

Red Deer Housing Committee Minutes

November 25, 2008 – City Hall, Crimson Star Room

In attendance:

Jackie May, S. Fraser, J Vanderschaeghe	CAANS
Charlie Turnbull	CAWOS
Kelly Dodds	CIRS – Landlord & Tenant
Stacey Carmichael	RDDCF
Roxana Nielsen Stewart	City of Red Deer
Shae Godden	AEI
Mickey Warkentin	A Gathering Place
Jackie McCallum, Sherry Albrecht	Catholic Social Services
Michelle Sluchinski	Habitat for Humanity – Red Deer
Twila Harris-Olson	Employment, Placement and Support Services
Geoff Olson	Piper Creek Foundation
Mel Sawyer	RDNFS
Bridey Edgar, Shea Mullin, Candice Berry	Safe Harbour Society

Regrets:

Service Canada	Cindy Hay
DTHR - Mental Health	Terry Zibin

Chair: Jennifer Vanderschaeghe

Recording: Jackie May

1.0 Welcome & Introductions

- Roundtable introductions

Jennifer requested everyone indicate their holiday hours to determine what services will be available during the holidays.

2.0 Approval of Agenda

- Agenda approved as presented.

M/S/C Stacey/Charlie/Carried

3.0 Approval of Minutes – September 30, 2008

- Amendment to minutes:

6.0 Horizon Issues & Community Housing Update

CIRS – Landlord & Tenant Program has been put on notice that its funding *may* be discontinued as of January 1, 2009. The City of Red Deer is in the process of making their decision regarding this funding.

Approved as amended.

M/S/C Kelly/Jackie/Carried

4.0 Community Representatives Updates & Issues

4.1 Seniors Housing Committee

Geoff reported there are three focus groups planned for the New Year. The goal of these focus groups is to identify seniors' housing issues and needed support services.

4.2 Everyone's Home Advisory Committee

4.2.1 Committee Membership – Leadership Change

This committee is still lacking a representative from the business community. A new Chair was also required for the committee; Jennifer was selected to replace Stephen.

4.2.2 Reporting & Communications

The committee discussed how to report to the community and how to get feedback on the work we are doing. Further discussions will take place regarding how to enhance reporting processes.

At a community permanent housing meeting, the committee discussed the term “Housing First” and changing the language to permanent housing because housing first is a philosophy that can be applied to many projects and populations.

4.3 Community Leadership Initiatives

4.3.1 Leadership Project

Stacey reported that the leadership project will be researching community economic development opportunities.

4.3.2 Breadth Analysis

Stacey reported that there were discussions focused on identifying strategies for assessing outreach projects with lead partners. This was determined to be premature because we already know what the gaps in service are. A better use of funds would be to look at models of collaboration focused on supportive housing initiatives. Jeremy indicated an example of this would be the potential for case conferencing where outreach workers share clients to address their housing needs.

4.3.3 Winter Inn – Youth

Stacey reported that the Youth and Volunteer Centre did not get the funding requested for a 20 bed mat program.

Discussions took place regarding the need for an immediate action plan to address this situation in terms of what happens to youth once it gets cold.

Jennifer noted there are an estimated 20 youth who are not accessing shelter at night and finding other alternative (ie. couch surfing). The risk of not doing something is worse than doing something. This is an issue that may require some advocacy.

Stacey indicated there is a High Risk Youth Initiative Group that is meeting in December.

Task: **Jeremy** will email Colleen a synopsis of this meeting discussion regarding high risk youth and lack of access to night shelter to take to the High Risk Youth Initiative meeting.

Stacey will follow up with youth serving organizations regarding data collection on high risk youth and lack of shelter.

Jennifer will put this issue on the December management meeting agenda.

4.4 Housing Management Committee

4.4.1 Dreaming of Data – Vital Signs and EveryOne’s Home

Twila noted that there are several different mechanisms in place for reporting to the community on the vision and framework of Ending Homelessness including Vital Signs. Vital Signs is a good tool but it may be worthwhile to research if there are additional areas of inquiry needed.

