

Monday, July 24, 2PM
Advisory Workgroup

In attendance:

Charlotte Caplan, City of Asheville Development Office

Lance Edwards, United Way

Robin Merrill, Pisgah Legal and Affordable Housing Coalition

Tim Peck, Community Member

Thomas Rightmyer, Coalition of Asheville Neighborhoods

Reviewed the structure of workgroups.

- Workgroups will be formed in the areas of : Discharge, Services, Prevention, Housing, the Homeless Management Information System
- *Note: Since the meeting, one more workgroup has been added, an oversight Workgroup w/persons who have or are experiencing homelessness.*
- One representative from each workgroup will be chosen by members and will sit on the Advisory Workgroup.
- Other community groups that cover similar issues will be invited to send representatives to appropriate workgroup.
- Discussion about how the Homeless Initiative structure can work with the Asheville-Buncombe Coalition on Homeless took place. It was determined that both groups are working towards the same ends, and that there needs to be an ongoing and directed discussion on how groups can be integrated. To start, the leadership of the coalition will be invited to sit on the Advisory board. Amy Sawyer & Robin Merrill will request present the topic to the Coalition.

Additional members are needed for the advisory board:

- Decision makers from the public, private, and non-profit sector are needed to make a strong advisory board.
- There are commitments from: DSS Leadership, Police Department, Western Carolina Rescue Mission, and the Housing Authority.
- Additional people to invite: representatives from mental health system, substance abuse system, business leaders, members of the initial steering committee
- There needs to be a targeted ask – advisory group members can help identify potential members and ask them personally to join.

Topics that were identified and need further discussion:

- Continue research and data collection for effective planning, including defining measures and controls for demonstration projects, defining data points.
- Evaluate and publicize demonstration projects initiated in the community.
- Collaboration with other systems
- Coordination with Partner Agencies, Businesses, and Community Members
- Raise and help allocate money
- Advocacy
- Community education regarding homelessness
- Assure Accountability
- Raise and help allocate money and support

Monday, August 28, 2006
Advisory Workgroup

Present:

Warren Bissett, Church of the Advocate
Charlotte Caplan, City of Asheville
Lance Edwards, United Way
Robin Merrell, Pisgah Legal Services
Scott Rogers, ABCCM
Philippe Rosse, Affordable Housing Coalition
Thomas Rightmyer, CAN
Doug Tate, Asheville Downtown Association
Larry Thompson, LME Liaison

More people need to be at the table – additional options for individuals/groups to invite:

AB Tech
Mayor, Council
Commissioners
University Representative (contact new chancellor Ann Ponder)
CRC – Community Resource Council
Prison
Hospital
Substance Abuse
Faith Groups

Moving Forward:

Advisory group spent time talking about the direction the group should be taking, and requested that resources be made available so that group members can be kept up-to-date on state and national Homeless Initiative work:

- <http://www.ich.gov/> - United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) - The major activities of the council include planning and coordinating the Federal government's activities & programs to assist homeless people, and making or recommending policy changes to improve that assistance, evaluating, providing technical assistance to communities, and disseminating information regarding how to effectively assist homeless persons.
- <http://www.ncceh.org/innorthcarolina.php> - North Carolina Coalition to End Homelessness (NCCEH) - The North Carolina Coalition to End Homelessness is a statewide membership nonprofit created to secure resources, encourage public dialogue, and advocate for public policy change to end homelessness.
- <http://nchomeless.org/joomla/index.php> - North Carolina Homeless Information Network (CHIN) - CHIN provides oversight for the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), providing technical support. CHIN offers training and seminars for service providers who use the system.
- <http://csh.org/> - Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH) - The Corporation helps communities create permanent housing with services to prevent and end homelessness
- <http://www.abchomeless.org> – Asheville-Buncombe’s Homeless Initiative Website. Click on the “Links” button in the left-hand menu to access a list of local, state, national, and federal homeless links.

Research:

- Point in time numbers for July Reviewed.
- Subgroups of the Advisory workgroup may need to form to help with designing research
- Data on current projects is needed
- Prevention- difficult to measure.
- Many programs already keep data, it needs to be pulled together. Example: the Emergency Shelter Grant Program (ESG) keeps information that would be very helpful. I

Upcoming Events Discussed:

Annual Report – will provide stakeholders opportunity to share with each other what has been happening and give a baseline for reporting in following years.

Project Connect – this is a national event in the first week of December, 2006. Even though it is not perfect timing, the group decided to go ahead with the date so that Asheville-Buncombe can participate with the national events. The event is designed to provide one-stop, friendly, barrier free services for people who are homeless in the community. It is more than a resource fair. For example, while providing information about job programs is helpful, having employment services on-site to conduct interviews will take this event to a new level.

- ABCCM can support with medical, including podiatry
- Shelters do a coat drive in the winter & can provide coats for the event
- Dental may not be possible b/c it is the kind of service that requires more than one visit, often. So if Dental is avail. only for one day, it won't be of any real help.
- Lions club – possible source for eyeglasses
- Places: Jubilee can hold 200, Trinity can hold 300, Central Methodist can hold 200, 1st Baptist can hold 325.

Next Meeting: SEPTEMBER 25, 2006 @2PM, 34 Wall St., Asheville, NC 28801