Hawai‘i Interagency Council on Homelessness (HICH)

Meeting

November 19, 2014

9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Minutes

Council Attendees:

Colin Kippen Chair

R. Malia Taum-Deenik DHS

Lori Tsuhako DHS Homeless Programs Office

Kiai Lee for Lynn Fallin DOH

Jade Butay DLIR

Mark Mitchell DPS

Tamah-Lani S.K. Noh DOD

Deja Ostrowski OHA

Russell Suzuki Dep. Attorney General

Jo Jordan House of Representatives

Suzanne Chun Oakland Senate

Ben Park HPHA

Jun Yang for Mayor of City and County of Honolulu

Kaloa Robinson for Mayor of Hawaii County

Greg Payton PIC

*Andrew Dahlburg* DVA

Mark Chandler HUD

David Rolf Business Representative

Absent: Representatives from DBEDT, DHHL, DOE, Kauai County, Maui County, BTG and Faith Community

Guests: Mariam Chase of SAMHSA via teleconference

1. 9:37 am Welcome by Colin Kippen, HICH Chair, Roll taken, quorum established, meeting called to order.
2. 9:40 am First Order of Business: Action on Agenda. Motion to approve the Agenda was made by Lori Tsuhako and Seconded by Senator Suzanne Chun-Oakland. The Chair opened the floor for discussion seeing none the Chair called the question. The motion passed unanimously. (see attached copy of agenda)
3. 9:45 am Second Order of Business: Action on July 1, 2014 Minutes. Chair gave a brief overview/summary of the minutes and entertained a motion. Motion to Adopt the Minutes from the July 1, 2014 Meeting was made by Mark Mitchell and Seconded by Tamah-Lani Noh. The chair opened the floor for discussion, seeing none the Chair Called the Question. The motion to adopt the minutes from the July 1, 2014 Meeting passed unanimously. (see attached copy of 7/1/14 minutes)
4. 9:47 am Third Order of Business: Action on September 9, 2014 Minutes. Chair gave a brief overview/summary of the minutes and entertained a motion. Motion to Adopt the Minutes from the September 9, 2014 Meeting was made by Lori Tsuhako and Seconded by Jun Yang. The chair opened the floor for discussion, seeing none the Chair Called the Question. The motion to adopt the minutes from the September 9, 2014 Meeting passed unanimously. (see attached copy of September 9, 2014 minutes)
5. 9:50 am Revisiting the HICH Plan to End Homelessness. Chair explained the work of the past year to create a rationale, objective, systemic, and predictable plan to end homelessness in Hawaii. Our intention, desire and function is to create a coordinated assessment, intake and referral system so we can move people who are homeless off the streets and out of the shelters into permanent housing as quickly as we can. The system we have created is Hale ‘O Malama. (see attached PowerPoint)

The Chair called upon Greg Payton, Executive Director of Mental Health Kokua and Chair of Partners In Care, to discuss the first slide in the PowerPoint titled “Hale ‘O Malama: Increased Access to Training & National T.A.” Mr. Payton presented an overview of the slide and explained that the Hale ‘O Malama process has had a significant impact on the way we do business.

The Chair called upon Brian Matson to discuss the second slide in the PowerPoint titled “The Next 100 Days: Scaling Oahu-wide and to the Neighbor Islands”. Mr. Matson explained that the recent October boot camp was attended by neighbor island service providers and members of Bridging The Gap so they could participate and begin the system design work for the balance of the state.

The Chair called upon Scott Morishige, Executive Director of PHOCUSED, to discuss the third slide in the PowerPoint titled “What have we learned so far?". Mr. Morishige gave a brief introduction to his non-profit mission and work. He shared what we have learned from the data collected and the vulnerability assessments that have been collected since March 2014.

Dave Rolf asked how we define Homeless and Household. Scott Morishige replied that we use HUD’s definition of Homeless and Household can be either individuals or families with children where each family is one household.

1. 10:25 am The Chair called upon Dr. Sarah Yuan, UH Center on the Family, who presented an Initial Overview of Data from the 2014 Homeless Service Utilization Report which will be released on 11/21/14. She explained the importance of data and the impact that the common assessment data collected by Hale ‘O Malama will have on our understanding of the homeless population we serve and their needs. She discussed the Point in Time (PIT) Count and the Homeless Service Utilization Report and explained that the PIT surveys and counts individuals and families who are experiencing homelessness but it does not indicate whether the individual or family has sought service from the homeless response system. The Homeless Service Utilization Report informs us as to who sought services from our homeless response system. It measures the capacity of the system and is affected by the quality, amount and nature of the resources we put into the system and examines the outcomes. The Utilization Report looks at specific outcomes, e.g. length of stay in Emergency Shelter or Transitional Housing, permanent housing placement rate, recidivism, and how many are new to the service system. (see attached copy of 2014 Homeless Service Utilization Report)
2. 10:40 am Revisiting the HICH Plan to End Homelessness (continued). (see attached PowerPoint)

The Chair called upon Kia’i Lee, Hawaii Pathways Project Coordinator, ADAD, DOH, who gave an overview of the Substance Abuse Mental Health Service Administration (SAMHSA) grant to provide assertive community treatment and wrap around services for chronically homeless individuals (which DOH contracted with Helping Hands Hawaii to provide the services). Mr. Lee handed out preliminary data and the Hawaii Pathways Project brochure (see attached). He discussed the PowerPoint slide number four titled “Hawaii Pathways Project”.

