

GUAM HOMELESS COALITION
Regular Monthly Meeting

February 18, 2009

I. CALL TO ORDER

- Meeting was called to order at 10:35 a.m.

II. ORGANIZATIONAL ROLL CALL

- Voting Members/Organizations: Anisia Terlaje (WVA), Amor Say (GHURA), Shirley Lee (Sanctuary), Anna Kenny (Oasis), Lou Hongyee (TSA)
- Non-Voting Members/Organizations: Lerma Duaroson (DPHSS/BOSSA), Juan Trinidad (TSA), Ken Roldan (TSA), Simeon Kihleng (TSA), Margaret Hattori (UOG), Jon Unsay (UOG Student), Jerry Pura (CSS), Ray Salas (DPHSS)
- Administering Agency (GHURA) Staff: Gina Cura

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- December 17, 2008 minutes was read by the Secretary. Ray Salas motioned to approve the minutes with the following corrections on page 2 of 2 to add the word "of" ...Jesse Catahay stated to finalize the restructure of the Policies and Procedures. Motion was second by Juan Trinidad. Minutes approved.

IV. REPORTS

a. One Stop Homeless Assistance Center (Simeon Kihleng)

- Stats for January 2009 reflect a dollar value of assistance totaling \$1,020
- Number of families and individuals seeking assistance have grown from 2007 by 1,000 households.
- Due to the lack of funds, eligibility questions, and follow up, 170 households were not provided assistance.
- Members discussed stats and who is being provided the information. This led to the discussion of a centralized database which is already in existence. The database is the HMIS acronym for Homeless Information System, which is being maintained by The Salvation Army in particular Ken Rodan and Juan Trinidad. Members discussed agencies entering data into HMIS. Grant recipients are mandated to input data into HMIS others may do so voluntarily provided they have staff to input,

hardware, and whether or not the license can accommodate the additional users. Motion was made by Ray Salas to allow all the members of the Homeless Coalition to be trained to participate in HMIS. Motion carried.

b. Lighthouse Recovery Center (Lou Hongyee)

- Lack of payment from Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse. Contract still being circulated for signature from the appropriate government officials. LRC in dire need of funds to continue running the programs.
- Suggestion was made by the chairperson to make an appointment with senators and have a round table discussion with the funding agency and LRC and any other organization having difficulties getting their funds released.
- LRC is also experiencing key staff shortage. Two Recovery Counselors resigned leaving existing counselors to double their workload.

c. Oasis (Anna Kenny)

- Experiencing the same funding problems as LRC. Oasis has not received their signed contract from MHSA.
- Applying for alternative funding by working with partner agencies and coalition members and through this effort they have been awarded a Rape Prevention Grant through the Department of Public Health and Social Services. Working with the criminal justice system by putting together an action plan specifically to address funding issues in the hopes of getting funding through SAMSHA and other funding sources.
- Oasis also involved with issues regarding Human Trafficking. They are working with other concerned agencies such as the FBI, immigration and the task force.

d. Sanctuary Incorporated (Shirley Lee)

- Sanctuary is also experiencing funding problems as a result of non-payment from MHSA. The lack of funds is jeopardizing the Sagan Na Homlo program.
- Sanctuary is working with a gentleman named Chris who is making a documentary on the Road to Recovery. The documentary will be at Sanctuary and DYA and other organizations.

e. Liheng (Jerry Pura)

- Six units are available. One 2-bedroom unit under renovation.
- Catholic Social Services also assists with job placement for their clients.

V. RECRUITMENT/REFERRAL OF NEW MEMBERS

- Members were asked to submit information regarding their agency and their programs to be provided in a recruitment packet.
- As part of the recruitment packet, Anna Kenny will provide the flyer prepared earlier regarding the information on the Homeless Coalition.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

a. Homeless Count (Amor Say)

- As per Amor, the homeless count is still not available. When provided by the contractor, she will e-mail the information.

b. Policies and Procedures (Amor Say)

- Amor stated that none of the members in the Policy and Procedure Committee is present at the meeting. The members decided to table this discussion until the members of the committee are present.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

a. Homeless Outreach (Amor Say)

Last year, the homeless outreach "Passport to Services" was on March. Due to the recent homeless count, Amor suggested having the outreach in April. The tentative schedule is April 22nd. Venue was discussed by the members. A suggestion was made to have the outreach at the University of Guam field house, but the members wanted a more centralized location. Chamorro Village was suggested, but it was decided that this location is too busy during the day. Ray Salas suggested having the outreach at the Kamalen Karidat area near the open field. The members liked this idea. Amor to check availability.

A motion was made by Lou Hongyee to have a separate committee to plan this outreach. After a discussion, the members decided to table until next meeting.

b. 2009 Action Steps (Amor Say)

- The members were provided a copy of the 2009 Action Steps for Continuum of Care. The Chairperson stated that members who receive grant monies must be aware of this action plan. The members were asked to read the information for discussion at a later time.

