

ECHO 2015 OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes 12-03-15

Present: Ann Way, Douglas Forsyth, Debra Krittenbrink, Natalie Gardner and Mark Braley. Also present were staff Lisa Krieg, Michelle Evans and Jolana McCart

Absent: Bob Staples, Debi Fidler, Heather Sebro, and Teresa Capps.

The meeting was also attended by 6 OU/Norman North/Norman High students.

The meeting was called to order by Lisa Krieg at 4:00 p.m. She introduced Linda Kaufman, National Movement Manager.

Chair Forsyth requested approval of the minutes from the September 3, 2015 meeting. Motion by Debra Krittenbrink for approval; Second by Mark Braley. Unanimous.

UPCOMING POINT IN TIME

Michelle Evans reported that the Point in Time count will be January 28th. A meeting will be scheduled soon to finalize details. This event will be simultaneous with the count in OKC.

REPORT ON ICOUNT 2015 AND ZERO:2016 PROGRESS.

Michelle Evans reported that 3 events had been held for Registry Week. 47 new assessments had been completed, 5 being new veterans and 19 being chronic. She felt that the events had been very successful. These are being tied to case managers.

She reported that 29 had been housed, 8 being veterans and 21 being chronic. She that in December there is potential to house 6 – 10 more.

Debra Krittenbrink stressed the importance of case management support.

Linda Kaufman said that this is not a program where the communities “finish” and move on to something else. She said that a system needs to be set up that says that it’s rare, brief and not reoccurring.

Michelle Evans said that the biggest barriers are the affordability of housing and matching the case manager with the correct client. Natalie Gardner added that landlord push back and dwindling willing landlords are also concerns.

Linda Kaufman said that in Housing First there is a 85 – 90% retention rate. She said that in the open market the retention rate is 90%. So there is not much difference. She said quick case management response to landlord concerns is necessary to keep landlords willing to participate.

DISCUSSION ABOUT ZERO:2016

Linda Kaufman said that Zero:2016 is committed to ending homelessness. While it was originally thought that this could be done in 2015, the new goal has been set to end chronic and veteran homelessness by 2016. She stressed how far the system had come in the last 3 years. While missing the goal, the progress and changes must be recognized.

5 things a community needs to do to have a better chance in reducing or ending homelessness:

- 1) Use the mainstream resources.
- 2) Follow the data.
- 3) By name list.
- 4) Decisions are made at the community level and not the agency level.
- 5) Housing First: the person with the highest acuity gets the first available opening.
Basic lease requirements: Pay rent and not bother the neighbors.

Ms. Kaufman said to not hesitate to “bump them up” in services. Change the resources or how they are presented. Offer 6 months rental assistance over 4. Use housing navigators – peers.

Important to point out the savings in housing vs. constant outside services. Highest users of 9-1-1 called 2,400 times. The top user called 270 times. By housing this person and making use of case management, this number could be drastically reduced or eliminated altogether. In Vermont, in a 6 month time before being moved into housing, 129 people used \$1,038,000 of psychic hospital stays. In the same length of time, using the same people upon being housed, they used \$1,500.

MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS

The next meeting will be March 3, 2016.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m.