

Commission to End Homelessness Implementation Group #1 (Prevention)

Thursday, June 12, 2014
9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

**The Village @ 17th Street
1505 E. 17th St., Ste. 100
Santa Ana, CA 92705**

Minutes

Larry Haynes, Implementation Group #1 Chairperson

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Called to order at 9:41 a.m. by Larry Haynes.

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Approve April 2014 Implementation Group #1 (Prevention) Minutes – Minutes approved.

DISCUSSION CALENDAR

1. Review and Update on Activity to Date – Agency Reports (1 to 2 minutes per provider)
 - a. South County Outreach – No update
 - b. Family Assistance Ministries – Mary Perdue
 - i. **People served:** 78 new case files every month on average, 3,000 clients on average a month with approximately 70 of those homeless.
 - ii. **Funding availability:** Have funding available, funds are built into their budget each month specifically for homeless.
 - c. Mercy House – Sarah Jones
 - i. **People served:** 120 people
 - ii. **Funding availability:** Done with funding for the fiscal year. Dates for additional funding in the next FY is inconsistent; not sure when they will receive them.
 - iii. **Challenges:**
 1. Although funding is depleted for this FY, they still need to serve clients.
 2. Clients need more than one-time assistance.
 - d. Beacon – No update
 - e. 1736 – Edward Gonzalez
 - i. **People Served:** None for the month of May, 13 year to date for OC Prevention.
 - ii. **Funding availability:** Have funds available. Slowing down prevention, more of a focus on rapid rehousing per VA guidelines.
 - iii. **Challenges:**
 1. Not receiving enough referrals; has since been remedied.
 2. High rents in Orange County.
 - iv. **Additional update:**
 1. Waiting for the VA on the priority applications which were sent in March. Expecting to have more information on these in either July or August.
 2. Geographic area is all of LA and Orange County. Agencies should send any client who is a veteran their way to be served instead of serving with own funds.
 - f. VOALA – Dana Fagen

- i. **People served:** 262 households to date (goal is 360 with SSVF funding); 69 homeless prevention, 193 households of literally homeless. In May alone, served 44.
- ii. **Challenges:**
 - 1. Finding affordable housing in Orange County as they don't own any property as they do in LA
 - 2. Struggle with follow-ups with homeless clients who do not have phone numbers.
- iii. **Funding availability:**
 - 1. 2 million dollar grant. Homeless prevention: \$19,000-20,000, rapid rehousing: \$30,000 per month.
 - 2. Applied for the Priority 1 grant, should know by end of July
 - 3. Applied for the HVRP Grant, \$300,000 begins July 1st
- g. Illumination Foundation – Hannah Roddenbery
 - i. **Funding availability:** Does have prevention funds through the housing assistance pilot program. Will provide more information next month.

2. Discussion Topic

- a. None at this time

PRESENTATIONS

1. Janet Bearden – Scoring System Update

- b. Presented the draft developed by the Scoring System Ad Hoc Committee. Stemmed from the desire to better reallocate prevention funds to those who truly need it. Created an objective measurement tool that would make this allocation of dollars more efficient. Janet presented the standardized form. Requested that meeting attendees provide feedback to Janet to further develop the form. Want to launch 90-day pilot program of this system August 4th (have 4 or 5 agencies participating at this time; currently looking for more). Larry will report in this in the next C2eH Executive Meeting and Commission Meeting.

2. Dave Levy – Bill Bundling Legality and Fair Housing Best Practices

- c. Provided expertise on third party billing services or “bundled billing”, an area of concern for many of our clients. Payment of this bill is enforceable through the through the landlord/tenant law mechanisms. Advocates tried to take on this law about 15 years ago to argue that the reselling of utility services should be regulated in some manner, unfortunately, nothing moved forward. Has become more commonplace. The likelihood of getting rid of it now is very low. The practice is legal as long as it is clearly disclosed in the rental agreement and can lead to eviction if not paid. On our part, education of tenants is the most important action.
- d. Regarding fair housing best practices, it is important to focus on landlord/tenant issues instead of discrimination issues for our work with clients. In terms of populations that are more at risk for discrimination, it is crucial to be educated about the laws regarding reasonable accommodation and reasonable modification. Also, familial status discrimination may be taking place. Suggests that any service providers working with clients in terms of housing should contact Dave to set up a training by Fair Housing.

ACTION ITEMS/NEXT STEPS

- 1. To prepare for the next meeting discussion, tracking methods, agencies should send the forms currently being used to track clients
- 2. Run the prevention scoring system by Fair Housing when further developed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

MEMBER COMMENTS

None

ADJOURNED

Meeting adjourned at 10:31 am

Future Discussion Topics:

- Tracking methods
- Review Power Point of eligibility and success
- How are we as service providers defining success?
- CDBG – Funds available only to support US citizens?
- Need identification methods
- Denial criteria

Future Presentation Topics:

- Scoring System Ad Hoc Committee presentation on the status of the Prevention Scoring System
- Funding sources