



Citizen Homelessness Commission Minutes

Thursday, December 13, 2018

Agenda

1. Call to Order – 3:03pm

2. Roll Call (see attachment)

A quorum was determined and Chair Webb commented on the following matters:

- Commissioner Mendelsohn, who was Vice Chair, resigned to focus on her campaign for the City Council seat for district 12. As of yesterday, Tanya Ragan has been approved by City Council as the new vice chair.
- AT&T announced a new program, Believe Dallas, that provides grants of more than \$500,000 to 11 shelters and service providers. This is an example of good corporate citizenship/leadership in the business community.
- New CEO at MDHA, Carl Falconer, has indicated he will focus on encouraging greater coordination between service providers who serve the homeless population as well as upgrading technology that will make that coordination easier.
- CHC Housing Subcommittee and OHS staff are working on a plan that will increase housing units available for the homeless in the new year.

3. Approval of November 8, 2018 Minutes

- Commissioner Garner requested the discussion on OurCalling's policy for calling 911 immediately and the consequence if that's not done be included in the November minutes. Chair Webb asked staff to review the video transcript of the meeting and make a modification. Chair deferred approval until a revised copy is circulated.

4. Public Comment

Robert Ceccarelli

5. Family Gateway

- Ellen Magnis, Chief Executive Officer of Family Gateway, provided an overview of Dallas' only emergency shelter that exclusively serves families with children and accepts a family of any kind.
- There are just over 100 rooms in Dallas for families: 40 at Dallas Life, 32 at Union Gospel Mission/Center of Hope, 30 at Family Gateway and 12 beds at Salvation Army.
- In the last year and a half, they have been selected by Metro Dallas Homeless Alliance as the access point for families.
- Housing and Urban Development (HUD) mandated Dallas to have a homeless crisis helpline and option 3 rings straight into their call center. From January to October 2018, Family Gateway received 4,000 calls for help; 1,200 were helped immediately and they pre-screened 2,800.
- 40% of people seeking shelter did not meet HUD's definition of homelessness. (Living in an uninhabitable location not meant for human habitation).
- Completed a face-to-face assessment with 1,600 individuals to determine if shelter was the best fit for their family. 900 families were diverted by reunifying with other family members, talking with landlords or sent back to where they originally came from for services there.
- Ms. Magnis and the Salvation Army CEO co-chair a collaborative with Domestic Violence Providers and Family Shelter Providers; challenging each other on why people are not getting housed while they are in one shelter.
- Currently, Family Gateway is doing a pilot program with Genesis to improve their rapid rehousing plan.
- Always striving to exceed the federal benchmark of the percentage of families that leave shelter and go into positive housing. HUD's benchmark is 65% and most recently they hit 72%.
- They have a team that works with kids which provide afterschool and summer programs.
- Added 65 new supportive housing units in 2018 totaling 140.

- Case managers are embedded in apartment complexes where there is a cluster of 30 families or more. Their job is to make sure families are stable, get their ongoing needs met, address all the issues identified from shelter and that they are not bouncing back to shelter.
- A partnership with the Dallas Housing Authority (DHA) and various apartment owners provides 105 units of program-based vouchers. On average, it takes a family 90 days to move them out of shelter because of the complexity of all of the required applications.
- Have 18 permanent supportive housing units for families that fit the criteria of being chronically homeless – being unsheltered or under sheltered for a year. City gave them enough funds to provide 20 units of rapid rehousing. Ms. Magnis would like to grow the rapid rehousing program.
- Commissioner Garner suggested a PSA on other social media to support the homeless hotline.

