, employment second.

VITA

Jane Lewis updated information on Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA). Jane announced that VITA is one of the largest anti-poverty programs nationally. Volunteers have been trained and certified by the IRS to complete tax returns for low-income taxpayers. There are four sites in Washington County and sites in every county throughout the five county area. Anyone that makes less than \$49,000 a year is eligible to receive free income tax assistance. Last year there was 3.2 million dollars returned back into the five county region. Brochures were passed out to the committee about the VITA program.

Other Updates

Lloyd Pendleton stated that the Governor came back about ten days ago and said to take money from another department. Lloyd stated that the State will have the same amount of money for the Pamela Atkinson Homeless Trust Fund (PAHTF) and Olene Walker Fund to distribute to programs in the State.

There will be training on Feb. 28th for programs applying for the PAHTF that is mandatory. The application will be due March 17th. Copies were made and distributed to the committee.

It was suggested to have one of the agencies present a 10-minute presentation about what their agency does. The St. George police department would like to present some information and get some feedback on ways to better serve the needs of the community.

Five County Community Action Partnership provided new Human Resource Book for the members of the committee.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be April 2011. Ray welcomed a motion to adjourn the meeting.

A motion was made by Kent Thurgood to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Johnny Heppler. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.