



# Topeka/Shawnee County Homeless Task Force

c/o Community Resources Council

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## Minutes June 9, 2010

The June 9, 2010 meeting of the Topeka/Shawnee County Homeless Task Force was called to order at 1:00 pm by Nancy Johnson acting at the request of Corrie Wright, who was unable to attend. Introductions and announcements were made.

### **Election of New Chair Elect – Roslynn Crouch**

Nancy Johnson indicated that the Executive Committee had nominated Roslynn Crouch as a candidate to fill the vacated position of Chair Elect when Corrie Wright moved up to fill the vacant position of Chairman. The nomination of Roslynn was placed before the council and was unanimously approved by voice vote.

### **Continuum of Care Registration – Sue Wheatley**

Sue Wheatley reported that the annual Continuum of Care Registration was closed and we had registered appropriately. We would be notified for our PRN which indicated the amount of money to be allocated to our HUD activities. This notification will also allow interested parties to apply for qualified projects.

### **HCCI – Bob Mackey**

Bob Mackey reported on the recent activities at HCCI whereby they had cancelled their continuum of care grant, closed their Emporia Office and realigned several personnel. They will still work with landlords and provide some support to the continuum of care homeless programs and are still active in the counseling business.

### **EHIC and Point in Time Count - Doug Wallace**

Doug Wallace reported that the continuum had filed in a timely manner the annual Emergency Housing Inventory Chart with HUD through their HDX program. He distributed a listing which showed total year-round beds for all homeless programs totaling 782. An HMIS generated point in time count was accomplished as of January 29, 2010 which indicated a sheltered population of 337 on that date.

### **HPRP Update – Rachelle Vega-Retana**

Rachelle Vega-Retana reported on the HPRP Sign up held at City Offices last Friday, June 4, 2010. Utility Applications only were taken and 81 applications were processed. Sixteen were denied due to various reasons. Of the remainder, about \$2,300 involved water bills, \$14,500 were electric bills and \$8,100 were gas bills. This was a total of about \$25,000 over 63 applications. Rachelle indicated that the City would probably be doing another activity for utilities and also one for rents.

### **Calendar Review – John Castello**

John Castello reported that a review of the Calendar did not indicate any forthcoming activities for the next 30 days. He mentioned that Desk Audit Paperwork would be sent out to the HUD Grantees in the Continuum of Care and follow-up scheduling with the desk audit committee members will be made. The three persons who had agreed to serve as the desk audit committee are Diane Etzel-Wise, Karen Peterson and John Johnston.

(Minutes continued, Homeless Task Force June 9, 2010)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Roslyn Crouch mentioned that she had observed a sign at the Topeka Housing Authority indicating that they had funds for utility assistance for Section 8 clients.

Nancy Johnson announced scheduled Budget meetings open to the public with Norton Bonaparte, City Manager, to be held as follows:

6/16 - 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm – Garfield Community Center  
6/17 - 8:00 am to 9:00 am Hillcrest Community Center  
6/23 - 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm Crestview Community Center  
6/24 - 8:00 am to 9:00 am Topeka Public Library

She emphasized the importance to social services and encouraged all to attend.

Nancy also mentioned that Heartland Visioning and the Community Resources Council will hold another session of “The Conversation Continues” from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. Thursday, June 10, 2010 at Brewster Place, 1205 SW 29th Street.

All members are reminded also of the Community Resources Council sponsored Awards of Excellence Banquet to be held October 25<sup>th</sup> from 11:30 to 1:30 at the Ramada Inn.

Also all are encouraged to sign up for the “Shawnee County’s Largest Workout” to be held at Yager Stadium, Washburn University on July 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm.

Kelly Matthews was announced as the new director of Cornerstone of Topeka, Inc. and she invited all to an open house on June 18<sup>th</sup> from 2 to 4 pm at the opening of their latest housing project. Details may be found on their website, [www.corner1.org](http://www.corner1.org).

Jeff Karas of the Topeka Rescue Mission mentioned that occupancy today was 180 and they were concerned about the coming season of heat, which last year created a large surge in occupancy in the third week of June.

Ben Whisnant of the Topeka Aids Project mentioned a cookout with will be held June 14<sup>th</sup> from 11 to 4 and on June 21<sup>st</sup> they will be providing Free HIV Testing. More information can be found at [www.topekaaidsproject.org](http://www.topekaaidsproject.org).

John Homlish of Community Action reminded us of the Back to School Fair to be held August 7<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am to noon.

Bob Mackey of HCCI mentioned the second “Women in Money” series which will be held at Washburn University in a six part series on Thursday evenings from 6 to 8:30 starting September 9<sup>th</sup> through October 14<sup>th</sup>. More information at [www.hcci-ks.org](http://www.hcci-ks.org).

Diane Etzel-Wise of the Kansas Statewide Homeless Coalition mentioned that agencies can post relevant announcements on the Statewide Website: [www.kshomeless.com](http://www.kshomeless.com). She also mentioned that the Kansas Homeless Summit would be held this year October 21 and 22 and will be held in Hays, Kansas.

Randy Crandall of the Veterans Administration mentioned that for anyone who missed the Grant Per-Diem Training, he has training packets available. He also mentioned that a National Call-In Center for Homeless Veterans is in the works and will be coming soon.

(Minutes continued, Homeless Task Force June 9, 2010)

Doug Wallace of Valeo mentioned that the 2011 Point In Time Homeless Count is being scheduled for January 26, 2011.

**In attendance:**

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Tammy Adams – Value Options  
Ruth Arensdorf-SRS  
John Castello – CRC  
Randy Crandall –Veterans Administration  
Roslynn Crouch – Breakthrough House  
Diane Etzel-Wise – Ks Statewide Homeless Coalition  
John Homlish –Community Action  
Nancy Johnson – CRC  
Jeff Karas – TRM  
Bob Mackey-HCCI  
Kelly Matthews - Cornerstone  
Kim Swinney- KLSInc  
Rachelle Vega-Retana – City of Topeka HND  
Charlene Wallace-Fam Svc & Guidance  
Doug Wallace – Valeo  
Sue Wheatley-Community Action  
Ben Whisnant – Topeka Aids Project  
Missy Woodward-KDOC

**NEXT MEETING:** Wednesday, July 14, 2010, 1:00 pm at Community Action, 621 SE Swygart.

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