

## Advisory Committee for Homelessness Services and Housing Opportunities

### Meeting #2

December 5, 2019 4:00 - 6:00 pm

300 Laporte - CIC Room

#### Attendees:

HSHO Committee Members (attendees in bold):

**Alma Vigo-Morales**

**Fernando Leyva**

**Ben Mozer**

**Brian Ferrans**

**Cheryl Zimlich**

**David Rout**

**Dean Hoag**

**Desiree Anthony**

**Jeff Swoboda**

**Johnny Square**

**Julie Brewen**

**Kristen Psaki**

**Lily Adams**

**Luke McFetridge**

**Matt Robenalt**

**Nick Verni-Lau**

**Yvonne Myers**

**Holly LeMasurier**

Staff Members **Honoré Depew, Jackie Kozak-Thiel, Jeff Mihelich, Beth Sowder**

Facilitators: **Chris Hutchinson, Katie Huey**

Community Members:

Gary Bishop - American Legion Post 4 - Commander

Trirat Lipton - American Legion Post 4 - Member

Dwight Miles - American Legion Post 4 Service Officer

Sister Mary Alice Murphy - Advocate

Anne Wilherton or Connie Wharton(?) - Advocate

Mary Alice McComb - Homeward Alliance

(+ others who did not sign in)

#### Welcome & Introductions

- Group norms help us participate in a way that enables other people's participation as well
- [fcgov.com/homelessnesscommittee](http://fcgov.com/homelessnesscommittee) - observers invited to access minutes - can ask questions of participants at the break or at the end of the meeting - encouraged to share concerns with individuals in a one-on-one format

## Deputy City Manager Introduction and Discussion - Jeff Mihelich

- Origin of Advisory Committee
  - Jeff shared information previously accomplished by the City and stakeholders with the primary focus of the Fort Collins Rescue Mission.
    - In the last 6-12 months, the City and stakeholders held conversations with community partners - asking questions including
      - “How satisfied with how we are serving homeless folks in the community?”
      - Do we have the appropriate facilities in place? We are doing well and could do better
      - Is there a way to find a new and different way to find a new location to serve folks?
      - Is a one-campus model going to serve Fort Collins? Where should we put it?
    - The community requested the process slow down and go back and check the assumptions made over the past six to twelve months and requested the formation of this committee.
    - City Manager - hit pause and said get group together to have this conversation
- Why are we here?
  - Learning together - experts in this room and some people new to the situation
  - Personal comments as community participants - bring both professional and personal opinions to the table - always wear whatever hat you want
  - Final charge for this committee is to make recommendations to City Manager - the committee will decide the format of the recommendation
- City’s role in the future of homelessness services facilities:
  - Zoning Board - make recommendation on building, planning, parking etc. for any new or upgraded construction
  - City Council
    - Ultimate approver for zoning (or not)
    - If City-owned property they decide if property would be sold or leased (or not)
    - Decide how City funds are allocated to support
- Talked about the themes/focuses areas for the next 12 meetings
  - Jeff shared his opinion that this will be an iterative process - won’t be winner take all - recommendations will be outlined with a different combination of possibilities, or the work could stop in what we are trying to achieve together
  - Would like this group to identify the gap between what we currently do well vs. what possibilities - what’s working well and what could happen if we do more of that?
  - The HSHO Committee can come to a conclusion and recommendation early; in that case the committee can disband before completing all scheduled meetings.

## Participation Discussion - who should be at the table for this committee

- Role of this committee
  - Relationship building
  - Learning - understand issue - doing well and gaps
  - Establish transparency
  - Generate creative ideas
  - Learn models, “best practices”
  - Extend grace
  - Build on what’s been - momentum, using assets
- Ideal size of group
  - 20 is the outer edge of group effectiveness to keep everyone involved

- Potential groups to invite
  - **Shelters - Catholic Charities (CC) and Fort Collins Rescue Mission (FCRM)**
    - Learning what we don't know, building relationships
    - Makeup of committee would go from 22% SMEs to 30%
    - Everyone benefits
  - **Larimer County**
    - Has assets to build off of
    - Essential community infrastructure
  - **Guest experts**
    - Family Housing Network
    - City Planning
    - PSD - perspective and experience
    - CSU Social Work Research Center

### Concerns

- Some groups may benefit from recommendations likely to be made - for example talking about future of shelters in our community - potential conflicts of interest mean some might need to recuse themselves from some decisions
- In previous experience, building relationships and having conversations with business owners and people experiencing homelessness in Downtown helped address the "we don't know what we don't know" problem
- Other aspect of representation is balance - as stands the committee has four folks who work on housing on a daily basis, or 22% of the group - what percent makes the most sense?

