

GUAM HOMELESS COALITION

Regular Monthly Meeting

January 21, 2010

I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 10:15 a.m.

II. ORGANIZATIONAL ROLL CALL

Voting Members/Organizations: Reina Sanchez (DMHSA), Margarita Gay (PHSS), Amor Say (GHURA), Bernie Grajek (Guma Mami), Geri Leon Guerrero (Homeless Advocate), Juan Trinidad (TSA), Greg Borja (Dept. of VA),

Non-Voting Members/Organizations: Rachel Kerry (Westcare), Samantha Brennan (Adult Drug Court), Benny Pinault (GHURA), Gina Cura (GHURA), Lou Hongyee (TSA/LRC), Paula Perez (TSA/LRC); Joanne Camacho (First Lady)

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

No minutes for this meeting

IV. REPORTS

Reports were tabled due to new business.

V. OLD BUSINESS

- A. **Binders for GHC Members** – Tabled until all information is provided.
- B. **2009 Action Steps** – included in Part C of the Grant.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Peoples Garden -Joanne Camacho (First Lady) – Presented to the coalition a project that she is asking GHC to sponsor. She stated that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) approached her to get her support in a project for the homeless. An attempt was made to have the manamkos be part of the project, but it didn't work out. So the idea came about of the Peoples Garden for the homeless. The First Lady stated that Chamorro Land Trust property has been identified for use. Property across from the Agana Pool. USDA and Department of Labor will teach the homeless to grow the plants so they can become self-sustaining. There will be tents and cots to be placed at the Peoples Garden for the homeless as well as container vans to be donated by Department of Corrections. This area will be primarily for homeless male individuals and the property behind Payless is identified for the women. No one will be assigned to manage or supervise this project. The Agana Mayor is very supportive of this project and he will help out during his work hours by checking the area in the morning and he will help with maintenance. The plan is to move the homeless to avenue so that the various agencies such as PHSS, The Salvation Army, MHSA, Department of Labor and other agencies can provide assessment for the homeless. This will not be a Safe Haven, but an area to bring the homeless together so we could assist them. In San Diego there is a park identified for the homeless so they could be seen and dealt with. This is the same concept being presented in the Peoples Garden. The First Lady is asking the Coalition's support in underwriting this project. She stated that if it works in Agana, we may find other properties from the Chamorro Land trust to do the same thing. The First Lady is working with GEPA regarding the land in Agana as it is considered swamp land. She is also working with the AG regarding liability concerns. Greg Borja stated that this is a viable project and we need to identify the players. He stated that the first 3 years is a learning

curve. As far as manpower, we should seek the help of AmeriCorps and consider Micro-enterprising. Greg Borja stated that he will do some research on this with the help of Paula Perez and Juan Trinidad. As far as the liability, Greg stated that we could have the homeless sign a waiver of liability. The First Lady also indicated that this project will start off with the pilot project at The Salvation Army Lighthouse Recover Center and then the next project will be at Karidad in Mongmong.

Point-In-Time Count – Greg Borja indicated that the PIT Count committee has been working really hard for the past 4 days. Training has been provided to the team leaders as well as the volunteers. He stressed the fact that the PIT Count is not a GHURA event but a GHC. So far we have over 129 volunteers. He stated that e-mails will be going out to team leaders regarding their team members. Nani Naholowaa is in charge of putting together the volunteers and she is doing a great job. The media has also been contacted regarding the count as well as the Mayors' Council. Greg has made a commitment to the mayors to provide them with the report on the homeless count. PIT Count is ready to go and the only problem we are having is with solicitations. Paula Perez indicated that all the solicitations are out, but they have been slow coming back. The PIT Count committee is planning to prepare 300 bags, but are short of things to put in the bag. She asked the coalition for assistance in soliciting. Things still needed are blankets, canned goods, health and hygiene products and t-shirts. The First Lady stated that she will be picking up a donation of toothpaste for the bags. Greg Borja stated that in regards to the PIT Count, Census is asking to meet with the committee to discuss their concerns. The Census is also conducting a homeless count. The Census is worried that once we do our count the homeless will not participate because they have already been counted. The Census will be meeting with SPC at 12:00 p.m. after the GHC meeting. Census is asking for our survey to review. Greg stated that it is important that our homeless count be conducted so that the data can be used in our grant application. It was agreed by the coalition that we can not afford to not do the count and that we should proceed with our count despite of Census also doing a homeless count. The SPC will meet with Census to discuss their concerns and will work amicably with them in making both counts successful.

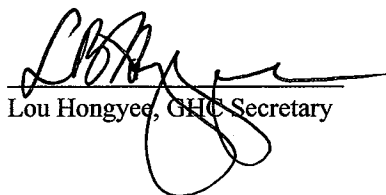
VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Reina Sanchez announced that SAMSHA will be providing TA to MHSA in the next week.

IX. Adjournment

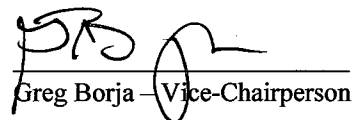
Meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

MINUTES PREPARED BY:



Lou Hongyee, GHC Secretary

MINUTES APPROVED BY



Greg Borja – Vice-Chairperson