



PARTNERS IN CARE

Oahu Continuum of Care

Partners in Care is a coalition of Oahu's homeless service providers, government representatives and community stakeholders working together in partnership to end homelessness.

PIC Advocacy Committee Meeting December 5, 2017 12:00-1:30 MINUTES

Attendees: Gavin Thornton, Marya Grambs, Carla Houser, Rebecca Yonamine, Gavin Thornton, Judith Clark, Larry Chung, Kathleen Algire, Jason Kasamoto, Natalie Okeson,
On phone: Greg Payton, Beth Murph, Ken Farm, Lance Niimi, Natalie Okeson.

Agenda Topic		Outcome/Action
I. Call to Order	Chair Gavin Thornton called the meeting to order at 12:01pm	
II. Introductions		
III. Approval of Minutes	Minutes of November 7, 2017. Need to clean up attendees and fix typo.	Approved as revised
IV. Continuing Business		
A. Updates on meetings with legislators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re meeting with Delacruz (Judith). Fruitful discussion. Need for housing of lowest group 30% AMI (Area Median Income). Discussed Luke's idea of extending public housing and repairing current ones. • Mizuno (Judith). Very enthusiastic especially re youth. Wants to introduce omnibus bill on Homelessness services ("Christmas Tree" bill – has everything everybody wants); Someone else will do one on housing. He attended Legislative retreat – identified two priorities: low income affordable housing 30% AMI and homelessness. • Gavin: core group discussed our priorities. We have in past supported affordable housing at higher AMI through Rental Housing Revolving Fund and DURF; we will now focus on very low-income housing. Will give legislators something tangible – if we spend this amount of \$\$ we will be able to address this X proportion of the homelessness problem. This focus will reach people not being targeted currently. • Also, will develop concrete proposal to address Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)/Housing First (HF). Plan right now is to dig a little deeper and 	<p>Gavin will do draft of omnibus bills.</p> <p>Then will meet with senators and representatives, most urgent being Housing Chair Espero and Ways and Means vice chair Keith-Agaran.</p> <p>Need to reconcile amount of \$\$ needed for 30% AMI.</p>

	<p>develop language for omnibus bills that would include everything we want to see. “Omnibus bill” means everything that you want; whole vision. Will offer separate bills with pieces of that too.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We reviewed three documents developed by PHOCUSED: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Pic PRIORITY issues. One pager (2) Coordinated Entry System description (3) Brief Overview of Homelessness 	<p>Add that 40% of homeless youth were forced out of their homes to our brief overview.</p>
<p>B. Review and Discussion of PIC Priorities</p>	<p>We have three buckets –</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Priority</u>: PIC develops materials, meets with legislators, sends out Action Alerts, testifies. These include outreach, affordable housing, Rapid Rehousing (RRH), Housing First (HF), LEAD, and Funding for Affordable Units. 2. <u>Support</u>– PIC sends out Action Alerts, submits testimony only: Civil Legal Services, Safe Place for Youth, Transitional Living Services for Youth, Right to Shelter for Unaccompanied Youth, Decriminalizing Status Offences, Include Adult Dental coverage in Medicaid, Mobile Medical Units, Rental Application Fees, Funding for Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) 3. <u>Notice</u> – PIC sends out notification of bills when up for hearing, so members can advocate for or against, but we will take no formal position as PIC: Safe Zones, opposing Criminalization of Homelessness, opposing Proliferation of Vacation Rentals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommending change in opposing Criminalization of Homelessness: this will be moved from Notify to Support because PIC membership has already voted on that issue to oppose criminalization. HUD’s position is also to oppose criminalization, so could be threat to our funding. We will adopt a statement on criminalization. • Brainstorm: should address the fact that running away from home is an arrestable offense; this constitutes 30% of youth arrests. Affects ability get college financial aid or joining the military. Goes on record. Cyclical pattern – someone doesn’t have a place to live, gets ticket for sleeping in park, goes to jail because of outstanding warrants. Then person is doing better but gets ticket for, say, jaywalking, outstanding warrants are found, person goes to jail, loses job, etc. If person is no show on court dates, escalates. This is a waste of resources – spending time going after people who have bench warrants. 	<p>Position paper on criminalization.</p>

	We want to support Community Court.	
Safe Zones	<p>Remains in Notify bucket. More polarized than criminalization issue. Not clear the of amount of savings in Safe Zones; security is a huge cost if you have it.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pro: When there are sweeps, people need a place to go. • Con: they are still living unsheltered; these usually don't accommodate children. • Are Safe Zones an either/or? There is a spectrum of possibilities. What is the definition of a Safe Zone? Waianae boat ramp is model – is it really safe? We will be following the Kona model, but hopefully with permanent structures instead of tents. The mainland Safe Zones presented at the Safe Zone subcommittee had no govt involvement; management was left to residents, including security. What about kids? • Then there's the problem of NIMBY. • Are Safe Zones effective in getting people into shelter? • Re Hilo - Lance: If not Safe Zone, where are they going to go as alternative? It cost \$15,400 per month for security 24/7 but they have run out of money. Now it is self-monitoring through a council – 2 camp members do security every four hours, rotating. This increases sense of ownership and responsibility. Project started in August, had 4 months of paid security, has ratcheted down to zero. 	<p>--Natalie will do matrix</p> <p>--PIC will not have a position, but individual PIC members can have personal position.</p>
C. Legislative bfast	No report	
D. Next steps		Meet with legislators
V. New Business A. Big Island Family Assessment Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hawaii Island hopes to pilot Family Assessment Center. Proposing \$700K to be put in Omnibus bill. It would be in Kona. Right now there is nothing in West Hawaii for homeless families. They are talking to Bridging the Gap members. They could include permanent housing if could find site. • They request that PIC put it in Support bucket. 	Recommendation to Add Family Assessment Center for Kona as part of Support bucket; Gavin will take this to the PIC Board for approval.
B. Youth	<p>Judith:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During the last Leg, another \$300K was allocated for homeless youth outreach; it went to Office of Youth Services. Last year's \$300K never got allocated. So now there's \$600K unaccounted for that never went to homeless youth street outreach. 	Can we find out what's going on with this money??? Do the legislators know this?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Families and Youth Service Bureau: Runaway youth grantees unable to upload from HMIS to feds. Caseworthy problem. • Note: Judith at HYSN received a Grant in Aid for street outreach to homeless youth. • Discussion about changing Point in Time (PIT) survey for youth. 	
C. Homeless Man Beaten Up in Kailua	<p>Marya:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facebook video showing a homeless man being beaten up by a person who is described as a “respected and upstanding member of the community.” • Apparently, this man has substance use disorder and mental illness; he harasses and bullies children, harasses and screams at people, has sexually inappropriate such as exposing himself, spits on tourists, petty stealing, is threatening, etc. This has been going on a long time and community members are fed up. • The Facebook post was viewed thousands of times; huge number of posts, <i>majority of which are in support of the violent attack against him, with several threatening to do worse.</i> • Police are frustrated because if they arrest him and take him to the hospital because he is, which he clearly is, he is quickly treated and released and comes right back. Seems to be no current solution. • This points to an urgent need to find ways to keep people who are in this condition hospitalized or in some other kind of secure medical facility until they become completely stable. 	
Note	Dec 18 is the next Interagency Council meeting	
VI. Next meeting	January 2	
Adjourned	1:10	

Minutes by Marya Grambs