A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT OF A TEN-YEAR PLAN
TO END HOMELESSNESS IN ORANGE COUNTY AND
APPOINTING A CARRBORO REPRESENTATIVE TO THE PLANNING GROUP
Resolution No. 98/2004-05

WHEREAS, the Board of Aldermen recognizes the need to work with Orange County, the Town of Chapel Hill, the Town of Hillsborough, the University of North Carolina and other housing providers to address the needs of the homeless in Orange County, and

WHEREAS, the problem can not be solved without all of the governments and housing advocates working together, and

WHEREAS, in October 2003, Triangle-area elected officials were briefed on the 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness initiative sponsored by the united States Interagency Council on Homelessness where the attendees were asked to begin a similar planning process in their localities. And

WHEREAS, Wake County and the United Way have developed a program that incorporates public forums and action-oriented workshops in the planning process for planning how to end homelessness. And

WHEREAS, Orange County, The Town of Chapel Hill, United Way, IFC Community House and the Community Initiative to End Homelessness (formerly known as the Continuum of Care) on November 18, 2004 hosted a Roundtable Discussion on Homelessness in Orange County with over 150 in attendance, and

WHEREAS, the attendees supported the idea of developing a ten-year plan to end homelessness and identified the need for the Towns of Carrboro and Hillsborough to be at the table.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE TOWN OF CARRBORO RESOLVES:

Section 1. The Board of Aldermen recognizes the need to be represented in the planning process to end homelessness and agrees to make an appointment to the Round Table Planning Committee, which currently consists of staff representatives from Chapel Hill, Orange County, Triangle United Way, IFC Community House, and Community Initiative to End Homelessness.

Section 2. The Board of Aldermen hereby appoints _____ to serve as its representative on the Round Table Planning Committee.

Section 3. It is further recognized that in the future the Town will be asked to participate financially in the development of this plan.

Orange County Homelessness Roundtable Discussion
November 18, 2004
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints

Group A: Ending Homelessness
Moderators:

I. ASSETS/STRENGTHS
1. UNC
2. Raleigh/Wake Program Example
3. IFC – volunteers faith communities in general
4. Caring/concerned government bodies
5. Input from community leaders and neighborhood leaders
6. Family specialists in schools
7. OC Continuum of Care – merging with community initiative to end homelessness
8. Wealth
9. Affordable housing agencies: EmPOWERment, Orange County Housing and Land Trust, Habitat, Women's Center, Board of Realtors, Chamber, Council on Workforce Housing, (www.workforcehousing.info)
10. Students at UNC, advocacy groups there – more focus and action
11. Data – work other communities have done to be strategic – focus on ending homelessness instead of ending poverty
    a. Website: National Alliance to End Homelessness, Corp for support, local pt in Time Council, NC Coalition to End Homelessness, IFC Collection of data for Orange County and Carrboro
1. Continuum of Care collecting data
2. Retired people to utilize
3. Free Public transportation
    a. Youth in elementary and secondary schools, scouts, etc.

II. BARRIERS
1. African American Communities being bought out – "Gentrification"
2. Stereotypes alive and well in community – lazy, dangerous, threat, ruining downtown
3. Attitudes of wanting to shut them out
4. Inconsistent response by town to homelessness – why does town criminalize them – laws against panhandling
5. Police Department – a lot is blamed on homeless that they do not do
6. Town wants to look as though we have no crime/homelessness
7. Hyper-focus on 10-15% of chronically homeless instead of 80% other homeless who are short term
8. Lack of sufficient data on the cost of homelessness
9. Lack of rental subsidy – rental housing is too expensive
10. Hidden homeless – especially women and children SHAME to identifying
11. Affordable housing only focused on ownership instead of renting

12. Dispassionate understanding of issue is difficult given the stereotypes
13. Cost of health care

III. WHAT NEEDS TO HAPPEN?
1. More community meetings, focused on specific topics and ideas
2. Volunteering by community people – learn about it face to face – Be ambassadors
3. Agencies need to ask for what they need
4. Amalgamate the data – town government, etc. Blue ribbon commission – make easily accessible and updated (PR)
5. Socialization and skills training – be productive citizens
6. Sleep in by students at shelter/on campus tent city – don't know who is homeless and who is not
7. Duplicate work by groups – bring groups together and have clearinghouse for info
8. Get town of Carrboro in on this process
9. Different kinds of homelessness examine all of them
10. Face on homelessness that students can relate to instead of those who are outside our experience
11. Lead to a coordinated community plan
12. Focus on the African American communities
13. Job loss – deal with it
14. Coordination between government agencies (hospitals, etc) and those working on homelessness.

