

Faith Community Committee

MINUTES

September 22, 2015

In Attendance

Alexandra Moon, Door of Hope; Andrew Fike, Door of Hope; Anna Jacobsen, City of Pasadena; Cori Page, Grace Pasadena Church; Dan Davidson, Rose City Church; David Kim, Urban Initiatives; Gary Talbert, Salvation Army; Gary Talbert, Salvation Army; Jim Tyberg, Pasadena Covenant Church; Jhoana Hirasuna, Salvation Army; Juliana Serrano, All Saints Church; Martha Solorio, St. Andrew's Catholic Church; Matt Rayburn, Family Promise San Gabriel; Sofia Herrera, Urban Initiatives; Tara Ignont, Imagine LA; Terry Bright, Elizabeth House; Than Veltman, Lake Avenue Church

Union Station Homeless Services Presenters

Sieglinde Von Deffner, CES Lead; Hannah Levin, DHS Intern for Health Team; Julio Alfaro, CES Senior Housing Navigator; Andrew Hughes, CES MSW Intern; Jonathan Scherck, CES Team Member

Approval of Minutes

The minutes were read from the June meeting and approved

Welcome & Introductions		Presenter: Dan Davidson
The Faith Community Committee meets monthly and focuses on educating and supporting faith leaders on homeless issues as well as helping them to align with best practices.		
Action Items:	Person Responsible:	
Request HOPE Team presentation at our October 20 th meeting	Terry Bright	

Union Station Outreach Team Presentation

Presenters

Sieglinde Von Deffner, CES Lead; Julio Alfaro, CES Senior Housing Navigator; Jonathan Scherck, CES Team Member; Andrew Hughes, CES MSW Intern; Hannah Levin, DHS Intern for Health Team

Union Station Homeless Services (USHS) Overview

Sieglinde Von Deffner leads Union Station's CES outreach team which currently consists of two full-time staff members for the entire San Gabriel Valley (Julio and Jonathan) who are supported by two interns (Hannah and Andrew). Supporting the CES team in finding housing are the landlord liaison (currently Liz Shelby but USHS will be hiring someone new soon), and a new housing retention staff member.

Department of Mental Health (DMH) Team

In addition to the resources that Union Station provides, the DMH now has a team of bilingual case workers funded through SB82 who conduct outreach and link mentally ill homeless individuals with mental health programs.

Connecting Individuals with Services

The first step to connecting individuals (including youth) with services is to conduct a VI-SPDAT assessment. If you have a relationship with the individual, Union Station recommends that you conduct the VI-SPDAT because you know the person best and can help them most accurately capture their vulnerability. Once you have conducted the assessment, stay involved. Be a part of a team with Union Station in coming together to support them. They may tell people different things and giving them a universal message or sharing information (with CES consent) is helpful.

If you do not have a relationship with the individual or need the support of an outreach worker, you can call Julio Alfaro (Senior Housing Navigator, 626-390-6947 or jalfaro@unionstationhs.org) and he will respond as quickly as possible to meet up with the individual (be patient and understand they only have 2 FT staff for the

Union Station Outreach Team Presentation

SGV). While outreach workers are not regularly available on the weekend, if an individual presents themselves regularly on the weekend, outreach workers can change shifts on case by case basis or if you can get the individual's contact information or routine an outreach worker can meet with that individual during the week.

Language / Guidance in Outreach

When working with people who are homeless, it is important to meet them where they are and let them open up to you. We all have different backgrounds and they have their own unique set of circumstances so get to know their story. To help build rapport, let them know that you want to help. Be careful to not use words like "mental health" or substance abuse" as sometimes they have had traumas in the mental health and medical system. We want to honor those traumas and let them know that you want to link them to resources. It is important to note that some individuals require ongoing dialogue to build a relationship in which they can trust that if they accurately answer the questions and sign the consent form they will receive services. In these cases, Union Station can partner with you to ensure that individual receives a universal message.