### Benefits

- Opinion posed that we all have something to gain by working on this - micro and macro levels
- Utilizing assets - the county has significant assets and can help provide more balance to the makeup of the group - who would be the best representative of the county?

### Commitments Made

- Checked commitment on extending an invitation to FCRM and CC - not everyone agreed - all committed
- Checked commitment on encouraging a conversation and invite people to participate from the County - not everyone agreed - all committed

### Committee Responses

- (See graphs in Appendix A)

### Presentation and Discussion: Homeward 2020 - Housing First Initiative

Holly LeMasurier gave a presentation on Homeward 2020

- Homeward 2020 is four things - Catalyst, Convener, Data-driver, Advocate - not a service provider
- Goal: create shared language and understanding of concept models and frameworks
  - Can we end homelessness?  
Homeward 2020 says yes - we can provide a rapid response - rare, short-lived, and non-recurring rather than solutions to extensive and complex causes
  - Housing First - goal to align efforts under foundation that we think about together as housing first as solution to homelessness. Then we do wrap-around services to make sure they can maintain housing - very unique and individualized
  - Other model is Housing Ready - do x,y,z before you can get into shelter
  - Dashboard Holly reviewed is publicly available about chronic homelessness in Fort Collins on the Homeward 2020 website - [www.homeward2020.org](http://www.homeward2020.org)

- Fort Collins has a current affordable housing challenge - 40 people got vouchers and still need a place to go
- David Rout commented on current success in Fort Collins- no wrong door for people to walk into when applying for services - well on the way to use common intake system and be fair
- Questions from Housing First Presentation to address at a later time
  - How many homes are needed to solve homelessness/ house everyone?
  - Who isn't helped by Housing First and what can help them?
  - Data on how people perform better under / with Housing First?
  - When housed, where housed?

## Next-Steps

### **Possible Future Session Topics & Ideas**

- List of current services
  - The constellation of shelters and support services
- Gaps in service
  - E.g., teen services, 24/7/365 services, transition housing
- Exploring reasons people experience homelessness
  - Transient/travelers, "real" homeless, stigmas, etc.
- Overview of homelessness response models
  - Housing First v. Housing Ready
  - Examples from other communities
  - Shortcomings of HFI
  - Cost of homelessness vs. community response
    - For services (treatment, interventions, etc.)
      - How does trauma-informed care come into equation?
  - Agency data vs. self-reported data
- Discuss agreements and disagreements more
  - Where do we agree and where do we not
  - Explore the tensions between ideas and responses

### **Upcoming Meeting Dates**

- December 23<sup>rd</sup> optional site visits of local shelters and service providers, 4pm - 6 pm
  - **Meet at City Hall at 4:00pm**
- Jan. 16th - Shelters and services panel
- Feb. 3rd - Community impacts panel

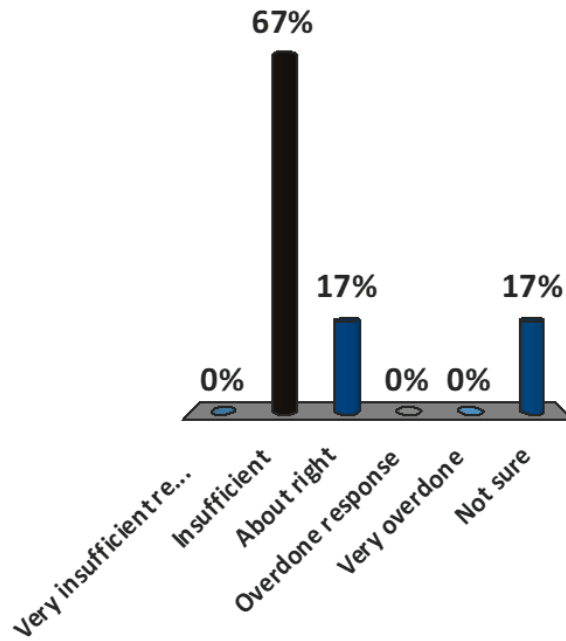
### **Note**

Charter for Advisory Committee Meetings prescribes the following themes/focus areas for the 12 meetings:

