

Hawai'i Interagency Council on Homelessness (HICH)
Meeting
August 7, 2013
1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Minutes

Council Attendees:

Colin Kippen	Chair
Barbara Yamashita	DHS
Lori Tshako	DHS Homeless Programs Office
Lynn Fallin	DOH
Mark Mitchell	DPS
Janice Takahashi	DBEDT
Kamana'o Mills	DHHL
Aulii K. George	OHA
Russell Suzuki	First Dep. Attorney General
Nalani Wilson-Ku	Dep. Attorney General
Steve Shiraki	DOE
Jo Jordan	House of Representatives
Suzanne Chun Oakland	Senate
Ben Park	HPHA
Jan Shishido for	Mayor of Maui County
Darryl Vincent	Partners in Care (Continuum of Care for Honolulu)
Maude Cumming	Bridging the Gap (Continuum of Care for Neighbor Islands)
Andy Dahlburg	DVA
Brian Johnson	HUD
Dave Rolf	Business Representative
Absent:	Representatives From DLIR, DOD, Honolulu County, Kauai County, Hawaii County, and Faith Community

Guests: Chris McNair DVA, Ryan Borges HPD, John DeMello HPD and Brian Matson HICH

1. 1:00 p.m. The Chair Called the Roll and established Quorum.
2. 1:05 p.m. Meeting was called to order by HICH Chair Colin Kippen, who gave welcoming remarks. The Chair announced that there are two action items on the Agenda: Approval of the Agenda, and Approval of the Amended Minutes of the May 23, 2013 meeting.
3. 1:10 p.m. First Order of Business: Action on Agenda. Motion to Approve the Agenda was made by Lori Tshako and Seconded by Janice Takahashi. The Chair opened the floor for discussion seeing none the Chair Called the Question. The Motion passed unanimously.
4. 1:12 p.m. Chair gave an overview of the meeting agenda.
5. 1:15 p.m. Second Order of Business: Approval of the Minutes of the May 23, 2013 Meeting. Motion to approve the minutes was made by Janice Takahashi and seconded by Dave Rolf. The chair opened the floor for discussion. Member Dave Rolf inquired about the figures in item 6 regarding the SAMHSA grant. After discussion it was agreed that the minutes should be amended to read “ ...if the grant is for \$2.0 million and the number of chronically homeless is currently 600, does that equate to spending roughly \$1,000 per

person, per year, over the three years of the grant?" Chair called the question. The motion to approve the minutes as amended passed unanimously.

6. 1:20 p.m. Chair Kippen opened the floor to Public Testimony. 10 individuals spoke
 - a. 1:20 p.m. Michael Peacock, Peer to Peer Counselor and founding member of the Vet2Vet Program and a SAMHSA/HICH volunteer working group member, spoke regarding the need to reduce the stigma associated with being homeless.
 - b. 1:22 p.m. Shannon Wood, spoke about her history as an advocate in the community as founder of Family Promise and involvement with Beacon of Hope. She also spoke about the issue of the lack of availability of shelter beds and housing units in the community and urged the HICH to take time to identify a media representative and educate the media about the lack of shelter beds and affordable housing.
 - c. 1:27 p.m. Bruce Kehaulani, Living Life Source Foundation, spoke regarding about his organization's work in the community and their involvement with, foster kids, runaways, homeless youth and "YO" within the Manoa to Waikiki Ahupuaa on Oahu.
 - d. 1:29 p.m. Cynthia Rezentes, Leeward Housing Coalition, spoke about the numerous initiatives that the HICH and the homeless service providers are involved in. She asked the HICH to take the lead to improve coordination amongst all of the new initiatives being created at various levels of government to avoid loading more non-funded work on existing homeless service providers. She described new work assignments from the continua of care, from the 100,000 homes initiative, from the Homeless Assistance Working Group of the Hawaii State Legislature, and from the four working groups of the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness. She also mentioned "data envy" and double counting to achieve results engaged in by various service providers who have no additional resources to accomplish new initiatives. She commented that this leads to inaccurate data and incorrect conclusions about the efficacy of these "new" initiatives.
 - e. 1:33 p.m. Erik Butler, volunteer, formerly homeless attending meeting to get involved in the solution...and discuss his shelter prototype.
 - f. 1:35 Rev. Andrew Large, Waikiki Baptist Church spoke about his efforts to help end homelessness over the years and to show support.
 - g. 1:37 Don Creseimanno, advocate for homeless and homeless individual, made a brief presentation on his shipping container project. He is enthusiastic about the potential to convert existing shipping containers into suitable self-sustaining housing opportunities. He mentioned how frustrating the regulatory system (building department, permitting and zoning) is to those who are trying to build low cost housing.
 - h. 1:40 Alex Santiago, Partners In Development, spoke of the fact that he is hopeful that a project which has been a dream for many years may now be able to be built. He is enthusiastic about the potential to build a Kauhale in Waianae which will house homeless Hawaiians and utilize culturally relative practices in their day to day life.
 - i. 1:43 Jenny Lee, Esq., Hawaii Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice, presented their anti-poverty legislative initiatives to help generate income and establish more equitable taxes in Hawaii. The initiatives include: (1) a poverty tax credit; (2) a State Earned Income Tax Credit for working families; (3) Refundable Tax Credits e.g. (a) a GET Food Tax Credit and (b) a Low Income Renter's Credit; (4) Increasing the State's minimum wage.

