



EVANSTON HOMELESS TASK FORCE MINUTES

January 21, 2011

Present: Sue Calder, Co-Chair; Karen Singer, Co-Chair; Joyce Bartz; Sidney Caselberry; Walter Cody; Kav Hagopian; Oscar Hawthorne; Karen Hunt; Kate Mahoney; Kevin Mott; Sue Murphy; Dorothy Williams

Absent: Paul Hamnn, Rabbi Peter Knobel, Dan Lewis, Paul Selden

Staff: Sarah Flax, Housing and Grants Administrator, Alisa Dean, Community Intervention Coordinator, Officer Ron Blumenburg, Mary Ellen Poole, Housing Planner

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 am

II. Approve Minutes

N/A. This was the first meeting.

III. Committee Reports

N/A.

IV. Staff Reports

N/A

V. Unfinished Business

N/A

VI. New Business

- Co-Chairs Sue Calder and Karen Singer welcomed the group and began introductions.
- Sue Calder gave a short history and background about homelessness in Evanston and the nation, including new grants awarded the continuum.
- Each attendee introduced themselves
- The group identified the following topics that could be explored further.
 - Understanding the root causes of homelessness
 - Need to educate the community
 - How can Evanston keep homeless persons out of the criminal justice system
 - Prevention services: what currently exists now? In the future?
 - What support does the newly housed need

- How can the City maintain its competitive edge in accessing federal and state funds
- Could there be one location for all services for the homeless population
- How can Evanston replicate other progressive models to help those in Evanston
- How do we grow job training and employment
- What help is needed for homeless families (including single men with children) and teenagers
- Develop an understanding of the instability of homeless families and the long-term consequences of homelessness on children
- Community resources – both public and private
- Need to help families
- How should the City allocate resources to gain the greatest impact
- Need to better connect grant-making agencies with those which serve homeless persons

VI. Communications

- Discussion on best days to meet and the first Friday of month was the best for the group. The next meeting will be March 4, 2011 at the YWCA at 7:30am.

VII. Adjournment-The Meeting adjourned at 8:30 am

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ellen Poole, Housing Planner