

Task Force on Homelessness: Notes from 3/29/12 Meeting

Continued Orientation points:

- ME 503 CoC funding consists of renewal projects..no new projects budgeted in.
- Private Shelters do not have much impact on overall needs. (Deliverance Center : small numbers but good care.)
- Large city-run shelters like Portland's are unusual USA-wide. Especially with such low barriers.
- Portland's % of homeless per capita is fairly high compared to rest of country.
- Point in time surveys are completed in winter which affects numbers.
- General Assistance (GA) will pay \$26 out of the \$76 cost of a night in a shelter. GA proposing limiting shelter stay to 90 days.
- Hospitals are going to start to be charged for readmissions so should cut down on inappropriate discharges. Proves need for respite care. Doug has two beds through Health Care for the Homeless.
- Mike Gendreau: Mercy has pilot program for respite care (8 beds) but grant is coming to an end but it is a good model which would be easy to replicate.

General Points:

- What should outcome of Focus Group work be? Brian Petrovek stated that the charge to "prevent and end" homelessness is far different than creating an action plan for change.
- Dana Totman suggested that considering that the State is voting soon to curtail funding GA and that a crisis may be coming due to major cuts that the environment the Task Force is working in now is very different from when the City charged it with "preventing and ending." He suggested that the Tri-Chairs consider narrowing the Focus Groups' recommendations to improvements vs. ending.
- Is 6/4/12 deadline to "prevent and end" realistic considering above?

Focus groups: be sure to say what you think...build trust.