HI Appleseed has written papers on the subjects of poverty and affordable housing which are available on their website. (See attached).

(1:47 p. m. Janice Takahashi departed)

j. 1:48 p.m. Ken Akinaka, HSHN, spoke about the prevalence of hepatitis in Hawaii.

7. 1:50 p.m. Chair Kippen opened the floor for Voluntary Updates by members. Five individuals spoke.
 - a. Captain Borges, HPD Waikiki, explained that they are receiving an increased number of complaints concerning homelessness in Waikiki and relayed the fact that being homeless is not a crime. He indicated his support and his willingness to help.
 - b. Officer DeMello, HPD Waikiki, informed the attendees that they have valuable experience from working with homeless individuals and coordinating with outreach service providers. The officers know many of the individuals they encounter and reiterated that homelessness is not a crime. He indicated his support and his willingness to help.
(1:52 p.m. Senator Chun-Oakland arrived)
 - c. 1:53 p.m. Lori Tsuhako, DHS Homeless Program's Office director, acknowledged the hard work of her division and their recent completion and execution of 80 new service provider contracts.
 - d. 1:56 p. m. Andy Dahlburg, DVA, recognized the hard work of his staff and the VA commitment to ending Veteran homelessness by 2015. They held 3 neighbor island homeless summits and hired an additional staff person so they now have one on Maui and one on Kauai. He announced the Mental Health Summit which will be occurring at Tripler on 9/5 & 6/2013. He committed to support the Rapid Results Boot Camp which is being planned for 10/3 & 4/2013 in Honolulu to deal with the issues mentioned by Cynthia Rezentes during open testimony. He also announced an upcoming Stand Down scheduled for 11/9/2013 at McCoy Pavilion and encouraged the HICH to support the efforts of Judge Kubo's Veteran's Court.
 - e. 1:58 p.m. Lynn Fallin, DOH, spoke very briefly about the work of the DOH and deferred to her presentation scheduled for later in the agenda.
8. 2:00 p.m. Chair Kippen opened the floor for discussion by members of potential legislation related to preventing or assisting in ending homelessness. 2:02 p.m. Chair Kippen called upon Senator Chun-Oakland who discussed legislation she is drafting which will help the working poor...RHTF...DHHL policy shift...HPHA(housing for those earning $\leq 60\%$ of AMI) increased CIP \$\$\$ (last year's legislature only gave 50% of what was requested)...DURF. Chair Kippen discussed the need for funding for the building of more affordable housing and permanent funding for the State's Housing First Program because if it is not funded permanently, it cannot be considered permanent housing consistent with the requirements of the national Housing First Program. It was also opined that funding the program on a year to year basis may increase the costs of administration and may have the effect of making people homeless who previously were enrolled in a Housing First program for which annual funding has lapsed.

9. 2:10 p.m. Chair Kippen discussed the current Kakaako development plans and circulated copies of a handout prepared by the Hawaii Community Development Authority which illustrates the need for affordable, low-income, housing. (see handout)
10. 2:15 p.m. Chair Kippen discussed the need for increased involvement from HPHA and a recent June 2013 memorandum from HUD Secretary Donovan which encourages PHA's to work to end homelessness and to team up with local CoC's (see handout) Lynn Fallin, DOH, opened the discussion of how to address the needs of the homeless population. She stated that Housing First requires that a person be immediately housed and that their treatment and other needs should be addressed after that person is first housed. She said there are many homeless people who have specialized needs and that delivering these services to them may be difficult. Some examples are the need for behavioral health services, drug and alcohol treatment, probation and other criminal justice services, and other counseling and mentoring programs. ... She questioned how the homeless fit into different kinds of housing options we are now able to provide. She concluded that we need a better understanding of the specific needs of each homeless individual so that we can provide housing options that are a good 'fit' for that person. She opined that our present approach to housing our homeless is very fragmented, and must improve. Lynn Fallin proposed the formation of a working group to examine and identify the various kinds of special housing that is generally available in Hawaii.. Mark Mitchell, DPS, spoke about the special housing supports required for someone in housing, saying the focus should be on specialized services for those we house rather than providing specialized housing in the first place. He cautioned against creating ghettos of special housing units and instead suggested we need to find housing for those people with special needs, that we need to house them, and that we need to retool our service delivery system so that we can support them wherever they are. He concluded by saying this is the Housing First model which is presently being touted and supported at the National level as a housing best practice. Chair Kippen opined that in order to be successful, we must involve the Public Housing Authorities and the Section 8 government subsidized housing voucher programs in these efforts. Sen. Chun-Oakland agreed with Mr. Mitchell noting that many people with Mental Health issues are living in homes with their families...in the private sector. She mentioned we need to look at where people are living now. We also need to identify who the homeless are, what they need, and then locate housing to meet their needs. She mentioned we need to look at building more affordable housing, including building Single Room Occupancy Structures. (see handout provided by HICH)
11. 2:20 p.m. Senator Chun-Oakland gave a report on the Homeless Assistance Working Group created by the Legislature this last legislative session. She mentioned the idea of co-locating services with existing food distribution sites. She mentioned the work of the UH Arch Students in designing innovative and inexpensive housing modular units that may be built as individual or as clustered units. She announced that the HAWG was conducting training on 8/14/2013 from 5-7 pm for block captains and volunteers who want to be engaged in outreach. She also announced that the next meeting of the WG will be on 9/3/2013 at 6:00 p.m.
12. 2:35 p.m. Chair Kippen gave a brief update on the work of the SCR 137 Kauhale group and announced that the WG would be meeting on 9/8/2013 at 10:00 a.m. (see handout)