Group B: Preventing Homelessness
Moderators: Julia Mack and Martha Hoylman

I. ASSETS/STRENGTHS
1. Culture of Caring
2. Providing support to keep housing and prevent loss
3. Provide housing when leaving institutions
4. Issue must be constantly in front of us
5. Media outlets: local cable programming
6. What causes homelessness – assess impact on businesses. Perhaps tax relief for homeowners as properties are developed and values increase
   a. Examples of Northern Orange County and Chapel Hill (Rosemary Street)
1. Local Government support to learn about and address issues
2. Credit and budget counseling programs
3. Resources to study what causes homelessness
   a. UNC
1. Developers can provide affordable housing in development
2. Strong neighborhood associations
3. Strong resource rich community
4. Shifting towards a service economy – means jobs in Orange County

5. Network of nonprofit organization
6. Lots of volunteers in Orange County
7. Surplus housing available

II. BARRIERS
1. What are the strengths of population that is being served?
2. Under funding of state and federal support
3. Need more study of what the needs are of our community
4. Non-inclusive processes
5. Distrust of government
6. Commercial developments maximize profit, but need to also contribute to community
7. Need inclusionary zoning
8. Many need to choose between paying rent and health care
9. People lose jobs because of lack of stable employment
10. Stereotyping and prejudging what people need
11. Easy to ignore and lack of awareness
12. The increase of people in poverty is straining support systems
13. Root of the capitalist system – priority is not on the disadvantaged. Poor people may not have good education, good jobs and we are dismantling the safety net
14. Society pressures
15. Lack in monetary resources but self-reliant in other ways
    a. $$ may interfere
1. Alternate economic paradigm
   a. Trading/sharing homes
   b. Barter
1. Discomfort of seeing homeless – making them invisible

III. WHAT NEEDS TO HAPPEN?
1. Get away from inter-agency "turfism" – more sharing of scarce resources
2. Address health care issues
   a. They are a drain on resources
   b. Need better control
   c. Families have no control
1. Local Solutions
   a. Despite state and federal obstacles
1. Pursue collaborative efforts across agencies e.g. continuum of care
2. NC Plenty – other economic instruments
   a. e.g. Time Dollars (www.timedollars.org)
1. Very long term problems
   a. 14 self help houses
   b. Apartments
   c. Community housing
1. Discharge planning
2. Affordable housing – more resources needed
3. Public Realm – vision of no homelessness

4. Link between disabilities and homelessness – how to address challenges
5. Priorities – where are we devoting our financial resources? Need to raise the priority of homelessness and frankly confront priorities
6. Link to Downtown Chapel Hill Plan and Comprehensive Housing Plan
7. Review/Search existing housing stock
8. Priorities: Where are we spending our money and are we putting resources in the right place?

Group C: Moving From Homelessness or Institutionalization toward Self-Sufficiency
Moderators: Gwen Burston and Polly Weiss

I. ASSETS/STRENGTHS
1. UNC Courses for people to re-tool for job training
2. JOB LINKS center on Franklin Street
3. Lots of Services and education and good matching
4. Transitional Programs for ex-offenders through
   a. Private employers
   b. Housing
1. D.O.C. Literacy Council – GED Education
2. Women's Center
3. Employers who are willing to hire people with disabilities
4. Orange County/IFC helping people avoid being homeless
   a. Providing $$ for groceries
1. Rural churches that connect with Town of Chapel Hill Awareness of homelessness in rural part of county
2. Mental Health reform
   a. Opportunity to align services to meet multiple needs
1. Free public transportation in Chapel Hill and Carrboro
2. Family violence prevention
   a. Rape Crisis Center offers free crisis services
   b. Healing from abuse
1. TROSA in Durham – for recovering substance abusers
2. Alternatives to incarceration programs
3. Discharge planners who know the risk for homelessness
4. Housing: there are unoccupied rental units – lower rent subsidies or tax break??

