

Faith Community Committee Meeting

MINUTES

January 16, 2018

In Attendance

Anna Jacobsen, City of Pasadena; Anne Lansing, City of Pasadena; Colton Curry, Grace Pasadena Church; Dan Davidson, Rose City Church; Gene Terpstra, Pasadena Presbyterian Church; Jill Shook, IMA, Family Promise; Terry Bright, Elizabeth House; Arita Kroll Pasadena Presbyterian Church; Karl Selkin, Pasadena Temple; Emily Fredrickson, Union Station Homeless Services; Anne Edwards, Pasadena Presbyterian Church

Introductions / Approval of Minutes

Members of the committee introduced themselves. Minutes from the November Faith Community meeting were read and approved. Motion to approve minutes was made by Than Veltman and second by Colton Curry.

Review of FCC Mission Purpose

Presenter: Dan Davidson

- The FCC began ~4 years ago and gathers monthly to work with local faith communities, representing the diversity of faith communities, under Pasadena Partnership, the local Continuum of Care
- The focus of our conversations is on evidence-based best practices, we do a lot of learning and often have guests who join us and share best practices
- Goal is to help faith communities who are working in homeless services shift towards best practices by working alongside them in that shift
- We are continually learning as a committee. Last year we developed a Faith Community Toolkit and this year (2018) our focus is homelessness prevention
- We want to recruit other faith based organizations to join our committee, all new members are welcome

Stories of Success

Presenter: Dan Davidson

- Jill Shook shared about a gentleman, ~20 years old, who comes to her house regularly and he had a place where he was staying but he left the shelter and was arrested by the police, unsure where he is currently. Would appreciate any updates if an FCC member sees him (passed around a picture).
- Anne shared that a woman who was in the South Lake shopping area (the smiles lady, holds a sign who says even a smile helps) was housed at the end of December. She was housed through a partnership between HOPE team, Union Station, and the Housing Navigators. She is housed now and looking to give back to the community
- Anne shared about another woman who is elderly and was homeless in Pasadena for many years and was very hard to get housed (it took close to a year after working with her) and she ended up being housed in Hollywood (only a few blocks from where she was previously housed). She remains housed but it is precarious and it will continue to be a long process to keep her housed. This is something we see a lot of – the journey continues once they are housed. Permanent housing ends homelessness but not the challenges people face. Sofia commented that this is a clear example of what homelessness prevention can look like – people fall into homelessness once we house them
- Anne shared about another woman who was above Washington Theater where there used to be housing units. About 15 years ago, those units became uninhabitable. People living there got some short-term assistance through the City. This woman was someone who received that assistance and was living with her mom. Her mom, who was a senior, was housed in senior housing but she was not able to move in because she was not a senior. Was placed in and out of several PSH, board and care facilities. She came to see Anne 2-3 months ago and said the cold nights were too much for her (she is now in a wheelchair) and asked to get PSH. In coordination with Heritage Clinic and Union Station, she was moved into Board and Care. It is, however likely she will move out once it becomes warmer. She does have a mental health counselor working with her to help encourage her to stay in housing but the reality is she may not stay.
- Jen Argue shared that at the end of summer, a woman was on the sidewalk in her wheelchair, looked passed out. Called for help and she is now living at an assisted living facility on Fair Oaks. She looks much healthier.

- Gene Terpstra shared that Walter Contreras, minister at Pasadena Presbyterian Church, has developed a program called "Discipling" program which occurs after the Thursday meal program. Through that program, he is considering of applying for a denominational grant and providing portable toilets or showers
- Dan Davidson shared about a young man (college aged) and was living across from Rose City Church and moved into Rose City Church. They have been working with him for over a month, connecting him with Youth Moving On, was assessed, and now he is in a bed a Union Station. They were able to locate a unit for him in South LA. He is a PCC student and works at a local McDonalds. He is going to wait it out and see if they can find him a different unit.
- Anita Kroll shared that there was a homeless couple that was sleeping outside Pasadena Presbyterian Church and was connected with Trinity Baptist and they were allowed to sleep there but she has not heard from them.