13. Chair Kippen discussed the 100K homes initiative and announced the Rapid Results Boot Camp scheduled for 10/3-4/2013. The Boot Camp will work on getting people aligned, breaking down silos and barriers in order to house as many as possible within a 100 day timeframe.. The boot camp will be conducted in collaboration with the City & County of Honolulu Housing Office. (see handout)
14. Chair Kippen called upon staff member Brian Matson to discuss a Questionnaire /Data Collection Tool which each HICH member will be requested to complete and return to the HICH. The Questionnaire should help to identify the ways various agencies/divisions, members are currently addressing homelessness within their departments/organizations. (see handout)
15. 2:45 p.m. Chair Kippen called on the working group team leaders to present progress reports and announce upcoming meetings.
16. 2:47 p.m. Connie Mitchell, IHS, reported on the work of the Retooling the Crisis Response System team. The team is working in collaboration with the PIC and the HUD TA efforts to design Coordinated Assessment Tools for comprehensive assessment and screening...PSH...transitional housing. Dave Rolf asked if the existing 211 phone number currently works for Intake, Assessment and Referral. Ms. Mitchell explained that the goal of the pilot project was to improve the referral...create a warmer handoff so people don't bounce from service provider to service provider to connect with available resources. She explained that the 211 service was not a 24 hr. referral system and currently is not capable of conducting the assessment and screening necessary for an appropriate referral to relevant and necessary services. Dave Rolf asked if retooling will eliminate the necessity of 211. The group response was "no". Connie Mitchell also announced the IconLocal event which Burt Lum is facilitating on 8/17/13 which will be useful in the retooling work. (see handout provided by HICH)
17. 2:50 p.m. Chair Kippen read a report prepared by Janice Takahashi, DEBT, concerning the Increasing Access To Stable and Affordable Housing Team. The team is working on 2 pilot programs. One for individuals earning below 50% of AMI and the Second for homeless and special needs individuals and families in order to improve their access to Public Housing.... (see handout)
18. 2:53 p.m. Brian Matson gave a brief update on the Increasing Economic Stability Team.
19. 2:55 p.m. Lynn Fallin, DOH, presented an update on the work of the Improving Health and Stability Team. She has convened 3 meetings and the team is focusing on drilling down and looking at intensive case management, in connection with the Housing First model, to test the efficacy of scattered site Housing First with Assertive Case Treatment. This is a multi-system approach focusing on a group of 60 high use utilizers, from an HPD list, in the geographic areas of Waikiki, Downtown and the Capitol. They are drafting a timeline to coordinate with Federal funding and expect a case worker/client ratio of 1:15 or 1:10 depending on funding and specific success measures. Dave Rolf asked what success will look like. Lynn Fallin replied that the individuals won't show up at the ER. Dave Rolf asked when it will be known how many times the 60 visit the ER. Mark Mitchell replied that they already know and are looking at those who use the ER 4 or more times per year based on their MH1, their BH, Physical health, and incarcerations. It is a matter of cross walking there three lists. Dave Rolf asked about core case management and the goal asked what the expected cost savings will be. Lynn Fallin replied that the cost savings will be substantial just through eliminating their ER

visits. Don Cresceimanno gave an example of the savings he has seen with the care he is facilitating for an 86 year old. Maude Cumming relayed her experience with a client who had numerous issues. She housed the client in supportive housing through shelter plus care. Prior to housing the client was billed \$100,000 for 1 stay in the hospital, not including costs of ER visits. The client was housed at a cost of \$1,200/mo. with no hospitalizations. Michael Peacock relayed a story of a client he worked with who was connected with Medicaid, SSI/SSDI through a SOAR trained individual and the savings to this person was \$450,000.

20. 3:15 p.m. Chair Kippen reported on the Community Forum regarding the Integration and Expansion of Behavioral Health Services for Medicaid Beneficiaries which was held on July 29, 2013, and City and National efforts to reduce habitual 911 calls (see attached handout).
21. 3:20 p.m. Chair Kippen gave a brief presentation on the work of the Data Team.
22. 3:22 p.m. Chair Kippen entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dave Rolf made the motion and Lori Tshako seconded the motion. The floor was opened for any discussion, seeing none the Chair called the question and the motion to adjourn passed unanimously.
23. 3:25 p.m. Meeting adjourned.