

Memorandum



DATE September 14, 2016
TO Dallas Commission on Homelessness
SUBJECT Update and October 18th Meeting

Friends and Colleagues:

Thank you for your time and continued service.

As we move forward I want to reiterate what I said yesterday, now is the time to focus and develop strategies that we can discuss, hopefully reach some level of consensus about, and recommend to our community going forward. There are many approaches that can make a difference. We owe it to our homeless neighbors to explore the efficacy of all of them.

While there is actually an extensive body of substantive work already developed, some of our subcommittee chairs have indicated they have more new ideas and more work to do refining existing ideas, which is very encouraging. It was suggested that subcommittee meetings be open to all members who have an interest and the time to participate, which is good and should help with group understanding and engagement. For those setting these meetings, please ensure that all members are given notice and the room is large enough to accommodate those who wish to attend.

We also need to close the gap on the facility discussion. I have asked Bernadette Mitchell to convene a meeting of those interested members to discuss the potential for developing new or repurposed existing facilities to address the identified needs. Several ideas have been introduced, each of which should get some level of review as to viability.

Finally, Daniel Roby graciously offered to host and facilitate a discussion with our homeless neighbors living at the Austin Center. Expect some follow up from him in the near future and please make every effort to attend, participate and learn first hand what it is like to experience homelessness.

Our next meeting is October 18, it will be a three hour session dedicated to fully discussing these detailed strategies and determining the level of overall support for each of them. I would strongly encourage us all to be open to the ideas of others and do our research and homework so our time on the 18th can be most productive.

Thank you and please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Britton Banowsky, Chair

c: Mayor Rawlings
Bob Wright
Vana Hammond
Scott Goldstein
Brenda Allen
Bernadette Mitchell

Cindy Crain
Alan Sims
Doug Martin
Jason Shipp
Matthew Villanueva
Nissy New

Rebecca Cox
Charletta Sharp
Alexandra Espinosa
David Gruber