Union Station Homeless Services' Mentor Program

Emily Fredrickson

Background

- New program that Union Station is beginning
- Union Station is the largest homeless service organization in the San Gabriel Valley and manage the Coordinated Entry System
- Union station focuses on getting someone housed first (housing first) and then working on helping them with the things that led them to homelessness (harm reduction, and then care coordination once they are housed
- There are many different causes of homelessness and often times people have many different causes, and different acuity levels (severity levels)
- Mostly single adults (79%)

Mentor Program Overview

- Once someone becomes housed, they still need support
- There is an emotional component that is huge, they feel isolated, and don't have a support system to help them
- Mentorship Program offers the support system to people who are housed to help keep them housed
- They help build relationship, teach life skills, and create a support system
- Also combat the stigma of homelessness

Process

- 6-month commitment & ask that volunteers spend 4 hours/month (~1hr/week)
- You provide care tailored to the client... you meet for lunch, go on walks, meet for coffee, etc.
- To become a mentor, you submit an application, have a phone chat with Emily, they do a background check, you receive training to help you prepare, Emily will facilitate the introduction, and then you take over. Emily checks in monthly and is available to deal with issues
- Six months builds a healthy foundation, but you can continue after that if you like
- They also connect mentors together and have optional monthly workshops
- They let clients direct what types of mentorship they need
- They have clients both who are already housed and those that are waiting to be housed
- Right now they have 2x as many mentees (~40 clients) than they have mentors (~23 volunteers)
- Looking for a mentor who can speak ASL, bilingual Spanish speakers
- Must be at least 25 years old, attend 3-hour training, and participate in monthly check-in calls

Main responsibilities:

- Consistent support and encouragement
- Create a safe place
- Introduce the mentee to new experiences that help them broaden their horizons
- Help people realize their strengths and achieve their fullest potential
- Provide guidance and resources

Activities

- Hiking, coffee, movies, sporting events, concerts

Action Items:	Person Responsible
Look at updating the Toolkit with mentorship programs (Elizabeth House – works with clients on an ongoing basis), Imagine LA (only 1 year), Union Station	Anna f/u with Emily, Terry and Imagine LA

Homeless Prevention Focus	Than Veltman
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevention committee met last Friday (Than, Terry, & Monica from Friends in Deed). Discussed how to move forward... they need more information from other faith communities about resources available (housing, funding, etc) • They also want to survey the interest level in participating on something like the mentor program or other resources • At some point they will connect with the FCC about the best way to do this • They are also developing an information packet about homelessness prevention / what the FCC is • Final Bullet 	

Homeless Planning & Research Committee	Presenter: Dan Davidson
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CES program but permanent supportive housing availability is limited • Service providers explain to clients it is a long process and that housing isn't guaranteed • Neighboring communities along with Pasadena need to develop PSH, but a number of people are housed outside of Pasadena • We need the community to embrace a YIMBY campaign, a big missing piece is the political aspect – we need the support of the community to help steer this as members of their own faith community • This needs a multi-layered solution with many voices coordinated together • Youth count is also taking place from 3-5 on Jan 24th. Dan Davidson is taking the lead on this with Rose City High School, Youth Moving On, Hathaway Sycamores, 8 youth will be helping • Overall count on the 23 	
Action Items:	Person Responsible
Follow up with members who have not attended FCC meeting lately	Dan Davidson

Faith Community Outreach Update	Presenter: Colton Curry
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They have had several successes in needs members and Colton is available to provide a training on the Toolkit 	

Homeless Count	Presenter: Sofia Herrera
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orientation tomorrow and Thursday • Teams are already created • The Google form is no longer available, registration is closed • They need more men – especially in the groups tomorrow • They need team leaders, balance of male and female, Spanish speakers • Groups are ~3-4 	

Announcements & Other Items

Next Meeting

Tuesday, February 20, 2018