



BLUE RIBBON PANEL on High Risk/High Needs Residents

MEMBERS:

Rick Allen,
Chair

Phillip Brooke,
Vice Chair

David Alger

Gina
Breukelman

James Collins

Corinne Dixon

Darin Dressler

Paul Ellis

Anne Fiala

Shana Johnny

Rose Lincoln

Pastor Lee
Madison

Edwina
Magrum

Michael Mirra

David Shirer

Bobbie Jo
Tarnecki

October 12, 2005 Minutes

5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Tacoma Municipal Building, Conference Room 1444

Members Present: Rick Allen, Phillip Brooke, David Alger, Anne Fiala,
Gina Breukelman, Marty Campbell, James Collins,
Shana Johnny, Rose Lincoln, Edwina Magrum, Michael
Mirra, David Shirer, Ralph Tomberg

Alternates: Kathleen Paulson, Bob Pearson, Jeanie Peterson

Guests: Lisa Cook, Ed Mahon

City Staff: Debbie Bergthold, Callie Cronon, Tom Dolan

AGENDA TOPICS

- **Introductions**
- **Reaffirm Progress**
- **Affirm List of high risk/high needs behaviors**
- **Review neighborhood learning points**
- **Next meeting Agenda**

The meeting commenced at 5 p.m. on October 12, 2005.

INTRODUCTION

Chair Rick Allen called the meeting to order and asked that all participants introduce themselves.

REAFFIRM PROGRESS

Chair Rick Allen reviewed the working papers that were passed out for the meeting. The working papers have information regarding the learning points from earlier discussions with various guests that have presented to the committee. Allen went on to say that the committee is at the point where they need to begin

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■ (253) 591-5151 ■ www.cityoftacoma.org/humanservices

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reaffirming the learning points. Also, the committee needs to make sure that the points they have discussed are adequately represented on the working papers and that all issues have been addressed.

Furthermore, Allen talked about the process for drafting a set of recommendations. Once the learning papers with the committee's conclusions are complete Allen will use them to produce a draft. He stated that the draft will be sent back and forth between the committee to obtain feedback throughout the process; versus a team of three or four members writing the draft. Allen also said the bulk of the document will be recommendations based on what has been identified from the interactive dynamics within the neighborhoods. Allen stated the committee has approached the information they've been presented as a dynamic set of interacting issues that are creating this dysfunction. The report itself will address the interactive natural of the dynamics, what the committee has identified through the panel and where the dynamics have been interacting in a way that is not healthy. In summary, the committee will take an overview of the dynamics they have been presented and make recommendations based on the learning points learned from the dynamics.

AFFIRM LIST OF HIGH RISK/HIGH NEEDS BEHAVIORS

The committee had found that there are high risk/high needs behaviors being displayed by people in institutions not just by people on the street. The committee has learned that unlicensed, entrepreneur and sometimes individual owned institutions are the biggest concern. It has been discussed that aggressive panhandling needs to be a topic in itself because it is one of the most seen behaviors. Furthermore, it has been suggested that citizens need to be educated about panhandlers to avoid stereotypes, fear and, more importantly, to avoid enabling them by giving them money.

The committee has found that a high risk/high need behavior belongs to landlords/housing providers that are not enforcing occupancy limits or taking aggressive action in response to criminal behavior of their tenants. Also, the fact that some housing providers are not licensed. The high risk/high need behavior of aggressive panhandling and the intimidation of people on the street was noted.

REVIEW NEIGHBORHOOD LEARNING POINTS

Neighborhood learning points have been discussed the past two meetings. Working papers were made to provide a summary of the learning points found at those meetings. After reviewing the working papers that suggest Neighborhood Council's as a solution for grievances it was brought up that the neighborhood council's need to be equipped to handle grievances first. Allen suggested that there needs to be something local, in the neighborhood, that has an institutional connection to the city and will allow neighbors to address grievances locally. Then the process proceeds through a connection in the city to make sure it happens on the neighbors behalf, without bias.

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It was brought up some neighbors fear their safety and don't face the problem because of fear of retaliation. The committee members suggested some type of template where neighbors can report problems and have someone else (i.e. CLO) fix them. For example, a city website where you can post problems could be created. It was again reiterated that volume drives action.

There are some assets in the community; CLOs, Safe Streets and Neighborhood Councils and the internet, that could be interconnected and used in new and different ways. It was also suggested that licensing fees for group homes/housing providers be high enough to pay for these projects. It was concluded that it is important to have some kind of structured system that allows the neighborhoods to represent themselves as a group so those concerns don't get lost. It was recognized that every system in the city is a complaint driven system and volume drives action, with the most prominent the 911 operator.

The meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Next meeting **October 19, 2005**
5 p.m. 747 Market Street, Room 1444.