

**Mayor's Commission on Homelessness Meeting  
Commerce Lexington Conference Room  
Wednesday, September 26, 2012  
3:00 to 5:00 pm**

**DRAFT Minutes**

Commission Members Present:

Steve Kay (Chair), Debra Hensley (Co-chair), Melody Flowers, Lisa Adkins, Claudia Blaylock, Linda Carroll, Rocky Burke, Ginny Vicini, Jessica Gies, Kate Savage, Randy Moler (Janice Durham), Joe Shuman, Laura Babbage, Harry Richart, Bill Embry, Brian Varble, Janice James, Tanya Torp, Kyle Whalen, Doug Pape, Mike Scanlon, and Don Ralph.

LFUCG Staff member(s) present:

Shaye Rabold, Office of the Mayor  
Leah Boggs, Legislative Aide to Steve Kay.

Guests:

Billie Mallory, Ike Lawrence, Peggy Harris, Sandra Zupan, Marjorie Holzfiend and Josh Nadzam.

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The meeting was called to order at 3:05 pm by Steve Kay, Chair of the Commission.

I. Welcome and Introductions

Steve Kay asked for guests who were not present at the last meeting to introduce themselves. Randy Moler introduced Janice Durham from the VA who will be replacing him on the Commission as he will be moving out of town. Sandra Zupan from the UK Department of Geography introduced herself. The agenda was sounded and there were no changes.

II. Public Comment

Steve Kay asked if any of the guests would like to speak, but no one asked to do so.

III. Discussion of Subcategories of Homelessness

Mr. Kay restated from the previous meeting that it would be helpful to find a useful set of categories which would assist the Commission in constructing a way to think about the full range of the problem.

Shaye Rabold discussed the grid that included possible categories to consider when determining how Lexington currently serves the diverse needs of those who are homeless. She explained that the categories were not meant to be limited to causes, but also special populations that may receive specialized care or have dedicated programming/funding such as veterans and victims of domestic violence. The categories discussed included single adults, unaccompanied youth and families with and without children. Sub-categories of each included those typically included in homeless related

documents: Severe Mental Illness, Substance Abuse, Dual Diagnosis, Domestic Violence Victim, Veteran and HIV/AIDS. The following additional categories were included: Ex-offender, sex-offender, lack of resources/support system and elderly.

Concerns were raised about the meaning of some of the categories, such as what is considered an unaccompanied youth, which could include runaways younger than 18 or HUD's definition of 18-25. It was decided that we need to be specific for some of the categories that could be interpreted in multiple ways. It was suggested that footnotes be included where necessary.

It was suggested that we add a category for people who have a medical or physical condition other than or in addition to mental illness. People who fall into this category are difficult to serve because most agencies are not equipped to handle their special needs.

It was acknowledged that we already have much of the information relating to who is homeless in Fayette County and which agencies serve various subpopulations. It was stated that the purpose of the exercise was to have a better understanding of what the problem is so that gaps can be identified. It was suggested that we think about the process with the end in mind of making recommendations to fill any gaps. The idea expressed was that the more we know, the better chance we have at accurately identifying the gaps.

It was suggested that we send a survey to service providers to ask questions about who is being served and where the gaps, if any, exist. A few suggested questions were proposed: How many people don't you serve and why? In your opinion, what are the gaps? Who is not being served well? Are you seeing any trends or changes in the people who are homeless? How much do you spend?

It was stated that in the past when the VA had conducted similar surveys, they found that the providers would respond one way to the question of unmet needs and people who are homeless would respond differently. It was recommended that we also survey people who are experiencing homelessness. It was also suggested that we look into what training homeless people are currently receiving and compare that with what the actual needs of employers are to make sure they are still compatible. Shaye asked everyone to email her any suggestions they may have of questions to be included in either survey.

#### IV. Discussion about work groups

There was a discussion about what work groups are needed moving forward. Suggested topics included funding sources (including non-traditional sources like hospitals), organizing church outreach efforts, evaluating the cost of homelessness to a community, targeting the most difficult cases, exploring housing first, a central intake system, increasing collaboration and coordination, transportation, and discharge procedures from jails and hospitals.

It was stated during this part of the discussion that government funding for emergency shelter and transitional housing may be drying up soon because more effort is being put on permanent housing. While permanent housing is needed, it was stressed that emergency shelter will always be needed and resources should not be taken away from emergency shelters to pay for programs like Housing First.

It was decided that Shaye and Leah would circulate proposed work groups and Commission members could then say which groups they would like to join. Shaye asked for people to email her ideas of work group topics if there were any not mentioned at the meeting.

At this point, there was a question about the status and impact of the Council's proposed Adult Day Care Center Ordinance, which would require day centers for homeless people to seek Board of Adjustment approval to open in most areas of town, according to zone. There was some opposition expressed about the proposed ordinance, but it was also noted that requiring Board of Adjustment approval would ensure due process for neighborhoods and would require notification of property owners in the surrounding area.

It was proposed that the Commission should request the Council to reserve final decision on the topic until the Commission completes its work. The Commission did not say it would necessarily take a position on the issue, but that the group's work may be informative to the Council in making their decision. There was concern expressed that asking the Council to delay action on an issue not directly part of the Commission's charge might not be fair to neighborhoods if a new day care center wanted to open. Ultimately, it was decided that a letter would be sent to the Council on behalf of the Commission requesting that the issue not be decided until after the Commission's report is submitted.

It was proposed and decided, without objection, that the same action should be taken for the Affordable Housing Trust Fund currently under consideration by the Council's Budget and Finance Committee.

#### VIII. Public Comment

Billie Mallory reminded the group about the October 18 Stand Down event at Central Christian Church.

Susan Zupan expressed concern that she had not heard any mention of the working poor and those at great risk of becoming homeless.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.