



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
June 27, 2018, 12:00-1:30
Aloha United Way
MINUTES

Attendees: Gavin Thornton, Marya Grambs, Judith Clark, Mike Goodman, Rebecca Yonamine, Larry Chun, Kathleen Algire, Natalie Okeson.

Phone: Greg Payton, Cynthia Rezentes, Lisa Kahaleauki

Staff: Sharon Baillie

Agenda Topic	Discussion	Outcome/ Action
I. Meeting called to order	12:05	
II. Introductions		
III. Approval of May 2018 minutes		tabled
IV. Continuing business		
A. Legislative Recap		
	Gavin Thornton (GT): summary results of legislative accomplishments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Affordable housing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One/half of our agenda was funded for affordable housing, primarily for Rental Housing Trust Fund (RHTF); asked 75M (more than gov budget)- got \$200M! Lack of clarify where the money is going to go and what income levels it will support. 60% of AMI and below, but some confusion. • Also created \$30M general excise tax exemption for “affordable housing” rentals – for 140% AMI. 12 years. \$360M. • Proposal for Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) = Housing First (HF), to develop new units = more vouchers and supportive services. <u>Died.</u> • Homelessness side: 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priorities were to fund increased HF, Rapid Rehousing, outreach, LEAD, etc. Didn't get increased funding and didn't get put in the budget. \$15 for homeless service programs, \$10M for programs we were asking for, \$5M for enforcement. • Mike Goodman (MG): HB2014 to fund 8,000 units of permanent housing didn't pass. • GT: Ohana Zones – Scott M. says it is unclear about what can be done with Ohana Zone funding specifically; several possibilities. • GT: \$1M to Hawaii Tourism Authority (HTA) – for homelessness – also not specified. Requires a \$1M match from private sector. HTA said they wanted to give to homeless advocates, maybe PIC. This is helpful since PIC has wanted to have more of a connection to tourism sector. • Judith Clark (JC): one bill they were watching was to establish the Kawaiiloa youth and family center at the Windward youth detention facility – did pass. Gave official permission to establish it on those grounds. RYSE has opened its 18-24 shelter; Hale Kipa opening shelter for survivors of sex trafficking, 5 beds. • JC: Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN) has a federal transitional living program for 16-21 homeless youth who cannot live with family; can stay 18 mos. There has been a grant funding gap – 5 months – but the federal legislature approved funding that gap. 	
<p>B. Changes that were implemented by Advocacy Committee this past session</p>	<p>GT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We formalized our process for priority setting. Previously had been very informal. Mostly we supported Gov homeless and affordable housing package. Although there was not a lot of substance change this year (mostly supported Governor's homeless and affordable housing packet), we did seek input from PIC members through a survey to get feedback on priorities. Out of that process we then adopted proposed priorities by creating 	

	<p>three buckets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> --Top tier bucket – develop handouts, talk to legislators, submit testimony whenever came up, send out action alerts. --PIC Support bucket – notify when the hearings are coming up and testify. --Notify – Notifications of hearings only. These were issues where there was some disagreement; they included safe zones and vacation rentals. <p><i>That was the plan. In reality, we did implement the first bucket. For the second bucket, we did not send out notifications every time bill came up for hearing, and probably didn't submit supportive testimony every time. Just some time. Third bucket – never sent out alerts. We just simply didn't have the time.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We also changed the way we send out alerts— <ul style="list-style-type: none"> --Used MailChimp, now have 144 people on that list. Can see when people submit testimony. --Created website with testimony submission pages, and then we could Eblast links to with boilerplate testimony. We probably got 7 pieces of testimony each time we sent out alert. 	
<p>C. What could we do better</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JC: be careful about what we commit to re our time; eliminate tier three; keep using MailChimp. • MG: not sure what he did that worked and didn't work. Was able to carry bill all the way to end, passed by both houses, died in conference. He tried to be pushy but not obnoxious; gave food. Tried to keep material simple with a lot of headings. Tom Broder introduced; Natalie: he is well liked and taken seriously and that was part of the success. • GT: Testimony is valuable (a) if it is not all the same language; and (b) if you can show overwhelming support. • GT: How can we better engage the agencies, partners, BTG, agency employees and clients. • JC: Question value of legislative bfast. GT: Plan is no breakfast but instead walk- 	

