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MEMO

To: TJPD Commissioners
From: Billie Campbell
Date: July 10, 2008
Re: Lead Organization on Homelessness

Purpose: To re-start the process of seeking board members for the Lead Organization on Homelessness.

Background: In January 2007, the TJPDC Commission adopted the Community Plan to End Homelessness as a Draft. A key recommendation of the plan was the formation of a Lead Organization on Homelessness to implement strategies in the plan through coordination and cooperation with other organizations. A two-pronged strategy to finalize the work was identified: 1) to complete the plan by adding updated data from the homeless census and other sources and 2) to recruit a core group to serve as the initial board.

Issues: Little or no progress has been made over the past year-and-a-half toward recruiting board members. Some of this may be due to a lack of clarity in distinguishing the role of the Lead Organization and to concern over potential duplication of efforts. The low scoring of the 2007 Continuum of Care may be partly due to a lack of progress in the structure of the organization. On April 15, 2008, the Thomas Jefferson Coalition for the Homeless (TJACH) held a planning meeting at First Presbyterian Church. The sense coming out of that meeting was that TJACH could become the Lead Organization. A Structure Committee was formed. The group recommended that TJACH become the Lead Organization. At their May 20, 2008 meeting, TJACH adopted this recommendation. The Structure Committee is continuing its work to recruit board members.

Recommendations: The Structure Committee is generating a list of potential board members. The group plans to send out a letter inviting individuals to serve as board members, and to follow-up with phone calls. A draft letter is enclosed for review. Suggested signatories are: Mark Lorenzoni, Sally Thomas, Connie Brennan, Howard Evergreen, and James Howard.

Action Needed: Review and comment on the draft letter and process.

Effective Date: The goal for recruiting an initial board is December 2008.