

**Alliance to End Homelessness in Suburban Cook County**  
Board Meeting Minutes  
July 28, 2006

Meeting Location: United Way Metro Chicago, 560 W. Lake St., Chicago, IL

Directors Present: Ken Schmitt CHAIR, Eileen Higgins VICE CHAIR, Richard Koenig PAST CHAIR, Raul Rodriguez TREASURER, Susan Shimon SECRETARY, Cynthia Schilsky, Doug Jones, Edwin Walker, Khen Nickele, Lenoris Perkins, Lynda Schueler, Mary Ann Romeo, Mary Schurder, Mike Wasserberg, Nancy Radner, Patrick Rodgers, Sandy Williams

Directors Absent: Beverly Christmon, Daryl S. Woods, Fred Shannon, Gerry DuPaty, Kelli Moore, Mark Enenbach, Richard Grove, Yvonne Griffin-Bland

Members Present: Arie Davis, Courtney Suchor, John Fallon, Jose Alvarez, Millicent Ntiamoah, Nick Kuscevic, Paul Selden, Ron Jordan, Sharrone Ward, Tahtia K. Smalling, Tom Galassini, Viru Joshi, Tom Hinchy; Alliance staff: Jennifer Hill, Bryan Manasse, Shaun Pyron, Renae Wilson

- I. The meeting was called to order by Ken Schmitt, Alliance Chair, and participants introduced themselves. Tahtia Smalling of the Department of Mental Health – PATH program and CSH's John Fallon were welcomed as our guests.
- II. Approval of the Minutes – Edwin Walker moved and Mike Wasserberg seconded that the minutes of the May meeting be approved. The motion passed.
- III. Treasurer's Report – Raul Rodriguez reported a zero balance on the line of credit and provided a review of the income statement and balance sheet. Fred Shannon, Tom Galassini and Raul Rodriguez selected Ahlbeck & Co. to perform the audit following their proposal reviews.
- IV. Director's Report – Jennifer Hill introduced Bryan Manasse of the UIC Policy and Planning Department. He replaces Amy Ernestes as the Alliance intern and will work on the 2007 Count and Outcome Evaluation projects. His related experience includes work with the John Howard Association on Prison Reform, and America's Second Harvest.

Rental Housing Support Workgroup update: The Alliance convened a meeting of advocacy groups to seek consensus on rental support's administration in suburban Cook County. On July 27 the Alliance met with the Housing Authority of Cook County to learn its perspective on the new program. Metropolitan Planning Council, Housing Choice Partners, and West Suburban Landlords Association are expected in the August 1<sup>st</sup> strategy session the Alliance is convening.

Jennifer and others who attended the National Alliance to End Homelessness annual meeting reported on highlights:

- Examples of rent subsidies and creative arrangements with landlords were informative, as were the lobbying opportunities.

- Mayor Bloomberg's support in NYC of rapid re-housing, avoidance of shelter settings, and housing subsidies from the city, state and HUD were impressive, as was a 5 year diminishing subsidy program.
- The result of reduced public support in Lancaster County PA, was increased faith community support.
- There is strong emphasis on prevention elsewhere. Illinois's increased prevention allotment should be put to strategic use.
- The Housing First theme is evolving as it is "lived out" in programs across the country.
- Katrina workshop pointed out the federal government lack of preparedness. The death count nearly a year after Katrina is not completed in New Orleans.
- McKinney-Vento re-authorization will likely not pass this year. There is no definitive information about the consolidation of programs.

## V. Committee Reports

- A. Executive Committee – Ken Schmitt reported the extension of the line of credit; selection of an auditor; his assumption of the Governance Committee chair.
- B. HMIS Committee – Doug Jones described how User Acceptance Testing (UAT) scheduled at 2 locations the weeks of August 28 and September 11, will provide critical information to the HMIS team to assure that the program operates as designed. He reviewed the list of agencies that had submitted their HMIS Information Surveys and urged those who have not yet done so to turn them in. Renae Wilson reiterated the data conversion/interfaces implementation timetable and costs to agencies. Details of these three issues are in the HMIS report distributed at the meeting. UAT registration is on the Alliance's website.
- C. Continuum of Care Development Committee– Sue Shimon summarized the committee's review of the 2005 Sheltered/Unsheltered Count report prepared by Amy Ernstes following the January 2005 event and discussion of the recommendations outlined there. The committee also reviewed the 2006 Exhibit I goals and noted progress and next steps. Bryan Manasse will research service based methodologies and present options at the August 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting at the Alliance office.
- D. Project Review and Prioritization – Cynthia Schilsky reported her committee's debriefing on the bonus project selection process and conclusion that it met the needs of the continuum. The committee noted the need to identify new funding sources.
- E. Chronic Homelessness – Lynda Schueler reported the committee is scheduling a Harm Reduction Workshop for fall 2006 and plans to provide education about housing subsidies, including the Mainstream Housing Voucher. Khen Nিকেle described Dr. Jones' initiative within DMH to uphold permanent supported housing as a best practice for Illinois citizens who have mental illness. Next meeting: August 22 at 11:30 at the Alliance office.
- F. Homeless Prevention – Fred Shannon and Mary Schurder are working on confirming a meeting time. Fifty percent of the prevention money has been disbursed. Tom Hinchy suggested a meeting to discuss possibility of administering ESG funding in the same fashion as the prevention funding.
- G. Governance Committee – Richard Koenig announced his resignation from Housing Opportunity Development Corporation and upcoming move to Michigan. Edwin Walker moved that the Alliance express its sincere gratitude and thanks for his contributions to

the Alliance. Patrick Rodgers seconded. Motion passed. Ken Schmitt assumes chair of this committee upon completion of his term as Alliance chair. New members include Edwin Walker, Khen Nickele, Fred Shannon, Mike Wasserberg.

- H. Advocacy – Nancy Radner summarized CSBG, CDBG, McKinney-Vento appropriations issues and lobby efforts in Washington D.C. during the NAEH meeting. Locally, Congressman Kirk is a major focus of advocacy with his co-sponsorship of SELHA the goal. Three goals for the advocacy committee are to discuss (1) McKinney Vento bills, (2) statewide advocacy needs, and (3) gaining Rep. Mark Kirk’s endorsement of SELHA.
- G. Evaluation- This committee is planning a joint meeting with Project Review Committee.

VI. Other Reports –

- A. Regional Roundtable – Cynthia Schilsky reported RRT’s discussion of funding and treatment opportunities for people with mental illness and the 2007 sheltered/unsheltered count methodology. HUD is issuing count guidelines in September.
- B. Mainstream Resources –No report

VII. CBSA Reports –

- A. South – Fred Shannon reported this CBSA’s meeting with Chicago Community Trust and its discouraging suggestion that suburban Cook County has very few homeless people and fewer yet who are unsheltered.
- B. West – Cynthia Schilsky reported this CBSA’s plans for an October workshop.
- C. North – AHAND cancelled its July meeting.

VIII. Elections –

- A. Elect officers: Vice Chair- Mark Enenbach, Treasurer- Doug Jones, Secretary- Patrick Rodgers; Richard moved and Edwin Walker seconded that this officer slate be adopted. Motion passed with 2 absentions. Discussion focused on the gender of the slate. There appeared to be general agreement that diversity is desirable, exists in the Alliance but not in the current officer slate, and that the board is grateful for the willingness of the officers to serve.
- B. Khen Nickele moved and Edwin Walker seconded a motion of appreciation for the current officers. Motion passed.

Edwin Walker moved and Patrick Rodgers seconded that the meeting adjourn. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Shimon, Secretary