	<p>around.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JC: Issue briefs once a week and dispatch someone to go around to each office and distribute it. • GT: Cristy Macpherson from FACE talked about doing a rally or action. Marya: Also offers to help with organizing clients of our agencies to testify or talk to legislators. • JC: Public image of homelessness is mentally ill lying in urine. But the true face of homeless is 6 y/o trying to do homework by candlelight. • Rebecca Yonamine: Need cheat sheet for us so we knew what we were talking about. • MG: Send out action alert several times. • GT: Unable to send stuff out in a timely manner. Needs a team of folks to do this. Schedule early training. • JC: Could there be some coordination between Appleseed, PHOCUSED, PIC, Children’s Action Network – so people don’t get multiple action alerts. • Kathleen Algire (KA): agree that we need a team for the alerts. Question effectiveness of Action Alerts. Legislators don’t want to see cookie cutter testimony. If volume, then helpful; but if only a trickle, may be wasted effort. Could we write personal testimony ahead of time and then send in all together? Get stories of “what this bill would do for me.” Then we would submit on their behalf to different hearings. 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GT: Legislature decided ahead of time that they were going to do Safe Zones. We said we’re not weighing in but don’t take money away from other priorities. • GT: We got incorrect info – 2 weeks before end of session we were told the RHTF was in trouble, so we scrambled to support it and then they gave way more than requested! • <i>GT: summary: get priorities set early; be clear; reach out early to get personal stories as per Kathleen; go early with crystal clear clarity about what is important and why. We didn’t really have a lot of impact in</i> 	

	<i>terms of details.</i>	
D. Improve coordination with BTG on priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greg Payton (GP): Mental Health Kokua is with both COC's because he has programs on the Neighbor Islands. • GT: PIC board has recognized that our interactions with BTG have not been the best: we have not treated them very well and not been good collaborators. We are looking for ways to improve. We really care about homelessness statewide. Suggest: figure out a way to coordinate and have the same advocacy priorities through a joint process. • Natalie Okeson: priorities might not be the same. • Greg: this year will be a good year to align priorities with BTG. Lot of overlap. They have many of the same issues: Breaking up encampments – why? Ohana zones - where/what look like? What does PSH look like on NI? They do have a different problem finding units for people based on how much support services there will be, as well as low income housing. Don't think we're that far off. • Marya: How about BTG and PIC advocacy committees meet together? • JC: Could we meet in person and do joint planning? • GT: BTG board comes to Oahu every month or every other month so we could piggy back on those meetings. • Sharon: BTG will have breakout session at homeless conference so we could also connect with them there. • Natalie Okeson (NO): Brandy and Maude come for housing ASAP. <p><i>Conclusion: GT: Develop shared advocacy agenda with BTG. Greg can help with Maui and Kauai. Rep. Nakamura wants more info on Maui. Greg will reach out to them and include Natalie and Gavin in initial conversation.</i></p>	<p>GT to explore setting up joint planning meetings with BTG at one of their meetings.</p> <p>Greg to assist with advocacy collaboration on Maui and Kauai.</p>
V. New Business A. Setting Priorities	<p>GT: Need to move forward. Not sure that the survey was the best tool. Maybe too many topics. Didn't generate new ideas. Maybe we need to talk through them more with</p>	<p>Discuss more</p>

	<p>membership at General Meeting</p> <p>NO: When present survey to membership – have them pull out phones and do electronically. The manual paper thing is too time intensive.</p> <p>JC: do we want new ideas? Probably not through survey. How about focus group? KA works with other folks and will bring up homelessness. Mike will assist.</p> <p>Who would lead focus group effort?</p>	<p>fully at General Membership meeting. Have them complete survey electronically.</p> <p>KA to talk about homelessness with her group.</p>
Adjourn	at 1:33	

Minutes by Marya Grambs