Twila presented to the group the following questions: Are the indicators appropriate in Vital Signs? Is there more information we want? What else do we want measured?

Geoff suggested a meeting take place of executive directors and other appropriate people regarding what additional information is required in Vital Signs and have Janice facilitate the meeting.

Task: Twila/Jennifer to coordinate this meeting in conjunction with the housing management committee

4.4.2 Planning and Communications

4.4.2.1 Strategic Direction

Jennifer reported that it may be time for this committee to participate in a strategic direction setting meeting to ensure the committee is on track and to map out a workplan. Everyone agreed.

Task: Jennifer to coordinate a direction setting session as part of January’s meeting.

4.4.2.2 Housing Website

Charlie reported website update in is progress.

4.4.2.3 Cold Weather Planning & Winter Inn

From October 15 to December 18, 2008 there were 177 individuals that used the Winter Inn. 23 of which are female.

The people who utilize Winter Inn are from:

Red Deer:	50%
Central Alberta:	6%
Edmonton/Calgary:	12%
Alberta:	12%
Other provinces:	20%

Of the people using Winter Inn 32% report being employed, 19% state that they have a mental illness, 27% are from Aboriginal descent, and 60% report they have an addiction.

The age ranges of those using the program are:

18 - 30: 60

31 – 54: 111

55 – 64: 6

65+ : 0

4.4.2.4 Meeting Frequency

Forwarded to next meeting as part of strategic planning session.

5.0 Government Representatives Updates

5.1 Federal

Pam reported that to date funding will continue. It is not clear if funding will continue with current contracts or if new contracts will be required.

5.2 Provincial

5.2.1 10 Year Plan on Homelessness

Pam reported the 10 Year Plan on Homelessness was to be released before the end of December but now it will likely be held until February 2009 due to budget decisions.

5.2.3 Homeless & Eviction Fund

Shae reported as of November 1, 2008 the Homelessness & Eviction Fund policies & guidelines have been revised. Several service providers present discussed these changes and indicated that some of the changes have made the fund less flexible and accessible.

5.3 Municipal

Pam will be gone as of December 19th. Roxana has replaced Pam and is currently getting oriented to the position.

Jeremy noted the City of Red Deer, Michener Land application has been completed and they are awaiting final word.

6.0 Horizon Issues & Community Housing Updates

- **CAANS** – Winter Inn - Tune Up took place yesterday and an estimated 80 people came through.
- **SHS** – We are full. Also, some staff changes. Director of Housing is Colleen Markus and Lianne has moved to a different position focused on policy and human resources.
- **AEI** – Change in HEP Funding – running into barriers with community housing and with our clients.
- **Piper Creek Foundation** – New conceptual plan completed which includes the addition of 60 lodge suites and 20 apartments. 2nd phase includes a building with 50 apartments. It is hoped construction could start in 2010-2011.

- **EPSS** – EPSS is in our new location. Come visit.
- **Habit for Humanity** – currently finishing houses for 2008. 5 homes planned for 2009.
- **CSS** – 3 person home with brain injuries for DTHR recently opened.
- **City of Red Deer** – Jeremy indicated he is attending the provincial FCSS conference and will report back in January on the community economic development information as it looks like it will be really good information.
- **CIRS** – Kelly reported that CIRS is currently doing some advocacy work around the potential of losing the Landlord & Tenant program.
- **Women’s Outreach** – The Furniture program is now complete. Adopt a Family currently happening. Let us know if you have families. Dinner at Keg on December 7th for Single Moms’. The new outreach worker is Kelsey Steen and Charlie is moving to the position of Program Manager.
- **SHS** – Candice is leaving in the spring to return to Manitoba.

7.0 Next Meeting Date & Time

January, 27th, 1:15pm

8.0 Adjournment