6. Office of Homeless Solutions Report

- Monica Hardman, Director, publicly acknowledged the vice-chair, Tanya Ragan, and looks forward to working with her.
- She gave an update on the 4-track strategy as well as new funding opportunities.
- Track 1: Pay-to-Stay Program is only with The Bridge due to being unable to execute the contract with Dallas Life. Contract was approved on September 26th, so data provided is from October 8th -December 7th. There are 50 beds available, but they served 158 unduplicated persons. 3 people exited into housing and 9 moved from pay-to-stay to transitional shelter. They are now trying to capture when a person enters and leaves.
- Commissioner Crews requests a monthly or quarterly update of accomplishments of the services used.
- Track 2: revised options for Track 2 will be presented at the January CHC meeting. Staff is working on Inclement Weather RFP based on the feedback received from the Short-Term Solutions Subcommittee and projects it will be out either February or March.
- Track 3: RFP currently in Procurement Department and the estimated release date is January 2019.
- Track 4: hired a consultant, Cloudburst, to help with Notice Of Funding Availability (NOFA). Staff anticipates having them available to meet with subcommittees or the full CHC in the near future.
- OHS in collaboration with the CHC Housing Subcommittee will continue with public outreach meetings. 2 face-to-face meetings and 1 virtual call-in meeting is set tentatively for January.
- In the January to March timeframe, staff anticipates being able to publicly discuss potential bond sites which may be city-owned property and other properties for the creation of housing for the homeless. Hope to release NOFA in 2nd quarter.
- A few commissioners questioned the locations for Track 2 and why the work isn't further along.
- An RFP for \$250K is anticipated to be released in January to fund system enhancements by strengthening the homeless response system. Emergency Solution Grant (ESG) funds for emergency shelter services facility will be included if any funding is left over and is expected to be a little higher (\$734,989). There is \$250K for supportive services for seniors and \$500K for shovel ready projects.
- Before anything is publicized, OHS staff will talk with CHC about the recommendations before taking it to full City Council for any awards.
- Chair Webb suggested furthering along the work in the Short-Term Solutions Subcommittee.

7. Appointments to Subcommittees

- Commissioner Tallis will participate on the Coordination and Strategic Planning Subcommittee. He has also agreed to be on the Short-Term Solutions Subcommittee. Commissioner Headley has been added to the Short-Term Solutions Subcommittee and is coming off the Coordination and Strategic Planning Subcommittee. A motion was made by Commissioner Tallis to approve the new appointments. Commissioner Crews seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

8. CHC Subcommittee Reports

- Short-Term Solutions
 - Subcommittee Chair Ragan reported on the following matters:
 - The subcommittee will continue to meet monthly and work with OHS to help expedite the Inclement Weather RFP.

- A collaboration group with several local churches, service providers and non-profits launched an app last week that gives a current snapshot of the shelter availability and/or the availability at various churches that have agreed to open their doors to assist those in freezing temps or emergency situations.
- Community Engagement
Subcommittee Chair Garner reported on the following matters:
 - Homeless Feeding Forum conducted during National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week at Harry Stone Recreation Center over feeding the homeless at the street-level.
 - A number of recommendations were suggested for the committee and staff to work on.
- Coordination and Strategic Planning
Subcommittee Chair Crews reported on the following matters:
 - Met last week to discuss the next 5-year HUD Consolidated Plan that is required for all HUD entitlement grants that the Office of Budget presented to Council this past Wednesday and Community Development Committee (CDC) on Thursday night.
 - The Office of Budget will brief the committee at the January meeting.
 - HUD grants break down to 4 parts. ESG and HOPWA are expected to be awarded primarily for programs administered by OHS, and the Budget Office starting point recommendations will be led by strategies and priorities laid out by OHS staff.
 - There may be other opportunities to participate in CDBG and HOME funds, so the subcommittee wants to be proactive about seeing what the input on this plan was going to be from Council Members, CDC and from public.
- Housing Subcommittee Update
In Subcommittee Chair Culak's absence, Commissioner McManemin reported on the following matters:
 - October and November meetings focused on composition of NOFAs and criteria across the tracks.
 - Public engagement portion would be within the subcommittee, but the preparation would be ultimately impacted by the professionals.
 - Targeting a minimum of 2 meetings with representatives of the City to go through the NOFA.

9. Upcoming Events

- Annual Point-In-Time Count is on January 24th. Good way to get friends and coworkers knowledgeable about homelessness.

10. Adjourn – 4:49pm

APPROVED BY:



Kenn Webb, Chair
Citizen Homelessness Commission

CITIZEN HOMELESSNESS COMMISSION
MINUTES ATTENDANCE SHEET
DALLAS CITY HALL, L1FN AUDITORIUM
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2018
3:00 PM – 4:30 PM

Attendance Sheet

Commissioners Present

Kenn Webb, Chair
Linda Garner, District 2
LeTitia Owens, District 3
Tanya Ragan, District 6
Louis Henry, District 7
Chase Headley, District 9
Alan Tallis, District 11
Casey McManemin, District 13
Chad Crews, District 14

Staff Present

Latrisce Johnson
Monica Hardman
Angelina Caudillo
Patricia French-Sander
Shamaere Ashby
Sarah Jacobson
Barbara Martinez
Zena Palmer

Commissioners Absent

Chris Culak, District 1
VACANT, District 4
VACANT, District 5
VACANT, District 8
VACANT, District 10
VACANT, District 12