

Advisory Committee on Homeless Veterans Meeting
September 15 - 16, 2008
DOUBLETREE HOTEL
201 MARQUETTE STREET NW
ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87102
Room: Copper

The Advisory Committee on Homeless Veterans met on September 15 - 16, 2008 at DOUBLETREE HOTEL Room: Copper.

Committee Members Present:

George Basher, Chairman
Roosevelt Thompson
Sam Galbreath
Ralph Cooper
Joseph Smith
Kathy Spearman
Craig Burnette
Joseph Autry
Leslie Lightfoot
Paul Moore (special consultant)

Committee Members Absent:

Charles Battaglia
Sandy Miller
Carlos Martinez
John Hilgert
Beryl Love

Peter Dougherty, the Committee's Designated Federal Official (DFO) was present

Monday, September 15, 2008

Chairman Mr. Basher called the meeting to order at 8:00 AM.

Introduced to the committee Mr. John M. Garcia, Cabinet Secretary New Mexico Veteran Services. Who gave comments on the status of homelessness in the State. Mentioned the recent per diem grantee the New Mexico Veteran's Integration Center. Introduced his aide Jane Mcgoogan who monitors Supportive Housing which deals with rental vouchers/ counseling with emphasis on reintegrate the homeless veteran into the community. He continued his discussion with the problems the State faces supporting homeless veterans. The problems he mentioned are: not many applicants for per diem grants probably because of lack of awareness, change from transitional to permanent housing, problems with HUD giving money for rental vouchers but not

supportive services, and a need for more collaboration and partnerships. Secretary Garcia introduced the local VA homeless coordinator Jeff Doyle.

Mr. Doyle Homeless Coordinator gave the committee a local perspective on homelessness. Briefed on unique challenges New Mexico has such as mostly rural state, large amount of poverty, many uninsured and cultural difference among Native Americans. Further detailed the staffing for the CBOCS which are at the four corners of the State which makes contact difficult.

Jason Ellis assistant Homeless Coordinator discussed the office Outreach Marketing Campaigns. Some proposals were posters, brochures, paring down state website and revamping info on the website.

National Coalition of Homeless Veterans (NCHV) Ms. Cheryl Beversdorf, President &CEO

Ms. Beversdorf briefed the committee members on technical assistance grants for non profits and on training and consultations on permanent housing and transition models.

She mentioned that progress in this area is because of two tracks approaches: Interactive and communication.

She concluded with stating that the NCHV website is an official registry for Stand Downs and announces GPD awards on the site too.

Peter Dougherty, the Committee's Designated Federal Official (DFO)

Mr. Dougherty briefed the committee members on legislative issues and budget authorizations.

Such as in the change in GPD appropriations in 2000 budget was 143 million and GPD was 31 million in 2008 budget is 312 million and GPD is 130 million.

Operational beds have increased from 2,300 to 9,800

He mentioned the large increase in HUD/Vash vouchers and updates on Permanent Housing.

Ex Officio Reports

Mr. Paul Smits, Associate Chief Consultant, Homeless and Residential Treatment Programs, Department of Veterans Affairs

Provided an update of VA's Homeless Programs:

Briefed on Grant Per Diem program. Discussed about more VA funding for Grant Per Diem program. Discussed some inconsistencies with facility inspections in the program.

Gordon Burke, Director of Operations, Office of Grants and Transition Programs Veterans' Employment and Training Service (VETS) (DOL)

Gave statistics on homeless veterans employment.

Mr. Mark Johnston, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

Explained HUD overall program with homeless veterans to include number of veterans served and the number of veterans assessed for the annual assessment report.

Mentioned the record request of \$1.6 billion for permanent housing

Increase in hiring case managers for HUD/VASH

John O'Brien Interagency Council on Homelessness

Focus to decrease chronic homelessness in the community the plan concentrates in these areas:

State Department of Veterans Affairs developing plans for housing homeless veterans

Encourage VA growing involvement

Identifying innovations and best practices: Home for Heroes, in recent Mayors conference 7 resolutions passed to end homelessness.

The Committee adjourned at 5:30 PM

Tuesday, September 16, 2008

Chairman Basher called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM.

Peter Dougherty, the Committee's Designated Federal Official (DFO)

Mr. Dougherty briefed on the site review board on property availability. Continued the meeting with review of committee's 2008 annual report. Complimented the Committee Report recommendations on Permanent Housing, Surplus Land, GPD payments, Women Veterans and Dental Care which brought about changes benefiting the homeless veteran.

The Committee adjourned at 12:30 pm for lunch and latered toured a local homeless program in Albuquerque.