

Oak Park Homelessness Coalition
Quarterly Coalition Meeting
February 1, 2018
10 AM – 12 PM
Oak Park Village Hall

News

- Annual Meeting – March 1
- Trustees Update
 - Have met with everyone except Anon
- RFP – Deadline is February 9

Homeless Success Story

- Amos' Story (available to read on OPHC website)
- Amos will be speaking at upcoming gala
- Sometimes we make assumptions about those who are homeless, this story demonstrates that is not always the case

Coalition Partners Presentation

- Michele Zurakowski – OPRF Food Pantry
- Presentation slides available on website
- Key Takeaways:
 - Food is basic human right -> hunger is solvable
 - 42 million Americans are food-insecure
 - Vulnerable population includes: seniors, children, people with disabilities, veterans, homeless population

Work Group Reports

- **Affordable Housing (1)**
 - Resolution that Housing Forward has adopted
 - Compensating benefits that allows the only mandatory requirement for public art (not adequate to address what is becoming a common crisis)
 - Evanston passed inclusionary housing ordinance
 - Albion project resulted in 15 set asides
 - Value diversity, both racial and economic
 - 21 speakers at Village Board Meeting on topic of affordable housing
 - New Moms has many families that do not want to live in Section 8 housing, want to stay in Oak Park, but don't have enough money to afford to live in this location
 - 52,000 people live in Oak Park, Oak Park has 20,000 units
 - How do we provide an array of housing choices and make sure it is open to people of all economic levels?

- How do the decisions get made about how is able to live in Oak Park?
 - This is largely left up to the housing market
 - Are we providing enough housing of different types to achieve diversity
 - There is a waiting list that still exists, originally populated in 2004, of people who want to live in this community – still people waiting
 - Elected officials need to be addressed near term
 - David Pope, Oak Park Housing Authority, currently having conversation with Lynda, Housing Forward, about 5 units that are available that they might be able to transition
 - Coalition writing/submitting proposal for RFP for 500K for short term rental housing assistance
 - If they are going to award the Coalition with RFP, then the program needs to be sustainable
- **Service Intersection (5)**
 - Spent last year identifying as many agencies as possible who touch homeless population
 - Working on screening tool – questions around food insecurity, mental health, safety, etc.
 - Also created list of local resources to refer clients to
 - Next step is training
 - Then comes logistics – how do you make time for case managers
 - How do we make sure the referrals are effective, get the info, bring the info on effectiveness back to the coalition and other agencies?
 - What can we do to close the loop on these referrals?
 - Oak Park Office designated walk-in center for coordinated entry system
 - How many agencies participating? **20**
 - Rush OP would be interested in how to utilize the services and how to refer as they run into many challenges on options for people
 - Biggest frustration is lack of resources
 - Financial capacity
 - NowPow – closed loop data connecting system
 - CMHB has put money in their budget to purchase this system so that everyone can use it (also looking into other similar systems)
- **Community Awareness (7)**
 - Planning speaking engagements – places of faith, external events, internal events
 - Want to be visible at other community meetings
 - More infographics – facts and figures
 - People’s stories – put a face to homelessness
 - Video – our stories, what agencies are doing to help the community
 - Need to redo website – likely in the second quarter of 2018
 - Delia’s and Live Café both have programs to help the homeless
- **Community Touchpoints (8)**
 - Progress

- Got D97 employees to sign data sharing agreement (Nov 27)
 - Armando met with social workers at D97 to increase connections there, need to focus on how to make referrals and how to keep this info in front of them every day
 - Have been in touch with Eboney Lofton who passed us back to social workers, now in touch with lead social worker
- Goals
 - Develop sharing agreement with D200, similar to D97's
- Achievements
 - Being able to communicate to public entity that prior to the agreement there was no formal process for connecting homeless families to declare homelessness at registration and then refer them to housing forward for services to get stable housing
 - Now we can open the door to communications between the two organizations
 - Still have to work out formal process, will make framework for how we think this should be designed
 - Changing people's behavior, not easy for people who are already busy to remember to do something they have never done before
 - Data sharing agreements are not easy and not common (yet)
 - Non-traditional access point