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Amor informed the members of the visiting officials from off-island from the Veterans Administration. They will be present at the next Homeless Coalition meeting. Should members have questions for the officials, e-mail Amor. Members were encouraged to attend.
- Simeon Kihleng informed the members of the outreach by the Family Services Center at the Yigo Machanaonao (Gil Baza) area. The community is coming up with a list of things they want FSC to provide such as employment training, how to fill out an application. FSC is providing this outreach on a Saturday.
- Juan Trinidad informed the members of the HMIS training sometime in May and the regular HMIS held every third Wednesday of the month at 1:30 p.m. at FSC.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

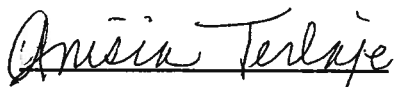
Motion to adjourn made by Anna Kenny second by Lou Hongyee. Meeting was adjourned 12:15 p.m.

MINUTES PREPARED BY:



Lou Hongyee, GHC Secretary

MINUTES APPROVED BY:



Anisia Terlaje, GHC Chairperson

GUAM HOMELESS COALITION

Regular Monthly Meeting

March 18, 2009

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. ORGANIZATIONAL ROLL CALL

- **Voting Members/Organizations:** Anisia Terlaje (WVA), Amor Say (GHURA), Bernie Grajek (Guma Mami), AnnaMarie Kenny (Oasis), Greg Borja (Department of Veterans Affairs), Lou Hongyee (TSA)
- **Non-Voting Members/Organizations:** Mark Martinez (CSS), Juan Trinidad (TSA), Ken Roldan (TSA), Mary McEwen (TSA), James F. Wang (Governor's Office), Joann Camacho (Interagency Council for Homelessness/Governor's Office), James F. Wang (Interagency Council for Homelessness/Governor's Office), Robert Ruecho (Interagency Council for Homelessness/Governor's Office), Ron Quitugua (Interagency Council for Homelessness/Governor's Office), Elisabeth Cruz (Governor's Office), Josey Leon Guerrero (Homeless Advocate)
- **Special Guests:** Rick Velasquez (Department of Veterans Affairs/Honolulu), Roberta Rosenthal (Department of Veterans Affairs/San Francisco)
- **Administering Agency (GHURA) Staff:** Gina Cura

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- February 18, 2009 minutes was read by the Secretary. Amor Say motion to correct the spelling of Karadat to Karidat on VII New Business (a) and (b) 2009 Action Steps to read...2009 Action Steps for the Continuum of Care Grant. Amor Say moved to approve the minutes as corrected. Bernie Grajek second. Motion carried.

IV. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

- First Lady Joann Camacho – Inquired as to the agencies that were missing in the meeting. The secretary reported that Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Department of Public Health and Social Services, and Department of Labor. Stated that as a part of the Interagency Council on Homelessness (ICH), she is grateful that the GHC co-exists with the ICH and partnering with the non-profit and business sector for supporting the cause in addressing homelessness on Guam.
- Rick Velasquez introduced himself as the Homeless Program Coordinator for the VA Pacific Islands Health Care Division which includes Hawaii, American Samoa and Guam, and Saipan. He indicated that Guam is unique in that this is the only site other than Honolulu that has dedicated program staff to the VA homeless.

- Roberta Rosenthal, Regional Director for the Homeless Program. Covers the biggest region in the country includes Hawaii, Guam, American Samoa, Saipan, Northern California, Reno, Nevada.

V. VA Visitors –CHALENG Form (Roberta Rosenthal):

- The 2 page survey “CHALENG-Community Homelessness Assessment Local Education and Networking Group” were distributed to members to fill out .
- The form assesses the needs of the community both met and unmet needs. Report goes to congress once a year and as a result VA gets funding.
- The good of the survey is that HUD had awarded 10,000 vouchers to house homeless vets. Last year, in the budget Guam received 10 vouchers. Five vouchers have been put in the hands of veterans and they are getting their housing and five more available. Due to the efforts of the Governor and the First Lady, Guam will be receiving 10 more vouchers. What is unique about the vouchers is that only two stipulations that would prevent a veteran from getting this voucher that is if they are a sex offender and if the income is too high. VA is encouraging veterans with family. Prioritizing but not limiting to chronic homelessness.
- Members are encouraged to inform Greg Borja if they know of homeless vets.
- Indicated that in the minutes the GHC is having an outreach. Bobbie stated that VA can fund up to \$3,000 a day. This is called a Stand Down. The event must target veterans and specifically outreach to the vets. Bobbie asked the group if they would be interested in applying for funds. She said that the members can work with Greg Borja. If the Coalition is interested, they need to get in the request by April 30th and GHC must get the request to Bobbie Rosenthal a week before the 30th. Since the Outreach is on April 24th, it was stated that it may be possible for VA to pay for expenses up front and be reimbursed. Bobbie stated that GHC can indicate that we are having a one day outreach specifically for the veterans. Work with GHC by paying for bills and VA will pay them back. Someone needs to be a point of contact person and work with Greg Borja. This person must come up with a list of what is needed.
- Members were encouraged to visit the website: www.va.gov and go to the homeless section for the Grant and Per Diem. NOFA out in March 25th. Two types of funding for this grant per diem program: Bricks and Mortar if you want to buy a building or renovate. VA will pay 65% with the agency paying 35% match. The other is the Per Diem Homeless. You will apply for certain number of beds. This goes out once a year.
- Stats: Average age for a homeless vet is 50 years old. Marital status 94% are not married. Employment-Full Time is 19%, Part-time is 26%. Period of service: Vietnam era 40%, Post Vietnam 43%, Persian Gulf 12%. 3,000 have been deemed homeless within the past four years.
- Greg Borja pointed out to the group that to show how the Continuum Care for homelessness is working. The veteran who used the first voucher was in the LRC

