

Berkeley Homeless Task Force:
Where We Are and
Where We Are Going

February 18, 2014

Tonight's Agenda

- I. Welcome
- II. Where We Area and Schedule Going Forward
- III. Housing First/City of Berkeley Housing Resources
- IV. Questions
- V. Closing

Process to Date

- August 15, 2013 Kick-off – Over 70 people attended

Presentations from US Interagency Council, City of Berkeley, Everyone Home on Demographics, Causes, City of Berkeley Homeless Resources, Coordinated Assessment.

PowerPoints can be downloaded at Task Force webpage:

http://cityofberkeley.info/Council_4/Elected_Officials_and_Collections/Homeless_Task_Force.aspx



Subcommittee Meetings

- A variety of stakeholders were encouraged to respond to an online survey about their priorities on homelessness. Based on those responses, four subcommittees were formed:
 - Housing
 - Service Needs
 - Homeless Youth
 - Mental Health

Subcommittee Meetings

- In mid-October, we held a second HTF meeting where each of the four subcommittees met in break out sessions.
- Following the discussion the Homeless Youth Subcommittee met and not only visited Telegraph Avenue to talk to TAY youth but also visited service sites to get a sense of how is Berkeley doing in serving the Homeless TAY population. The subcommittee is continuing to conduct interviews with the homeless population and with service providers.

Youth Subcommittee Report

Visited Telegraph Avenue during late afternoon/evening hours (5 am-8pm) on November 6, 2013.

- During evening hours visited Willard Shower Program and also attended Suitcase Clinic
- Observed civil gathering of youth sitting, lying or standing on sidewalk on Telegraph and Haste.
- Observed issues with Shower Program: no towels, and inoperable shower heads. Homeless clients left as result.
- Impressed with variety of services at Suitcase Clinic
- Feels that homeless people should be directly involved in the Task Force process

Structure of Process Going Forward

- All Subcommittees are encouraged to meet outside of Task Force meetings.
- Going forward meetings will be structured as follows:

An initial workshop will be held on specific policy areas followed by at a later meeting a discussion/decision making sessions to develop proposals.

All with the goal of getting specific policy proposals before Council throughout the Task Force process.

Specific Policy Goals

- Actionable plan for Housing First Policy in Berkeley
- Citywide Harm Reduction Policy
- “Staircase to Housing” a budgeted plan for how to expand Berkeley’s affordable, accessible housing stock to get people into housing
- Improving services for Berkeley’s homeless youth (TAY and High School youth)

Schedule Going Forward

- February 18 – Workshop: Housing First/City Housing Resources
- March – Developing Housing First Policy
- April – Workshop: History of Homeless Policy, City budget, homeless program spending
- May - Proposals for housing policy/budget priorities
- June – Workshop: Harm Reduction
- July – How to implement a harm reduction policy in Berkeley
- August – Workshop: Criminalization
- September: Proposals on criminalization
- October – Workshop: TAY/High School age Homeless Youth
- November – Proposals on Addressing TAY/Homeless Youth
- December – Final Report to Council

Homeless Participation

- It is critical that homeless clients are actively involved in this process. However meetings may conflict with times for accessing meals or shelter. In order hear directly from and involve the homeless population, we are proposing that not only **OUTREACH** be done to get homeless clients to HTF meetings but **TOWN HALL MEETINGS** be held at service sites to hear directly from homeless clients.
- We will need volunteers to help in outreach to homeless clients and in organizing the town hall meetings.

Questions?