2018 Goals Working Session

- 4 different ways to weigh in on what we're doing in 2018
 - Today's meeting
 - Email core committee
 - Through work groups
 - March 1, Annual Meeting
- Teresa Powell – 2, 3 and 4 are related to things we are already doing
- Teresa Powell - #6 would be a step to explore as a new work group in 2018
- David Pope - #6 would be an interesting opportunity to expand footprint of the work of the OPHC
 - We might be able to link people to resources to able to afford living in Oak Park
 - John Harris – opportunity for partners affiliated with job support who haven't felt a need to be as involved in the past, give them more of a reason to come to the table
- Beth Stewart, Rush OP Hospital – She is also on the Chamber of Commerce board, would be happy to link the coalition
 - Many job groupings that the hospital has a difficult time finding people to take, entry level
 - Patient care – doesn't pay a living wage, but not a bad entry into healthcare system
 - Environmental services – 6-10 people

- Henry Fulkerson – need to have living wage ordinance
- Lisa Devivo – We are doing pieces of everything in the plan already, thoughts on revising and rolling items up into each other
 - #6 and #10 are the ones that need new leadership
- Lynda Schueler – add doing more with hospitals to community touchpoints, some work already being done, could focus on partnering with Rush OP
- Jim Madigan – supportive of #6
- Deborah Wess – Real estate as it pertains to Section 8 housing
 - 2 Problems
 - 1 – Landlords cannot discriminate on income, but can set a minimum credit score
 - 2 – The unit has to be inspected, housing stock is not often section 8
 - Lynda Schueler – use the other 500K in RFP to get buildings up to grade?
 - Cate Readling – communicate needed activities to team of people that could help paint and make stock more appealing
 - David Pope – important to system that nobody who has section 8 voucher is moving into a place that would be classified as a dump
 - Rehabing units ends up happening and landlord takes apart vintage interior to be able to reconstruct to meet codes
 - As soon as you tell inspectors that you will tear something out to bring to code, they will add to the list, increase price
- Gail Shelton – god idea for work groups to look at 10 to see if any can filter into groups already establish
- Barry Koren – likes 6 and 10, combine them
- Question of consensus around the things we talked about?
 - Revisit the plan to fold some elements into current work groups
 - 6 would be a nice addition to the work groups (separate group)
 - Teresa Powell and Deborah Wess have volunteered to start this group
 - 10 might be able to run through everything
- Advocacy (#9) hasn't been mentioned
 - In a way it is already happening and runs through everything
 - Michele Zurakowski – thinks advocacy needs to be its own group
 - David Pope – will get disproportionate bang for your buck if advocacy is not focused

Announcements

- Housing Forward Gala – February 24 – The Mid-America Club
 - Special guest: Chris Sullivan (Star of 'This Is Us')
- Lynda – submitted application to increase coalition's capacity to Housing Action Illinois for Vista member that we will share with core agencies
- Cate Readling – scholarships available through the park district, have been able to expand the website

- Henry Fulkerson – State of Racial Justice Report by UIC’s Institute for Research on Race and Public Policy
 - Thursday February 15 – 6:30 PM
 - Oak Park Public Library, Main Library, Second Floor
 - Sponsored by the Anti-Racism Committee of the Democratic Party of Oak Park Meeting

2018 Meetings

- March 1, 2018 – Annual Meeting
 - 7 PM – 9 PM
 - Oak Park Public Library, Veteran's Room
834 Lake St, Oak Park, IL 60301
- April 19, 2018 – Next Quarterly Coalition Meeting
- July 19, 2018 – 3rd Quarterly Coalition Meeting
- October 18, 2018 – 4th Quarterly Coalition Meeting