City of Lawrence, Kansas
HOMELESS ISSUES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

January 10, 2017 Minutes (Lawrence City Commission Room)

Members present: Vivian Baars, Michael Brouwer, Mathew Faulk, Laurie Hooker, Erick Ogwangi, Teri Smith

Members absent: Trent McKinley, Dana Ortiz, Cary Strong

Staff present: Danelle Dresslar, Brad Karr

The meeting was called to order at 8:35 by Vice Chair Faulk.

ITEM NO. 1 Introductions

The committee members introduced themselves.

ITEM NO. 2 Approval of the Agenda and the July 12, 2016 Meeting Minutes

Motion by Smith to **approve the July 12, 2016 minutes of the HIAC;** seconded by Hooker.

The motion **passed 6-0**.

ITEM NO. 3 Receive Bert Nash Homeless Outreach Team 2016 3rd Quarter Report

Ogwangi asked what was the age of the clients served. Faulk said 18 and older; if they find a homeless unaccompanied minor, they are required to make a report to Child Protective Services to take over. Ogwangi asked if there were any demographics associated with the report. Faulk said the criteria asked for by the City in this report does not include race or gender. Faulk said nationally, the large majority of homeless individuals served are single white males.

ITEM NO. 4 Housing Vision Reports

a. Non-Housing – BoS CoC (*Deferred until PIT training item at 9:00am*)

b. Emergency Shelter/Temporary Housing – Willow Update – Liz Stuewe

Liz Stuewe was unable to attend the meeting; this item was deferred.

c. Transitional Housing/Supportive Services – LDCHA – Laurie Hooker

Hooker invited Eric Sader from the LDCHA to speak to the committee. Sader said transitional housing finished the year with around 15 families under lease in the City HOME TBRA program; 11 under lease in the SPMI program; nine in the Safe Housing program; two in the Next Step program; one in the correctional re-entry program;

38 in the VASH program. Sader said overall, 2016 averaged a 99% utilization of the 797 vouchers available. Hooker asked about New Horizons. Sader said New Horizons finished 2016 with five under lease, with a sixth family looking for a unit. Ogwangi asked how long the vouchers last. Sader said two years for the standard transitional programs, with an opportunity to receive a permanent Housing Choice Voucher at the end of the two years; children aging out of foster care last potentially up to three years. Brouwer asked the typical length of time to process an application for a transitional voucher. Sader said depending on the client's paperwork, it could be processed and to the eligibility committee within two weeks.

d. Permanent Supporting Housing – HOPE Building Update – Rae Johnson

The LDCHA HOPE Building has six furnished units, each with a kitchen, three have their own bathroom and three share a common bathroom. Individuals living in the building do not have to put any money down and do not have to have a source of income. The program is for chronically homeless with either a mental health or substance abuse disability. There are currently three openings, although two of those will be filled next week and hopefully one by the end of the month. There will still be two people on the waiting list after the units are filled. Ogwangi asked where they got referrals. Johnson said referrals come from LCS, Bert Nash, or others in the community working with homeless individuals.

e. Permanent Housing – Section 8 Program – Laurie Hooker

Hooker said the LDCHA is telling people the wait list for the Section 8 program could be 10 to 20 months for one of the 797 vouchers; there are a lot of people looking right now but inventory is down, especially for handicapped accessible lower floor units.

ITEM NO. 5 Calendar / Miscellaneous

The next meeting of the HIAC will be on April 11, 2017 and will contain an election for Chair and Vice Chair.

Ogwangi asked if any demographics on race were available on the homeless camping arrest stats provided at a previous meeting. Dresslar said she would check with the court system to see if demographics could be obtained.

ITEM NO. 6 Public Comment

Trey Meyer, Executive Director of the Lawrence Community Shelter, spoke to the committee on recent activities at the shelter. They tried to plan for the increase that comes with the cold weather by reducing the number of shelter guests to around 75 by September, which they accomplished. Since the end of October, they have averaged around 110 to 115 guests, with it

spiking up to around 135 in the real cold temperatures. They succeeded in managing the numbers down by a combination of being aggressive in getting people housed and being more discriminating in who is permitted into the shelter. New staff hires include Shine Adams as the Director of Operations and Program Development, and Mia Gonzalez as the Director of Development. LCS will be opening a satellite office in the United Way building to assist individuals at risk of homelessness and provide post move-out support. LCS, with the help of local agencies, recently got a family of eight housed; the family had been at the shelter for 425 days.

James Dunn, a private landlord, spoke to the committee about a problem he recently encountered at one of his properties. An individual was causing a disturbance which required the police to respond; the individual was already banned from LCS and had nowhere to go. Dunn said there is a gap for those people who are banned from the shelter with nowhere to go to spend the night. Hooker said there are some individuals who will not be housed; there will not be any type of gap housing for them. Faulk said of the 1500 people Bert Nash has worked with in the last ten years, he has only had two people who did not want to be housed. Faulk said there are lots of individuals that are difficult to house because of behavior problems, criminal issues or lack of income, but they still want to be indoors out of the weather; the challenge as a community is to be creative enough to find some stop gap that is appropriate for the specific segment of the people they are trying to serve. Hooker asked if Faulk could have a wish list of one thing besides money to assist these individuals, what would he chose. Faulk said 100 units, $0-$250 per month for rent, built in a way to be hard to damage, available at all times, loose rules in relation to what they could be kicked out for, has staff every day, but is not in an institutional setting. Meyer said LCS is planning on building an auxiliary shelter within the current LCS facility for the cold months and would be separate from the other residents. This would be for service resistant individuals and only to keep them alive with very basic mats, sandwiches and coffee. This would cost around $25,000 to $30,000 to build and needs the blessing of the City, and could allow the shelter to relax the ban rules a little since the populations will be kept separate. Hooker said it would be exactly what was needed in the situation Dunn described.

Jennifer Tuley, HUD VASH case manager with the VA, indicated there currently are five voucher openings and they are taking referrals.

ITEM NO. 7 Adjourn

Motion by Faulk **to adjourn the January 10, 2017 meeting of the HIAC**; seconded by Smith.

The motion **passed 6-0**. Meeting was adjourned at 9:29 am.

Attendance Record

Members	1/10											
Vivian Baars	+											
Michael Brouwer	+											
Mathew Faulk	+											
Laurie Hooker	+											
Trent McKinley	E											
Erick Ogwangi	+*											
Dana Ortiz	E											
Teri Smith	+											
Cary Strong	U											

X - Meeting Cancelled Due to Inclement Weather

E - Excused Absence

U - Unexcused Absence

() – Last meeting in term.

* - First meeting in term.

^ - Last Meeting

- Meeting not official – no quorum