Mr. Lee introduced Jan Harada, President and CEO of Helping Hands Hawaii, who discussed the Hawaii Pathways Project and their true collaboration with Catholic Charities Hawaii. Helping Hands Hawaii provides the clinical ACT team services and Catholic Charities Hawaii provides the project coordination and housing services. The early successes are related to coordinated outreach, landlord engagement, access to emergency rooms, hospitals, the criminal justice system, and a connection to permanent housing resources such as the State Housing First Contract which the DHS/HPO entered into with contracted to US Vets, Kalihi Palama Health Center and Waikiki Health Center.

The Chair called upon Lori Tsuhako, Administrator of the DHS HPO, to discuss the fifth slide titled “State Housing First Placements”. Ms. Tsuhako explained that the intent of the State HF program was to align its procurement and contract with the Pathways Housing/First Hawaii Pathways Project. Ms. Tsuhako introduced Duke Maele, US Vets, Housing First Coordinator. Mr. Maele informed the council that DHS awarded US Vets, in collaboration with Kalihi Palama Health Center and Waikiki Health, $1.25 Million in June to house 75 individuals and families from across the island. To date 28 chronically homeless, vulnerable, individuals and 1 family have been placed in permanent housing directly from the streets.

The Chair called upon Jennifer Tehotu, Housing First Team Leader/Case Manager with Kalihi Palama Health Center, to discuss the sixth slide titled “The Impact of Housing First: “Wanda” and daughter”. “Wanda” was a 35 year old single mother of a 9 year old daughter when she became homeless six years ago, mainly due to substance abuse issues. “Wanda” and her daughter were living on the grounds of the State Capitol and she was self-medicating with Meth and Alcohol. Through the process of Housing First she was contacted by an outreach worker who administered the VI-SPDAT with a primary goal of placing her in permanent housing. When the outreach worker began building rapport with “Wanda” her daughter was not attending school regularly since the daughter was ashamed of her situation and functioning as her mother’s care giver. After engaging with Wanda on the streets two times per week for roughly a month the team was able to locate a two bedroom unit for Wanda in an area of her choice and she now lives in a secure environment, she is stable and adhering to her medical plan. When “Wanda” and her daughter were first housed the case manager visited her in her house daily to make sure she was OK. “Wanda” has stopped self-medicating and she no longer uses Meth and alcohol. “Wanda” has been able to re-establish contact with her family, her daughter has been attending school more regularly, her self-confidence has improved, she is forming friendships with peers, and her physical appearance has improved. Ms. Tehotu concluded her comments by stating that Housing First is successful and it is working for the people they have been housing.

The Chair called upon Jun Yang, Mayor’s Office of Housing. Mr. Yang asked if anyone had read the Star Advertiser Editorial today which discussed the Mayor's Affordable Housing Plan. He discussed the $2.8 million city Housing First project grant to IHS and related that 10 of the spaces are reserved for Hawaii Pathways Project enrollees. He stated that the purpose of the this $2.8 million dollar grant is to house and help those on the streets who are chronically homeless and who frequently are passed over because they do not avail themselves of emergency or transitional housing, who are very sick and vulnerable, and who have been on streets an average of 8 years.

Chair Kippen concluded this examination of the HICH Plan to End Homelessness by discussing the seventh slide titled “Next Steps”, reiterating the fact that Housing First is a national evidence based practice and all our systems are currently being re-tooled to make the permanent housing event occur as quickly as possible in the process. Our intention is to build a rational, predictable, accountable statewide system aligned with national evidence based best practices to meet people where they are and to provide housing as quickly as possible matching the appropriate level of support with the needs of the individual and family.

1. 11:30 am Public Testimony

Chair Kippen opened the floor for public testimony, 4 individuals spoke.

1. Dave Cannell testified that he has been homeless for 9 years and that he has been watching the dysfunctional system for years. He is optimistic now that things will begin to change and that there is momentum. He is hopeful that the State and City will continue to put money into the system.
2. Don Cresciammano has been homeless since 2009, he acknowledged that Greg Payton, Mental Health Kokua, needs our support since such a high proportion of homeless individuals have mental health issues.
3. Tangee Lazarus testified that she is happy to be at the meeting, speaking as a service provider and a formerly homeless individual in Chinatown who was incarcerated and participated in treatment and as a Harvard graduate with a maser degree in education. Her felony and drug charges have prevented her from being able to teach school. She really understands and is acquainted with the topic. She was fortunate to get into public housing, she lives in Kalakaua Housing and she testified that the housing is what really saved her. Her lesson is that she benefits from giving back to the community and wants to volunteer in any way she can.
4. Laree Purdy testified that she was homeless for 17 years and has been an advocate for the past 5 or 6 years. She encouraged the council to examine the opportunity that Transit Oriented Development presents for having contact points for individuals who are at risk of becoming homeless or who are homeless to engage in the system at each transit station.
5. 11:40 am Discussion of Potential Legislative Agenda

Chair Kippen called upon Betty Lou Larson and Jenny Lee who are the co-chairs of the advocacy committee for Partners in Care. They did a brief presentation of the PIC Advocacy Priorities for 2015 as articulated in the handout they prepared and distributed (see attached). After discussion the Fourth Order of Business: Legislative Agenda was deferred.

1. 12:00 pm Fifth Order of Business: Adjournment.

Chair Kippen entertained a motion to adjourn. Motion to Adjourn was made by Tamah-lani Noh and Seconded by Lori Tsuhako. Chair Kippen called the question. The motion passed unanimously.