

May 23, 2013-Housing Task Force Committee Meeting.

Chris: been doing it for 6 months, some progress, changes at the Rescue Mission, beds for additional 40 people. Center for Mental Health has old AGAPE center is nearing completion should be open by June 1st. TVs donated for each room. June 15th is the Beautiful Minds Walk. Vets waiting for the money to come through so they can open the Grace Home. Vets can stay for up to two years. Family promise is working on their 5013C designation and recently had a fundraiser which raised \$1700.

Mike said that the Westside Community Orchard is having their open house on Saturday from 10-1pm. The food raised will be donated to various food programs.

Youth: Jackson working with Lee, trying to come up with a facility for homeless students, 255 current, 277 for the year. The Rainbow Retirement home is working on building a food and clothing pantry to benefit the homeless students. Averaging 6 new homeless students per week.

There needs to be more counselors, get homeless students back to their homes, or keep them from leaving in the first place. The District is putting a \$981,748 levy before the voters in June. This will help address this problem. The Youth Committee is hoping to have a forum meeting next week sometime and find out what the students needs are.

Demographics aren't accurate, could be over 300, Students trying to get a job, some can't get one.

Vets: vets stand-down in September, they are thinking of having a focus group during the stand down, to help find out vets needs but vets don't want to be known as homeless. At the Stand Down, Vets can access eye, ear, nose, throat, optometric and dental appointments. They can also get free boots, sleeping bags and information about Health Care and other benefits and educational opportunities.

Bill said the Vet's shelter in the old Grace Home is complete, waiting for funding. Women Veterans face additional challenges? Key to getting them to come forward, Women in the Vet center.

Ex-Offenders: States are starting to assess offenders security risks differently, but not all facilities have the resources to provide the services. GED programs improving, re-entry programs are providing more classes, mental health services, more core classes required.

Families: Moving forward, slowed construction, relying on volunteers, moving offices out, putting beds in 7 rooms next week. In April they had to turn away 40 families. Normally they go to Salvation Army, they get a two day hotel room, but there is simply not enough room. Family Promise, (housing in churches) One church in Helena set up large Coleman tents for private family rooms. Strict restrictions, NO offenders, have to be in a program to try and re-integrate, must also learn budgeting, etc. . Congregations can either host, or support. Hiring a case manager for screening purposes. Defined group, group that has the most potential to become self supporting, and move into permanent housing.

Dr. Deb: Info gathering;

People, process, and product:

Committed people; produces quality of ideas; produces quality of actions; produces quality of results;

Problem, we're not homeless.

What is working: asking different groups what is and isn't working.

"Failure of foresight in leaders, difference between helping and meddling in their lives." A quote by Daniel Kim

Increase what is working, make sure increasing doesn't hurt it.

Have to go out and get input from all the different homeless groups.

If Networking is working, how do we increasing networking. We need to utilize more of the social media avenues to help get the information out there. We need a communications portal so people can go to it and find information. By the end of June.

Multiple solutions to hit multiple populations. Need more people trained to be facilitators to run small focus groups of no more than 10 people. A Facilitator training signup sheet was offered.

We need to make a plan in July for a meeting in August, all focus groups should have met by then and we will plan a ½ day meeting of the Task Force at the end of August. Need long term and short term goals by then. We need to get our ducks in a row and have an action plan to present to the public no later than October/November. We will keep Inter-faith meetings going through the summer to help keep the information flowing .

A suggestion of bringing in Income Property Managers and landlords to be included in the Task Force was voiced.

By August 1st should have the focus groups done.

Ray closed the meeting with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted.

Amended 6/6/13