

Homelessness Services & Housing Opportunities Advisory Committee Meeting #3

Thursday, January 16, 2020

4:00pm – 6:00pm

Fort Collins City Hall

HSHO Committee Members (attendees in bold):

Michael Sinnett	Cheryl Zimlich	Lily Adams
Josh Geppelt	David Rout	Luke McFetridge
Laura Walker	Mike Bello in place of	Matt Robenalt
Diedre Sullivan in place of	Dean Hoag	Nick Verni-Lau
Alma Vigo-Morales	Desiree Anthony	Yvonne Myers
Fernando Leyva	Jeff Swoboda	Holly LeMasurier
Ben Mozer	Johnny Square	
Brian Ferrans	Julie Brewen	
	Kristen Psaki	

Staff Members:

Honoré Depew, Jackie Kozak-Thiel, Jeff Mihelich, Beth Sowder, Ingrid Decker

Meeting Facilitators:

Chris Hutchinson and Katie Huey, Trebuchet Group

Community Members (those who signed in):

Mike Gutman	Paula Sterns	Kevin Gregory
Mary Alice McComb	Tim Anderson	Derek Getto
Mark Sutherland	Dawn Paepke	Patrick Ryan
Anne Wilberton	Dale Adamy	Sister Mary Alice Murphy
Michele Christensen		

Agenda

4:00 - 4:30	Welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Agenda and group norms review• Reflections of Dec. 23 site visits
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4:30 - 5:05	Shelters and Services Panel Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Local perspectives and experiences
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5:05 - 5:15

BREAK

5:15 - 5:45

Group Discussion

- Housing First Model
 - Benefits and challenges
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5:45 - 6:00

Wrap Up

- Committee timeline review
- Future topics discussion
- Next steps

Next Meeting

- Feb. 3rd 4:00pm - 6:00pm
 - Local community impacts panel
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Welcome

Reflections of December 23rd Site Visits

Group discussions of 3 sharing perspectives of what experience was like in 3 - 5 minutes - report out highlights

- Surprised at how much is accomplished with limited space
- Stark contrast - differences in conditions and size of facilities relative to clientele being served and challenges that can be presented regarding demand for the space
- Desire to understand scale of challenge - what fits right for our community and our needs - focus on what is our level of homelessness and need for services that fits Fort Collins
- Amazing people doing amazing work in spaces not designed for the work being done
- What can the need look like if paired with permanent housing partner solutions? Will always be a need for emergency services
- Riding line between appropriate safety, security, screening and never turning away those who need it - encouraging to have spirit in spaces with limitations
- Very similar challenges to assisted living - managing people, health, food, resources - how both sides of wet and dry could be in the same location - needs to be part of the conversation
- Efficiencies of organizations to operate way they do with what they have despite constant change and demand - we could do better as a community to get better space and capacity for the services
- Use of shelters for long-term supportive housing - not original intention
- Sobering, thought-provoking experience especially in connection to commercial holiday

Shelters and Services Panel Discussion

Panelists:

Marla Sutherland - Housing First

Joseph Domko - Catholic Charities

Tom Konstanty - Fort Collins Rescue Mission

Desiree Anthony - Fort Collins Rescue Mission

Annette Zacharias - Family Housing Network

Question One: What's an experience that demonstrates the impact you see on a regular basis around homelessness?

- Discharges from hospitals - not a care facility (don't know of one) - don't have medical beds - no place to refer him to and he returns over and over again
- Family Network gets 13 - 15 phone calls from families a week - no one wants to come to shelter - run through savings - then sleep in cars - then call FFH - "but I had this happen ..." - take care of basic needs, then turn around and plan for tomorrow
- Urgency of the issue when homelessness is chronic - people die when resources aren't provided
- People with disabilities experience so many barriers - extreme health issues - no affordable housing or assisted living
- Common denominator is breakdown of human relationship - network of people who care- victims of isolation and alienation

Question Two: What are the main challenges in dealing with homelessness and helping the people who are experiencing it?

- Lack of livable wages, affordable housing, childcare, transportation options and low rental inventory
- Most people in form of crises - priority to stabilize - broken people who need healing - lack of wrap-around services - shortage in affordable, subsidized and non-subsidized housing, under-employment, permanent housing requires life-long support, no mental health housing, complex life issues, trauma and PTSD
- Shortage of capacity - financial, subsidies, and program reach, and community understanding of the issue
- Transition from agency thinking to system-based thinking - exciting and challenging - takes humility, graciousness with one another, how do we compete for revenue streams

Question Three: What has shifted your thinking or surprised you as you have done your work?

- Homelessness is not the same for everyone - looks unique and different - intricacies and obstacles that everyone is facing - tremendous depth to what they are trying to overcome
- Every growing situation - needs every year are getting more vast and diverse - what should we be doing and what should we not be doing? - gap analysis helps us work

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better with other organization to not reduplicate services - asking what is an evidence based practice? We can now say we are.

- How powerful people are when given half of a chance and moments of attention and intention, how people can heal, profound gifts of people we serve every day - collaborator and co-healer to other people in the program is lightning - redefines the “toxic charity” hierarchy
- Greatest resources to give our guests is myself, my ear, encouraging and listening - allowing them to see hope - many lack social capital
- Need diversification of routes into housing

Question Four: What gives you hope around homelessness?

