

**Advisory Committee on Homeless Veterans Meeting
December 3- 4, 2007
RADISSON BAY HARBOR HOTEL
7700 COURTNEY CAMPBELL CAUSEWAY
TAMPA, FL 33607
Room: Chart**

The Advisory Committee on Homeless Veterans met on December 3 - 4, 2007 at RADISSON BAY HARBOR HOTEL Room: Chart.

Committee Members Present:

George Basher, Chairman
Roosevelt Thompson
Sam Galbreath
Ralph Cooper
Joseph Smith
Kathy Spearman
Sandy Miller
Craig Burnette
Joseph Autry
Charles Battaglia
Carlos Martinez
Ron Chamrin

Committee Members Absent:

Raymond Boland
Paul Moore (special consultant)
Leslie Lightfoot

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

Monday, December 3, 2007

Chairman Mr. Basher called the meeting to order at 8:15 AM.

Mr. Dougherty Committee's Designated Federal Official (DFO)

Presented certificates of appointment from Secretary, VA to Charles Battaglia, Ron Chamrin and Carlos Martinez.

Mr. Dougherty continued the meeting with comments on the National Association of Homeless Veterans discrepancy number of homeless veterans. Announced a recent bill was passed for 7,500 HUD/VASH vouchers. Discussed provisions in the bill with emphasis on Public Housing Authorities having more flexibility with vouchers going back into a pool. Also, announced the appointment of new VA Secretary. Mentioned hearing on 12/5/07 for affordable housing, Akaka

S2273 provision for supportive services grant for veterans in permanent housing and grants for outreach to inform rural areas.

Finally, Mr. Dougherty mentioned Draft Report on Incarcerated Veterans which was turned in to the Acting Secretary.

Presentations

Dr. Elizabeth Nunez, Homeless Veterans Dental Program, Director

Discussed general information on the dental program:

#1 need in this year's Chaleng report.

Discussed eligibility and funding.

Mr. Dougherty added that the committee should examine this pilot program:

To change funding from pilot to permanent as general medical care.

Change the eligibility groups since participants are only two out of 6.

Determine success by gathering data and measuring level of participation

Ed Bradley, Director Asset Enterprise Management

Mr. Bradley discussed Enhance Use Lease

Slide show covered topics such as:

Departmental Comprehensive Site Reviews

OMB requirements

Explained Enhance use and Enhance sharing

Chairman Mr. Basher added that transitional Housing due to the nature of funding is less controversial and more successful to develop. Recommends the committee should recommend that VA should look at all surplus land and set aside for housing.

Ex Officio Reports

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

Mentioned that the Section 8 vouchers received a billion dollar increase

HUD has two new initiatives:

25 million dollars for Prisoner Re-entry

25 million dollars for Homeless families

HUD/VASH increased 7,500 vouchers to 10,000

John O'Brien, Interagency Council on Homelessness (ICH)

He briefed that Phil Magano testified on 10/16/07 to Veterans Affairs Committee on the McKinney Homeless Act. Emphasized continuation on prevention.

Discussed the focus on 10 year plan to decrease chronic homelessness community from baseline.

The plan concentrates in these areas:

Regional with use of ICH resource guide

State Department of Veterans Affairs developing plans for housing homeless veterans

Encourage VA growing involvement

GPD

Identifying innovations and best practices: Project Homeless Connect, assertive Community Intervention

Kristine McLaughlin, Lead, HVRP National Program (DOL)

Discussed HVRP outreach which is an employment focus program.

Briefed on grants for stand downs.

Bryant Monroe WSO-OEA (DOD)

Discussed BRAC issues. Noted that not many veterans providers asking for space from BRAC.

Introduced a Colonel Adelman who works in Mr. Monroe office is developing plans to prevent homelessness with recent military discharges.

Keith Pedigo Associate Deputy Under Secretary (VBA)

Discussed claims processing for the year 838,000 claims with 824,000 rating decisions.

The Committee adjourned at 4:30 PM

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

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

Ex-Officio Reports

Paul Smits, Associate Chief Consultant, Homeless and Residential Treatment Programs, (VHA)

Provided an update of VA's Homeless Programs:

Incarcerated veterans staffing is expanded, republished resource guides for states.

Stand Downs have homeless courts.

Chaleng Report shows an increase participation and number of homeless veterans dropping.

Changes in DOM:

Use to be under Long Term Care now under Mental Health

Length of stay shorter than GPD

Information and Training:

Use of training modules to target providers and staff

Roger Casey, Grant Per Diem

Discussed scope of GPD program:

Application process

Match Issues

Guide Book

Hand book

Mr. Dougherty Committee's Designated Federal Official (DFO)

Reviewed significant issues for committee report 2008:

Chronically homeless definition to include OEF/OIF

Women Veterans

Dental Care

Multi-Family Housing may want to terminate program

Mental Health Task Force

GPD best practices, funding and payments to providers

Incarcerated veterans

Federal Partners the Ex Officios

Permanent Housing with supportive services

Surplus Land

The Committee adjourned at 3:30 pm.