

Mayor's Commission on Homelessness Meeting
3rd floor conference room, Phoenix Building
Wednesday, January 9, 2013
3:00 to 5:00 pm
DRAFT Minutes

Commission Members Present:

Steve Kay (Chair), Debra Hensley (Co-chair), Melody Flowers, Mark Davis, Darlene Thomas, Linda Carroll, Kate Savage, Joe Shuman, Janice James, Don Ralph, Rocky Burke, Ginny Vincini, Laura Babbage, Claudia Blaylock, Catherine DeFlorio, Michelle Beverly, Harry Richart, Tanya Torp, and Janis Durham.

LFUCG Staff (members) present:

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

Guests:

Ike Lawrence, Jeff Fugate, Adam Jones, Billie Mallory, Connie Milligan, Robin Osgood, Bill Oram, and Beverly Fortune.

The meeting was called to order at 3:10 pm by Steve Kay, Chair of the Commission.

Agenda and Minutes

The agenda was sounded and there were no changes. The minutes were approved as written.

Public Comment

Adam Jones expressed his concern about the Affordable Housing Trust Fund proposal. His concern was not substantive but one of political will. He doesn't know what BUILD will decide but David Christiansen's opinion bears a lot of weight. They have a Board meeting on Monday.

Ike Lawrence voiced his opposition to the tax and discussed an alternative proposal which he had previously emailed to the Commission regarding charging more for services and withholding alcohol from those that abuse the system. Robin Osgood explained her concerns regarding his proposal.

Forced Choice Exercise

There was consensus that the 3 main recommendations are the fee increase, the creation of an Office of Housing Services, and creating more affordable housing units. There was some discussion regarding the details of the Office including capping the administrative cost that could come from the Trust Fund. All agreed that it had to be designed carefully and it should report to Council annually.

CM Kay explained the forced choice exercise regarding the priority of the remaining recommendations. He explained that each Commission member would get 14 dots to indicate their priorities and multiple dots could be placed under one heading. The results of the forced choice exercise are as follows:

20-30 dots

Adopt a "Housing First" model for the mentally ill and chronically homeless - **30**

- i. 100 permanent supportive beds for persons with mental illness
- ii. 50 permanent supportive beds for the chronically homeless

Creation of a mental health court - **25**

Develop a program of street outreach - **24**

Encourage collaboration among providers to provide more case management - **24**

10-20 dots

Adopt a “rapid re-housing” approach for the temporarily homeless - **18**

For employment support - **16**

- i. Transportation
- ii. 24 hour day care
- iii. Job readiness training
- iv. Federal bonding for formerly incarcerated

Create a 24-hour emergency shelter for hard to serve - **16**

Improvements in the foster care laws regarding “aging out” - **14**

Create and support for a system for data management - **14**

Create emergency shelter for youth and young adults - **14**

- i. 10 additional emergency shelter beds for youth under 18 years of age
- ii. 20 beds for young adults 18-24 years old

Work with homeless providers to determine how many beds of medical respite/palliative care are needed and work with hospitals to fund - **13**

5-10 dots

Support VA in work with veterans - **8**

Increase ease of access to U Visas and T Visas for immigrants - **7**

Expand the rental assistance program - **6**

Changes to the landlord/tenant laws - **6**

Expand present homeless day-center hours - **5**

Create and support a system for a unified point of entry - **5**

Changes in Medicaid system for person with mental illness and youth and young adults - **5**

0-5 dots

Work with Division of Corrections regarding re-entry plans for former inmates - **4**

Changes in community-based treatment laws - **3**

Encourage volunteer opportunities and mentors - **2**

Investigate a Triage/Central Intake center - 2

Create additional beds in transitional housing - 0

- i. 60 additional beds of transitional housing for young adults 18-24 years old
- ii. 150 transitional beds for victims of intimate partner violence
- iii. 115 recovery beds for women

Expand payee program - 0

Changes in Chafee program - 0

Discussion of AHTE Options

CM Kay discussed his conversation with Mary Brooks, Project Director, Housing Trust Fund Project, Center for Community Change. She said that some trust funds primarily address homelessness and while they do not get the same leverage as those focused on affordable housing units, it does not jeopardize their ability to leverage the funds that are used for building housing units. She agreed that there were many reasons to integrate the proposals because together they address the full spectrum of need and make a stronger case for support. Almost all trust funds are administered by the local government but it is important to limit administrative costs to no more than 5-10%. An advisory board with a broad range of representation is the national best practice.

CM Kay is against two separate proposals because he believes that two asks is hard. He believes that integration makes the proposal stronger. The Law Department says that if the integrated proposal is defeated, the current proposal could immediately be voted on since it was different legislation. CM Kay believes that the integrated proposal has an equal if not better chance of passing. He has not had a chance to discuss the matter with his colleagues since they have been on break and he is basing his assumption on previous conversations.

Debra Hensley commented that the original proposal was originally proposed in 2008 and has not gotten any traction. Now a new Commission affirms and expands the proposal. She believes that if a united front is presented it will give the proposal new life. All agreed that passion and unification were important in getting it passed. CM Kay sounded the Committee for concerns or objections regarding an integrated approach. Claudia Blaylock had a concern but it did not rise to the level of an objection.

Discussion of Draft 8

It is important to specifically state that CKHHI would receive funds because of the increased demands of HUD on the CoC. There was also a discussion regarding the name of the Office that would be created.

Public Comment

Billie Mallory wanted to know the result of the 3 options that were discussed on December 19, 2012. CM Kay explained that the Commission had worked through those options and were down to two: propose separate or integrated affordable housing trust funds. Robin Osgood commented that Lexington has greater pay inequality than Louisville and that every one picks up the cost of people with low wages. Connie Milligan commented that if the 1% doesn't pass you can always go back to .5%.

The meeting adjourned at 4:50 pm.