- New HUD Region - more funding
- Everyday resilience of kids and parents with just a little bit of support, generosity and love
- Jesus Christ - the church in this town which is robust - can work across the aisles with both faith and non-faith people - collaboration - many components are solveable - incredible thought in the room and the people you represent - being a smaller town we can get our hands around this - City of Fort Collins and government, businesses, and community have a lot of good will around this cause
- This committee and the diversity at the table
- This is a priority - what matters, what makes us a world-class city and is that true for everyone?
- Intersectionality around sectors and we have resources to leverage here and across counties

Questions from the Audience

- Explanation Continuum of Care -
 - o Larimer & Weld Counties used to be a “Balance of State” Region and used to have to compete with smaller counties - now, as a continuum of care we can look to get funding and partners at every level of need - can compete for federal dollars
- If someone gave you a pile of money, what would your spending priorities be?
 - o Housing Capacity / Increase Shelter / Wraparound care
 - o Priority to serve those we are most vulnerable
 - o What could the shelter look like if people went through the systems faster? The promise is it would decrease the pressure on the shelter system - A hope would be to diversify shelters based on people’s self-chosen identities (ie. Men, women, families, other, sober, wet etc.)
 - o Bridge Housing Project and new Day Center- for families for 7 - 9 months then add capacity to bring on navigators for families - currently strapped for staff resources

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- Two kinds of homelessness - situational vs. their choice - what about those who are doing this as choice in Ft. Collins?
 - o Providers offer basic charitable services to keep people alive - we can't make people come in the doors, nor can we make them engage in our services. We provide opportunity through relationships to get them into programs or connected to services
 - o In experience with the folks who we work with who identify homelessness as their choice, it makes sense for their life situation. Our question is can we give them other choices by exploring other options. Our offerings say more about who we want to be as a community rather than judging the tough choices people have to make.
 - o Life falls apart - Shelters provide - we do our jobs to provide shelter - shared personal belief that most people do not come to Fort Collins with the idea of "choice to be homeless"

Group Discussion Housing First Model - Benefits and Challenges

- Where does funding come from and what challenges are you seeing?
 - o Private funding - faith-based programs are harder to receive grants - Fort Collins Rescue Mission
 - o Individual donors (60%) Foundations/grants (25%) and religious gifts for Family Network
 - o Homeward Alliance - 1.9 mil budget - 1/3 grants, 1/3 government, 1/3 individual donors
 - o 75% private, 25% grants and contracts - Catholic Charities
 - o Grants can have huge impacts on service delivery - what is the money accountable to?
- What is the role of shelters in Ft. Collins in connection to Housing First philosophy?
 - o Easier to provide services if people get housing first - challenge is we don't have enough roofs to put people under - shelters are feeling the stress
 - o Our job is to stabilize people and keep them safe - we are a partner with Housing First - 90% of Fort Collins Rescue Mission are not housing first
 - o Low barrier, temporary - can enter into a coordinated system with designated portals of entry and housing providers know that - challenges are supply side and case managers who can help people stay connected. With supply and case management absent, shelters take on more than intended in design
- Why do the numbers keep going up from your perspective?
 - o Many families being evicted because of job loss - many landlords do not care
 - o Price of housing keeps going up
 - o Senior population continues going up - flat-lined income and housing going up - decrease in social capital

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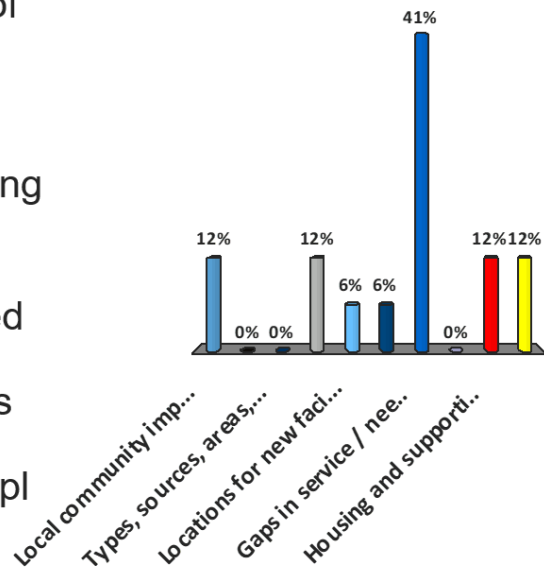
- Approach to data - increased numbers as we commit to better data collection
- Do we have enough puzzle pieces in this city to address this issue?
 - Physical, spiritual, and mental needs for the whole person
 - Resounding yes - different facets that need to be actualized
 - Still have work to do to coordinate service efforts and we are doing better on working together
- How important is the house deficiency to the problem? What might be the number one thing that could move the dial?
 - We need affordable housing, but if we don't address the other areas, they'll end up right back where they were
- What percentage of population are in homelessness due to health?
 - The majority is related to health issues
 - When people experience homelessness, health is greatly affected
 - More than half of the people who come to the Murphy Center identify as needing mental health help

Wrap Up

- Conflict on March 19th - could we meet on the 12th instead?
- 1/3 of the way done in meeting schedule - will move towards creating parallel paths for action and information moving forward
- Vote on future topics - what should be covered in future meetings - Pick One
 - Local community impacts
 - Health Aspects (physical and mental)
 - Types, sources, areas, causes of homelessness
 - Criteria for site feasibilities
 - Locations for new facilities
 - What other communities are doing
 - Gaps in services/needs in new facilities
 - Opportunities and tradeoffs of co-located services
 - Housing and supportive services update (scaling)
 - Will new services attract more people

Notes for HSHO Advisory Committee Meeting #3

- A. Local community impacts
- B. Health aspects (physical & mental)
- C. Types, sources, areas, causes of homelessness
- D. Criteria for site feasibilities
- E. Locations for new facilities
- F. What other communities are doing
- G. Gaps in service / needs in new facilities
- H. Opps. and tradeoffs of co-located services
- I. Housing and supportive services update (scaling)
- J. Will new services attract more ppl



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