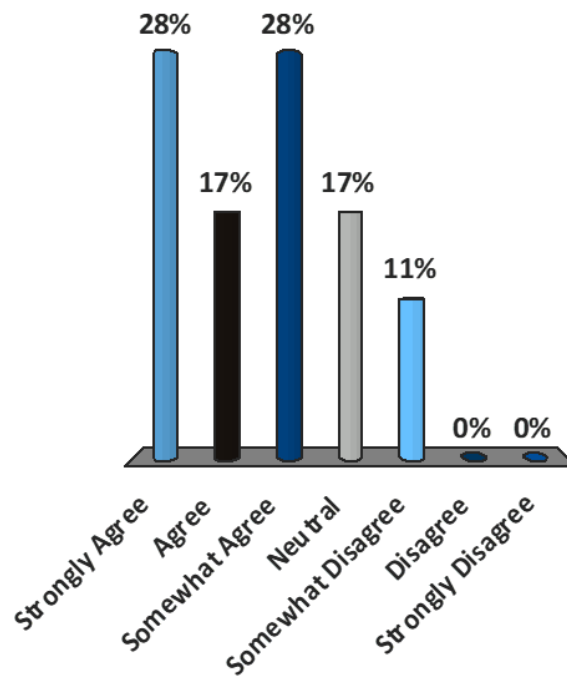
- Understanding current conditions
- Considering response models
- Opportunities and tradeoffs of a co-located services model
- Strategies to address and mitigate challenges
- Determining criteria for site feasibility
- Considering potential locations

## Appendix A - Committee Responses

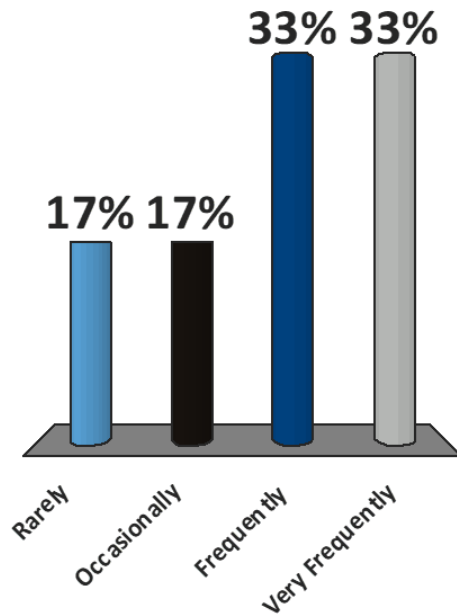
Q1. How well do you think the Fort Collins community is addressing homelessness?



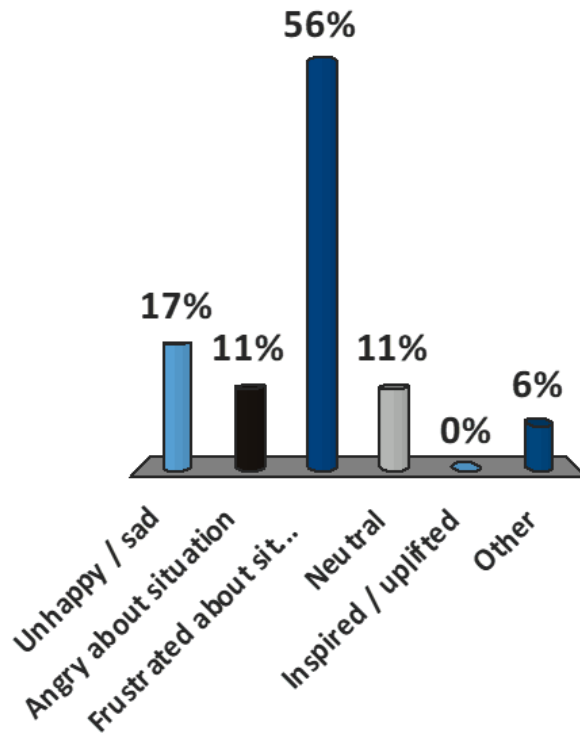
Q2. I believe our community should follow the Housing First approach.



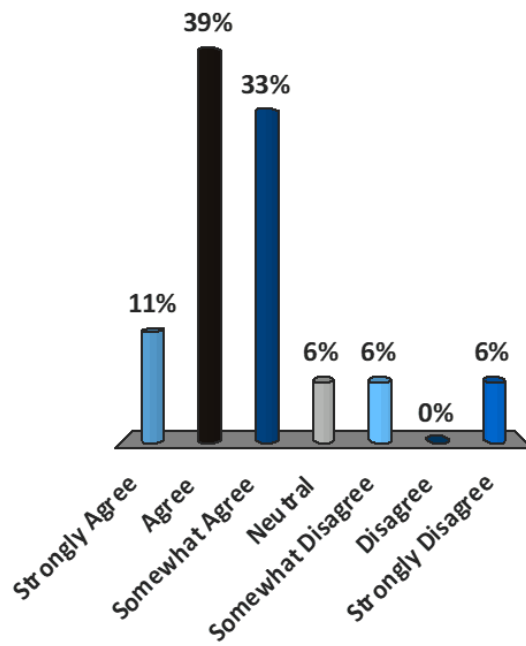
Q3. How often do you interact with people experiencing homelessness?



Q4. How do you leave these interactions?



Q5. I am clear about *the role of* this committee.



Q6. I am clear about *my role on* the committee.

