

NAEH Conference Notes July 13-15, 2011

July 13 Pre-conference session

National Shelter + Care Coalition

Hazel Weiss gave history of S+C Coalition - networking, advocacy, educational group

Brian Fitzmaurice from HUD discussed housing funds. Anticipate HEARTH regs will be out soon. 2012 CoC will include HEARTH regs.

Jordan Press from Corporation for Supportive Housing gave overview of federal housing funding in current climate. Expect 2012 will be lower HUD \$\$\$. Emphasizes importance of contacting legislators to express your opinion and educate them about local needs. Stories are what they want to hear.

Plenary Session

Nan Roman from NAEH gave overview of homeless numbers nationally: CH declining but families increasing.

Needed changes:

- Shift more funds to RRH
- Connect clients to mainstream services
- Campaign to protect the most vulnerable

Session 1: New Research Homelessness Among Veterans

3 presenters went over specific data they have collected on homeless veterans.

Risk of homelessness increases among vets who are poor, Af-Am, Hispanic, female

3x greater risk for female veterans who are poor

2x greater risk for male veterans who are poor (versus general population)

HUD will begin to require beds by address

Session 2: Update Federal Strategic Plan to End Homelessness

1 year into plan

Accomplishments:

Collaboration

Data: analysis and targeted reporting

Targeted resources

Access to mainstream resources

Engagement at state and local levels

2012 budget proposal

Interagency collaborations:

HUD and VA

HUD and HHS for CH

HUD and HHS and Education for families with children

Federal employees working collaboratively- culture shift

Priorities for Opening Doors going forward:

Housing resources

Targeted \$ at HUD

SAMHSA

Affordable Care Act

LGBTQ youth

Areas of concern= language

"provide affordable housing"

"increase economic security"

July 14

Session 3: Civil Rights and Housing for Homeless Individuals with Disabilities

Litigation is 1 tool in the box.

3 laws apply:

- 504 Rehabilitation Act - disability
- Americans with Disability Act
- Fair Housing Rights Act

Disability refers to persons blind, mobility, HIV, mental retardation, alc/drug, psych, deaf. The disability must substantially limit ADLs or self care

"most integrated setting"

Service in community rather than institutional setting

2 people described local lawsuits: IL with 4500 persons w mention disability housed in SRO - Rea to provide service in least restrictive setting. Peoria: siting of PSH

Lunch speaker Sam Tsemberis founder of Pathways

Spoke about history of homelessness from 1980s to present.

1980s = first awareness homeless persons due to closing of mental hospitals and decline in federal funding from 350,000 housing units per year to 50,000. Have never gotten back to sufficient number of affordable housing units.

1990s era of research, data, costs of revolving door. Psych rehab repines. Homeless becomes linked to mental illness

2000s era of dissemination. Consumer choice. USICH and 10 Year Plans

Going forward: agreement on population, political will and resources.

Session 4: Progress on Policy Priorities in Congress

2011 budget was good at 1.9 b

2012 expected lower although White House put 2.4 b into request

National Hsg Trust Fund 2012 budget unknown. Markup schedule 7/14 postponed indefinitely.

Section 8 anticipate some vouchers 2012

CDBG and HOME expect cut because funds not as targeted as HUD

HTF is a priority for Natl Low Income Hsg Coal b/c funds can serve as conduit low income rentals

10 m low income hh but only 6.5 LI housing units.

Options for funding Nat'l HTF

1. 2012 budget at 1 billion (not sure how will be funded)
2. Preserving Homes and Communities Act - TARP warrants
3. Dedicated source from Housing Finance Reform - fuzzy
4. Reform mortgage interest deduction: 25% of taxpayers benefit. Chg from tax deduction to credit.

HUD/HHS/ED special vouchers - use w mainstream

Chronic vouchers - Medicaid and SAMHSA

Family vouchers with TANF and Ed

58m for 7500 vouchers. Operation and service in same pig

Vet Hsg increase vouchers

Letter from HUD to PHAs reminding them HUD policy only sex/meth. Rules at local discretion.

Session 5: Collaborating w Law Enforcement

Denver described their outreach. Strategy and partnership.

Emphasis on homeless prevention. And housing people.

Top 100 offenders. Housed 27. 74% reduction in crime

Police outreach consists of:

- Early AM welfare check on homeless clients
- Public feeding – legal but discouraged
- Illegal encampments
- Meetings- lots of them. Build trust and working relationships
- Education of other officers
- Work with city agencies
- Constitutional defenders

Law enforcement

July 15

Roundtable: Counting Homeless Youth

MPLS process described
Law enforcement runaway petitions and cases unsolved
Child welfare: run from care
Juvenile justice system
Parks & Recreation
Boys and Girls clubs - survey all youth on single day
YMCA/YWCA
School coordinators/counselors

Youth survey: Wilder Research Center

Session 6: Governance Outcomes for Improving Community Wide Outcomes

Richmond VA and Fairfax VA described differing approaches that work for each
Home base in Fairfax

Richmond: non-profit, bulk of funding is private, business leaders more important than electeds due to way jurisdictions are organized.

Fairfax: County took over after 10 Year Plan was adopted, new governance structure

www.Fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless

After lunch met with Lois Capps. Reported on count, survey and 10 Year Strategy update process. Asked support for housing vouchers.

Unable to schedule appointment with Elton Gallegly, hand delivered summary of homeless issues in his district.

Next NAEH conference Feb 9-10 in LA

Lobby Day:

Participated in the planning process for CA delegates on Wednesday June 13 to determine who would meet with various legislators and what the topics would be.

Met with Lois Capps in her new office in the Rayburn building on Friday July 15. Reviewed 2011 count numbers and survey data on subpopulations. Discussed progress and updating 10 Year Strategy. Asked for support all voucher programs: section 8, HUD VASH, family vouchers.

Unable to get appointment with Gallegly's office. Hand delivered a letter outlining homeless numbers and issues in his district. Included homeless count, survey and Joe Colletti's research paper on ties of homeless persons to their communities in the packet.

Reported back to NAEH after Hill visits.