

# Memorandum



DATE August 30, 2016  
TO Dallas Commission on Homelessness  
SUBJECT Update and September 13 Meeting

Friends and Colleagues:

This is simply a brief note to update you on the status of our work and begin the planning for our next meeting, which is just a few weeks away.

Over the last few weeks we have reviewed all of the subcommittee's recommendations and, with the help of the City and MDHA, have been focused on moving some of the short term strategies we discussed into implementation mode. Our hope is to be in a position when we meet next month to get status reports on the short term issues from those directly responsible for their implementation, and spend time discussing in more detail the longer term items.

Attached is a document entitled "Recommended Strategies and Needs". Bob and I consolidated each of the subcommittees' recommendations into a single document for ease of reference. It is divided into Short-Term (Immediate) and Long-Term strategies, as we discussed.

## **Short Term**

The most notable item, **Street Outreach and Apartment Navigation** (Short-term Strategy #2), relates to getting our sheltered and unsheltered homeless neighbors engaged through outreach, entered into the system, and placed in apartments with supportive services, as needed. The City (Bernadette Mitchell), the County (Ron Stretcher), and MDHA (Cindy Crain) are taking the lead in developing an operational plan to support this effort. Defining the roles and responsibilities of those in charge has been ongoing. The good news is we have seen success raising private funds, accessing state funds available for this purpose, and we have begun to see clear and immediate results from this effort in terms of getting some of our homeless off the streets. It also appears progress is being made in our discussions with DHA and the apartment associations to increase the utilization of vouchers.

As it relates to the other items noted as short term strategies, there are a couple of reports to share:

1. It appears that the County will be able to move forward with the **Medical Respite Care Plan** we discussed, to be funded in part from a state grant.
2. Federal funding from HUD has been secured for this upcoming year to support the **Coordinated Entry/Assessment** system, and MDHA will be responsible for that.
3. Similarly, MDHA has secured federal funding from HUD for this upcoming year to implement the **Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)**. It is expected that this system will

launch on October 1, and the shelters will be looked to first to participate given the large populations they are serving.

Although I have not been directly involved, I am generally aware that others are working on things like employment of homeless for cleanup, facilities to add transitional housing beds, and policies for addressing encampments.

### **Long Term**

There are several items identified as long term strategies that will require considerable more work to fully develop. These are generally broken down into the following areas of 1) **Homeless Prevention**; 2) **Housing and Financing of Supportive Housing**; 3) **Health and Supportive Services**; and, 4) **Shelters**.

### **Subcommittee Work**

The City's deadline for first phase of our work created some challenges for us, however, now that we have had a chance to catch our breath my hope is we can move the work forward more methodically. To the extent the subcommittees can do more in refining short-term strategies and longer-term recommendations (which I believe is generally the case), please convene and further your efforts. Bob and I will make ourselves available for calls and meetings, as needed so please let us know what we can do to support the effort.

We have attached for your review the description of the charge of each subcommittee, please review it to ensure you have covered the items fully.

### **Future Meetings**

Finally, our next meeting is set for September 13, and we have another set for October 18. To help ensure we stay on task, we have attached a draft agenda for your advance review. It is important when we meet to keep our discussions focused on the task at hand, reducing the level of homelessness in our community.

As a reminder, the meeting be held at United Way of Metropolitan Dallas, 1800 N. Lamar St., Dallas, TX 75202 from noon until 2 pm.

Thanks and please feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

Britton Banowsky  
Chair

c: Mayor Rawlings  
Bob Wright  
Vana Hammond  
Scott Goldstein  
Brenda Allen  
Patricia Blasquez  
Bernadette Mitchell  
Cindy Crain  
Alan Sims

Doug Martin  
Jason Shipp  
Matthew Villanueva  
Nissy New  
Rebecca Cox  
Charletta Sharp  
Alexandra Espinosa  
David Gruber