II. BARRIERS
1. Legal system - $$ to work with in system/defend self/lawyer costs
2. Arrest background/conviction affects job hunting and employment
3. Getting society to welcome ex-offenders back – societal factors and stigma
4. Multiple needs – lack of advocacy – need help navigating system and see the big picture
5. Group homes create social isolation
6. Misunderstanding about abilities of people with disabilities

7. Some needs – special challenges and don't fit "models" of needs and programs. Program structures are a challenge <u>for everybody</u>
8. Many come from manufacturing jobs -- no jobs available
9. Lack of child care and affordable transportation in rural Orange County
10. Those who do not want to be changed – not seeking permanent housing
11. Lack of affordable health and dental care
12. Waiting list for section 8 housing
13. Educating people about the availability of case management
14. Lack of large corporations – how can we get large corporate supporters?
15. Support agencies become enablers. Is there incentive by social service agencies to move clients on?
16. More collaboration among agencies
17. What does self sufficiency mean? Client defines
18. Plan should include strategy for those repeating cases seen regularly or special cases with severe life skill needs – broad range of needs

III. <u>WHAT NEEDS TO HAPPEN?</u>
1. Committee to educate landlords/Assess their needs
2. System-wide education about needs – long term goals
3. Community buy-in about need to end homelessness
4. More facilities in Orange County to house homeless folks
5. A broader definition of homelessness
6. Action alert emails to federal government officials about section 8 housing situation in Orange County
7. Additional housing for single men
8. Advocacy for Living Wages – hold employers responsible for living wage
9. Landlords need to make sure affordable housing is clean and safe
10. money

OPC
A r e a   P r o g r a m

100 Europa Drive, Suite 490
Chapel Hill, NC 27517

Billie J. Guthrie, MSW   Housing Coordinator   Phone 919-913-4166   Fax 919-913-4171

MEMORANDUM:

Date: March 1, 2005

To: Mayor Nelson and members of the Carrboro Board of Alderman

From: Billie Guthrie, Chairperson of the Community Initiative to End Homelessness

Re: Request for a Process to Develop a 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness in Orange County

I am writing on behalf of the Community Initiative to End Homelessness (formerly the Orange County Continuum of Care) to express ardent support for a resolution to implement a strategy for developing a local ten-year plan to end homelessness.

The Community Initiative to End Homelessness is charged with preventing and ending homelessness. Our goals are to encourage and promote community organization and education, resource development, an integrated continuum for housing and services, volunteer involvement and civic participation, individual and institutional financial commitment and advocacy for social justice and community responsibility. Our group meets bi-monthly and includes up to 50 members from non-profit organizations, government, schools, congregations, advocacy groups, foundations, private businesses and homeless or previously homeless individuals.

At our last meeting on January 10, 2005, the Community Initiative to End Homelessness voted to formally endorse a "Partnership to End Homelessness in Orange County." We believe a strong partnership between all municipalities and Orange County is essential to a successful ten-year planning process that is focused on ending homelessness.

The task of ending homelessness is vast and complex. The Community Initiative to End Homelessness is supportive of a ten-year plan to end homelessness for the following reasons:

- We believe firmly that no one in our community or beyond our community should go without a place to call home.
- All sectors of our community should be engaged in addressing and finding solutions to the complex issue of homelessness and poverty.
- A ten-year plan will create a set of strategies focused on ending homelessness, rather than containing the problem and making homelessness comfortable for those experiencing it.

The Community Initiative to End Homelessness stands prepared to contribute to this planning process. We are extremely pleased and encouraged by municipal and county efforts in addressing homelessness, in partnership and as a community.