



To: TJPDC Commissioners
From: Jeffrey V. Cornelius, HMIS Administrator
Date: March 27, 2008
Reference: Homelessness

Purpose: To update the Commission on the 2008 Homeless Point-in-Time Census, progress on recommendations included in the Draft Community Plan to End Homelessness, the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), and other activities related to homelessness in the region.

Background:

- In January the TJPDC staff and Thomas Jefferson Area Coalition for the Homeless (TJACH) completed the 6th annual Homeless Census and survey
- In January 2007, the Commission approved the Community Plan to End Homelessness as a draft, and directed the Task Force to Develop the Plan to End Homelessness and TJPDC staff to move forward with a two-pronged strategy: update the Community Plan to End Homelessness with data from the annual point-in-time census; and solicit board members for the new lead organization.
- In 2002, TJPDC received a grant from HUD to establish a Homeless Management Information System (HMIS).
- DHCD awarded a grant to TJACH for pre-development activities for Single Room Occupancy (SRO) housing, with a grant end date of June 30, 2008, with Piedmont Housing Alliance (PHA) acting as its agent.

Issues:

- The 2008 Census found increased numbers of homeless adults and significantly increased numbers of children. Details are provided in the summary document enclosed with this packet.
- Progress in recruiting board members for the new lead organization has been slow. A renewed effort on establishing the lead organizations is currently underway with the Thomas Jefferson Area Coalition for the Homeless (TJACH). There is a need for greater coordination and cooperation among homeless service providers.
- The HMIS grant for December 1, 2008 to November 30, 2009 was not renewed through the 2007 Continuum of Care application. The TJACH meeting planned for April 15 will address organizational structure and governance, an area of the application that received a low score. The goal is to earn sufficient points through the application to reinstate the HMIS grant, along with other program priorities, to allow continuation of this program beyond November 30, 2008.
- A TJACH committee has been meeting regularly to examine the feasibility of an SRO project, with investigations of possible sites currently underway. TJACH is working with Virginia Supportive Housing (VSH), who has expressed an interest in being the developer and operator of the SRO. If a site for new units cannot be identified, pre-development grant funds may be used to finance SRO units at Monticello Vista Apartments.

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Recommendations: Staff recommends supporting the TJACH effort by attending the extended TJACH planning meeting on April 15. This coalition building effort may result in a recommendation for TJACH to become the lead agency, instead of establishing a new organization.

Action Needed: This is an informational item only. Commissioners are encouraged to attend the TJACH planning meeting scheduled for April 15, from 12 noon to 3:00 p.m. with lunch provided in the Fellowship Hall of First Presbyterian Church, 500 Park Street in Charlottesville. An invitation is included in this packet.

Effective Date: The Community Plan to End Homelessness spells out objectives to be reached by 2012. TJPDC staff plan to bring the Community Plan to End Homelessness back to the Commission for approval by the fall of this year. The 2008 Continuum of Care is in progress, with the due date to be identified in the Notice of Funding Availability to be issued by the Department of Housing and Urban Development.