Ongoing Support

Once an individual is assessed through the VI-SPDAT, those individuals with a high score (10+) who are chronically homeless are linked with a Housing Navigator who helps to collect the required documentation and connect them with the most appropriate permanent housing. Union Station now has a notary (Barbara) who can make an appointment with chronically homeless individuals within 24 hours to order them a birth certificate online from any state. Individuals in need of medical assistance are connected to Dr. Paul at ChapCare shelter (available first come first serve Tuesday & Fridays 9am-12pm).

Flex Funding

Union Station also has access to flex funding for expenses related to housing navigation and move-in assistance for chronically homeless individuals who have conducted a VI-SPDAT. Funding is available for expenses such as move in assistance, utility deposits, furniture, and fees owed to a housing authority from a previous tenancy and identification documents (up to \$50).

Action Items:	Person Responsible:
Contact DMH Team to present to Faith Committee	Dan Davidson
Visit CES Weebly Website for CES information and forms: http://ceslosangeles.weebly.com/spa-3-bulletin-board.html	All Members

SGV Homeless Summit Update

Presenter: Dan Davidson

The San Gabriel Valley Consortium's Homeless Summit is around the corner (November 19th). The focus has shifted to getting a critical mass to subscribe to best practices (housing first) to really end homelessness by signing a petition. The petition is available on their website at <http://sgvc.org/content.php?page=Petition>. While the focus of the event has changed, they have dedicated one of the four afternoon break-out sessions (2:45pm-4:15pm) to training for faith-based organizations. This training will focus on the four best responses we have discussed (VI-SPDAT, outreach teams, 211, and a resource list). Please share the word about the summit on November 19th and make sure religious leaders come during the afternoon session so that we provide them with the training that we prepared for them.

Resource List Update

Fuller has taken the lead to develop a service resource list for the City for services from cradle to grave. Neighborhood Connections has been active with Urban Initiatives. Neighborhood connections is involved in Phase 1 which will be available (in beta) on the City's website in December and will be similar to to 211 (easy to use, mobile-friendly, quick and reliable). Sofia did request the addition of CoC resources developed by the Faith Community Committee, which will need to be revisited.

Action Items:	Person Responsible:
Update Resource List	Faith Committee

Reports from Partnerships Meetings

Presenter: Dan Davidson

San Gabriel Valley Consortium on Homelessness

Terry Bright reported that the SGV Consortium on Homelessness will be having the national leader of Housing First speak at their next meeting as well as the homeless summit.

Collaborate Pasadena

Collaborate Pasadena has not had any recent meetings. Sofia will get in touch with the group to include Dan in emails about future meetings.

Action Items:	Person Responsible:
Place Dan on Collaborate Pasadena email list	Sofia Herrera

Other Business

Homeless Count Volunteers Needed

The Homeless Count is just around the corner! Sofia thanked the faith-based community for its involvement in the count last year, providing volunteers for the count and asked that the community once again help with this important effort.

Support the Allocation of County RDA Funds for Affordable Housing

Dan Davidson asked committee members to write a letter to Supervisor Antonovich supporting the investment of the majority of the dissolution of the County's redevelopment agency (RDA) into much needed affordable housing. A template letter to Supervisor Antonovich will be emailed with the minutes.

LA State of Emergency on Homelessness

The City of Los Angeles has declared a "state of emergency" on homelessness and will devote up to \$100 million to the problem. In addition, Mayor Garcetti has issued a directive to free up an additional \$13 million in the coming months to help house people living in the streets. Read more about the decision in the LA Time article [here](#).

Housing Commission

Jill Shook asked committee members (via email) to attend next week's City Council meeting to support the need for a Housing Commission at the City.

Action Items:	Person Responsible:
Send letter to Supervisor Antonovich	All Members
Homeless Count Volunteers	All members

Next Meeting

Tuesday, October 20th at 9 am