

Homeless Planning & Research Committee

MINUTES

October 27, 2015

In Attendance

Anna Jacobsen, City of Pasadena; Anne Lansing, City of Pasadena; David Kim, Urban Initiatives; Joe Colletti, Urban Initiatives, Sofia Herrera, Urban Initiatives; Tim Peters, Door of Hope

Homeless Count

Presenters: Joe Colletti & Sofia Herrera

The Los Angeles CoC's surge in homelessness last year has created an expectation in the community that homelessness will increase this year in Pasadena (despite the fact that it did not increase last year). As a result, we expect that this year's homeless count will receive increased scrutiny, especially if we report a decrease or the number is flat.

In addition to communicating that we use best practice methodology and have a true count, four measures were proposed to help ensure our count withstands this increased scrutiny: (1) recruit businesses, city staff, council members, and the mayor to volunteer in the Homeless Count; (2) identify areas with larger concentrations of homeless individuals; (3) split up "hotspots" between 2-3 teams to ensure every individual is counted; (4) ensure the Homeless Count map mirrors the Pasadena Police Department heat map.

Action Items:

Identify hotspots on Homeless Count Map (focus of 12/8 meeting)

Invite Police Department to the 12/8 meeting (10am)

Invite council member field reps to the 12/8 meeting

Person Responsible:

All CoC members

Anne Lansing

Anna Jacobsen

Questions from the CoC Application

Presenter Name: Joe Colletti

This year's CoC application is focused on meeting the goals of Opening Doors, ending homelessness in this country by 2020. As a result, the application asks CoC's to commit to HUD's timelines for ending veteran, chronic, and family and youth homelessness. We expect these commitments will be tied to HUD's system performance measures in future applications. The result is that organizations must work together to help improve outcomes as a whole – if one individual has a bad outcome, it hurts the entire CoC.

Questions and Pasadena CoC responses pertaining to these commitments are detailed below.

1B-2 Opening Doors Goals

- End Veteran Homelessness by 2015
- End Chronic Homelessness by 2017
- End Family and Youth Homelessness by 2020
- Set a Path to End All Homelessness by 2020

3B-1.6 Is the CoC on track to meet the goal of ending chronic homelessness by 2017?

- Yes
- No

3B1.6a If "yes" what are strategies implemented by the CoC to maximize current resources to meet this goal? If "no," what resources or technical assistance will be implemented by the CoC to reach the goal of ending chronically homeless by 2017?

Draft response

In addition to the strategies and resources that are being implemented in 3B-1.2a, the CoC is 1) focusing more intensely on CH individuals and families through assertive street outreach and engagement into areas and encampments where CH persons are known to live; 2) engaging CH households through the coordinated entry system to help link them to the appropriate PSH provider and level of supportive services; 3) increasing resources to provide bridge housing for CH households who need a short-term stay while

Questions from the CoC Application

Presenter Name: Joe Colletti

awaiting permanent housing availability that includes low barrier shelter and vouchered stays in motels; 4) connecting CH households to mainstream resources including Medi-Cal and behavioral health services while awaiting PSH placement; 5) connecting CH households to community resources such as food, transportation, money management, housing counseling services, etc. to ensure they maintain their housing; and 6) emphasizing a consumer-driven mindset that is choice-based.

Additions/Notes:

- While we do not expect to end chronic homelessness by 2020, these are the things we are doing to end chronic homelessness...
- Pasadena CoC's to the tight rental market means that expanding the area that we are allowed to house individuals beyond the CoC boundaries is critical to this effort.
- Add definition of bridge housing

3B-3.5 Is the CoC on track to meet the goal of ending veteran homelessness by 2017?

- Yes
 No

3B-3.5a: If "Yes," what are the strategies being used to maximize your current resources to meet this goal? If "no," what resources or technical assistance would help you reach the goal of ending Veteran homelessness by the end of 2015?

Draft response

In addition, to the strategies and resources noted in 3B-3.2 and 3B-3.3, maximization includes 1) connecting veterans with mainstream resources outside of VA system for veterans ineligible for VA benefits and services and veterans who do but VA benefits can be supplemented; 2) communicating and integrating VA services with non-VA community-based organizations including CoC members in order to provide resources that VA services do not provide, or provide but supplement VA services, which include food, transportation, child care, housing counseling services, financial planning, etc.; 3) increasing resources to provide bridge housing for veterans who need a short-term stay while awaiting permanent housing availability that includes low barrier shelter, vouchered stays in motels, and low barrier transitional housing programs; and 4) increasing resources to help veterans with furnishing permanent housing that includes furniture and other household items.

3B-2.6: Does the CoC have strategies to address the unique needs of unaccompanied homeless youth, including the following:

There has been an increase in youth homelessness in old Pasadena and they have the dogs with them and fit the stereotypical definition of homeless youth. This is a new population....

We have not yet done any of these things

- Human trafficking and other forms of exploitation?
 LGBTQ youth homelessness?
 Exits from foster care into homelessness?
 Family reunification and community engagement?
 Positive Youth Development, Trauma Informed Care, and the use of Risk and Protective factors in assessing youth housing and service needs?
 Unaccompanied minors/youth below the age of 18?
 Other: In the past, homeless youth has not been a significant part of the homeless count. We are finding that there is a need to implement these strategies and there will be one forthcoming...

3B-2.6a. Select all strategies that the CoC uses to address homeless youth trafficking and other forms of exploitation.

- Diversion from institution and decriminalization of youth actions that stem from being trafficked
 Increase housing and service options for youth fleeing or attempting to flee trafficking
 Specific sampling methodology for enumerating and characterizing local youth trafficking
 Cross systems strategies to quickly identify and prevent occurrences of youth trafficking
 Community awareness training concerning youth trafficking
 Other:
 N/A

Questions from the CoC Application

Presenter Name: Joe Colletti

3B-2.7: What factors will the CoC use to prioritize unaccompanied youth (under age 18, and ages 18-24) for housing and services during the FY2015 operating year?

- Vulnerability to victimization
- Length of time homeless
- Unsheltered homelessness
- Lack of access to family and community support networks
- Other
- N/A

1C-6 Select the specific strategies implemented by the CoC to ensure that homelessness is not criminalized in the CoC's geographic area. Select all that apply. For "other," you must provide a description

- Engaged/educated local policymakers
- Engaged/educated law enforcement
- Implemented communitywide plans
- No strategies have been implemented
- Other

Additional Notes

- Need a youth/family committee
- Need a business committee that focuses on the Housing First approach that, with the support of the business community, can be a solution to homelessness. problem is that they don't want to be part of the solution, they want homelessness solved for them.

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, December 8th at 10am and will focus on revisiting Homeless Count map and identifying hotspots to ensure the count meets increased scrutiny due to more visible homelessness and increasing community concerns. We will be sending several notices about the meeting to the entire CoC so that everyone is there.