

## **RRH Task Force Minutes**

### **May 16, 2013**

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Attending: Mark Miller (Friendship Shelter), Trisha Wiese (Pathways of Hope), Kelly Lupro (County of Orange), Marsha Burgess (Families Forward), Madelynn Montoya (Families Forward), Elizabeth Andrade (Families Forward), Danielle Pinault (Grandma's House of Hope), Claudia Vasquez (Families Forward), Betty Medina (Colette's), LaShawn Hye (Project Hope Alliance), Stacy Bridgeford (Human Options), Jerry Arceo (Interval House), Yvette Ahlstrom (Illumination Foundation), Naomi Stein (Orange Coast Interfaith), Jean Watkins (Salvation Army), Margie Wakeham (Families Forward), Paul Cho (Illumination Foundation), Cassie Streeter (South County Outreach), Sharon Wie (Interval House), and Jean Wegener (SPIN).

#### **Intros & Updates:**

- Families Forward reported upcoming openings and reviewed requirements and qualifications for families.
- Orange Coast Interfaith has openings available.
- Project Hope has openings.
- Illumination Foundation reports funding available for families that have become homeless in Santa Ana.

#### **ICPH Report**

Discussion of The Institute for Poverty & Homelessness (ICPH) research study on New York City's RRH program and its' economic and shelter impact from 2005 to 2011.

- Orange County is Not New York – there are other factors to consider.
- Consider the lack of supportive services and employment training.
- Agreed with the “one size does not fit all” notion.
- The problem with the release of this type of article is that the uninformed may react dismissively.
- Agreed that problems exist with RRH, but mainly lie with affordable housing and supportive services.
- Paul to report further on behalf of Task Force to report to Implementation Group.

#### **Intake and Other RRH Difficulties**

- Naomi commented that getting call backs from other Agencies is a constant problem – returned calls can be up to a month later when the family needs assistance more immediately.
- Sharon suggested that if there is a significant problem and no response is given in a timely manner – there should be a roster with supervisor's names and numbers to be shared only within the group.
- LaShawn reported difficulties obtaining emergency motel vouchers to place families who might need interim stay (2 weeks) versus having them stay homeless until unit is ready.
- Paul reported that motel vouchers can be helpful, but also harmful to the outcome of the family. Also, families use section 8 as an end goal which is harmful to outcome as well.
  - The initial motel voucher program at IF caused an increase in demand for motel vouchers from persons wanting to take advantage.
  - The program now places the family in a motel for only two weeks without promise of entry into another program. During the two weeks they are able to assess the family thoroughly. New program has decreased demand by 50%.
  - Mercy House changed their motel program to shelter stay due to similar problems.

- Kelly suggested informal/formal agreements between agencies for the interim stay because there is no funding.
- Margie noted that waiting is a good thing – keeping a process gives time to fully assess the family’s needs.
- Kathy suggested that private donors be used to help fund the family for the “2 weeks” until they can get into an apartment.
- Kelly noted the importance of remembering that not every family needs the same resource – Part of ICPH’s report is a report in the “tiered approach” that is an important concept.
- Yvette agreed that the waiting period is good for agency, but also the landlord relationship. Assessing and getting to know the family before placing them with a landlord could avoid potentially ruining the relationship if something goes awry.
- Mark remarked that the problem is that RRH takes the highest functioning family and gets them out – but what about the rest? The answer might be Permanent Supportive Housing.
- Margie asked if there was an opportunity to re-purpose section 8 – making it temporary vs. long term.
- Paul suggested program based vouchers vs family vouchers.

**2013 RRH Task Force Schedule:**

July – Colette’s Children’s Home

September – FAM

November – Friendship Shelter