- Residential Shelter and then to Shelter Plus Care. Later, he was able to transition to the Section 8 Housing. The Continuum of Care really works, it helped the veteran be stable medically and through mental health. He is collecting disability and social security benefits. It really does work.

VI. Old Business:

a. Organizational Informational Packet (Bernie Grajek)

- Lou, Amor and Bernie putting together an organizational packet. A binder with dividers to include by-laws, contact numbers the last two Continuum of Care grant application. Copies of the Minutes will be three hole punched so that it will be included in the binder. As it starts to get heavy, take the old information and store it elsewhere. The binders will be provided next meeting.
- Members are reminded to provide information on their organization

b. By-Laws (Mary McEwen)

- No update on the by-laws. Lis Cruz agreed to assist with the By-Laws committee.

c. Homeless Outreach (Amor Say)

- April 24th at the Tamuning Gym. Outreach meeting will be this afternoon at 1:30 p.m. Everyone is encouraged to attend. The First Lady will be there. Juan is coordinating with the University of Guam to rent their mats. 6:00 a.m. to prepare and finish at 3:00 p.m. Everyone who wishes to provide services let Amor know.
- Margarita Gay reported as to what PHSS is providing. Chronic Screening, Immunization is strictly for homeless children, does not have the numbers for adults. Flu shots is available for adults but will be limited. Dental varnish will be available. Working with the Doctor as to what they will be able to provide.
- Amor stated that GCC will provide health screening and eye exam. Hair cuts will be also available. Bernie stated that she set aside 500 first aid kits and trying to get backpacks. Amor is thinking about putting together 500 backpacks. Need toothbrushes and thinking of including canned goods. The Salvation Army Food Bank may have MRE's available. Salvation Army staff will check.

d. 2009 Action Steps (Amor Say)

- Everyone was provided 2009 Action Steps. Please review your copy. Amor will provide more copies as it is a part of our application. We need to start working on our Action Steps.

VII. New Business (Lou Hongyee/Anisia Terlaje)

- Before every meeting fill out the form. In order to minimize, came out with five areas. Come to the meeting, fill it in for the record and hit the highlights. If anyone, wants to add on contact Lou.

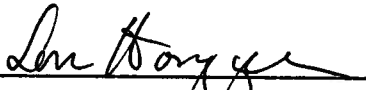
VIII. Announcements

- **(Amor Say)** RFP for the Homeless Prevention Fund. Guam is receiving 1.2 million. Federal Register will be out March 19th and March 20th our date. Our Formula Grant for CDBG and ESG deadline is April 3rd.
- Member inquired as to the information on the homeless count. Amor received the draft and is still doing the review and analysis. The number went down by 16%, but does not mean that the homeless went down. Don't worry just about every jurisdiction their numbers went down. Amor will e-mail the results as soon as she gets the information. Sonya Artero will be having Amor, Anisia and the First Lady on KUAM News Extra on March 19. They will discuss the Interagency Council for Homelessness, The Guam Homeless Coalition as well as the upcoming homeless outreach.
- **(Bernie Grajek)** Indicated that Guma Mami was able to get a grant to fund their Art Workshop from the National Endowment for the Arts. They were able to get funding for two instructors. Art workshop classes taught by two instructors. Monday and Tuesday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Hoping to get funding extended since they have 20+ in the class.
- Informed the group that I Famaguonta is looking for a home for a family recently evicted and has the court attached to it. Judge Barcinas is asking CPS and Dept. of Mental Health to address living situation of this family. The young man is incarcerated with DYA because his family does not have a home for him to come home to. The goal is to reunite the young man with his family. The last report is that there are six available units at Liheng. The problem is the unit is under renovation. There are people on the waiting list. They have to qualify as homeless and they can be able to hook up their power and water. The Salvation Army is able to assist with the power and water.
- **(Ron Quitugua)** Community Affairs at the Governor's Office is called the Constituents Services. Broken up to 3 parts: Community Base Service Representatives, Micronesian Center, and the Guam Medical Referral . Any events coming up: e-mail ron.quitugua@guam.gov for the information and will post.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made by Lou Hongyee second by Bernie Grajek. Meeting was adjourned 12:15 p.m.

MINUTES PREPARED BY:


Lou Hongyee, GHC Secretary

MINUTES APPROVED BY:


Anisia Terlaje, GHC Chairperson