



Topeka/Shawnee County Homeless Task Force

c/o Community Resources Council
501 SE Jefferson St Suite 30
Topeka KS 66607
Voice 785 233-1365
FAX 785 233-1905
email crc-om@crcnet.org

Minutes of March 11, 2009

Homeless Task Force Sub-Committees

John Johnston provided a nine-step process as a starting point for discussing homelessness and affordable housing in Shawnee County. The nine-steps to transforming change are:

- Step 1 – Think & talk about transforming change
- Step 2 – Commit to transforming change
- Step 3 – Rethink your “business”
- Step 4 – Attend to transition mechanics
- Step 5 – Find out where you have been, where you are, and what direction you are going (A)
- Step 6 – Describe the problem, the barrier to overcome and the investments one intends to make (B)
- Step 7 – Build capacity
- Step 8 – Set out on the journey to ‘B’
- Step 9 – Check the score / Do it all over again

Kim Sweeny provided a sign-up sheet for the Task Force members to choose one of the 9 steps and begin forming subcommittees. After discussion, the group decided to join their efforts and that any members who want to join should meet separately and do some of the footwork and bring their findings back to the main group for discussion. A meeting was scheduled for 2pm and will follow the regular HTF meeting on April 8th. (The quarterly evening meeting will be held in May.)

The Visioning Process

Nancy Johnson introduced William Beteta who had originally worked with the National Parks Service at their Brown vs Board of Education site and is now the Executive Director of the City/County Visioning Process. William pointed out that the Heartland Visioning plan was designed by the community, which includes all of Shawnee County. The purpose of the plan is to establish guidelines or goals as to where the community wants to be in five, ten, or twenty years. The Heartland Visioning volunteers, which numbered 5000, looked at the challenges facing Shawnee County and made suggestions on how to address those needs. Six foundations were created: Education, Quality of Life, Infrastructure, Economic Development, Government, and Private Sector Leadership.

William noted that the Visioning plan also includes aspects of social services, and in particular to help the community understand the role of social service agencies and how they serve those in need. Right now the Visioning process is building leaders of the community and is looking at alliances already established, such as the Homeless Task Force and how these types of established groups can help facilitate growth and change for Shawnee County.

Announcements

Note: Items not addressed from this month's agenda will carry over to the next meeting.

Karen Peterson will be retiring from SRS effective June 12th.

Michael Bradley noted that the VISTA volunteer program is expanding and there will be more volunteers available and their scope has broadened beyond capacity building to include some direct service assistance as well.

Chris Kratovchvil noted that HCCI has two printers available at no charge – first come, first serve.

Those in attendance:

Kim Swinney – Kansas Legal Services
Sue Wheatley – Community Action
Chris Kratochvil – HCCI
Jeff Karas – Topeka Rescue Mission
Nancy Johnson – CRC
Karen Peterson – SRS
Lea Vincent – KS Legal TMAP
Loni Carroll – Community Resources Council
John Johnston – Topeka Housing Authority
Michael Bradley – The Villages
Janice Watkins – Kansas Legal Services
Melissa Nolte – Kansas Legal Services
John Homlish – Community Action
David Martinez – Breakthrough House
Corrie Wright – City of Topeka
Doug Wallace – Valeo
William Beteta – Heartland Visioning