

BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE ON THE HOMELESS Minutes 3-21-2011

Attending: David Wright, Alan Cassidy, Frank Ploof, Cynthia Hamilton, Vanessa Czopek, Steve Madison, Michael Moradian, Brad Wilson, Joe Muratore and Darryl Fair.

1. Reviewed past minutes
2. Amended agenda to approve guest speaker Dennis Harsh
3. Approved note taker Sarah Pena
4. Officer Billy Hamilton and his partner from the Modesto Police Department's Crime Reduction & Nuisance Abatement Team presented a powerpoint on the community impact of homelessness. It included the \$ cost to the community and the services their team provides: patrolling problem areas, responding to community complaints, identifying Habitual Transient Offenders, partnering with community services, scheduling clean up of problem areas and educating public on crime prevention.
5. Dennis Harsh, a board member of Save Haven, spoke about the outreach services and facility they are attempting to provide to the homeless in Sacramento. They are recruiting well known entertainment and sports figures to give inspirational talks to try to motivate homeless to change their situation and accept the many services the city provides.
6. Aaron Farnon from Stanislaus Housing and Support Services Collaborative (SCHSSC) spoke about his organization. They advocate, coordinate and optimize services for men, women and families who are homeless in Stanislaus County. They have been awarded more than \$13 million in grants from the federal government which they distribute to local groups that provide various services for the homeless including transitional and permanent housing. The funding is performance driven.
7. The group discussed need to educate public about the many services that are currently available and the need to get the public to stop giving money directly to the homeless which only goes to feed their drug and alcohol problems.
8. Councilman Joe Muratore suggested we limit future meetings to just one speaker.
9. Glen Hudson from BHRS was not able to attend today's meeting. He will be asked to attend the next meeting.
10. Next meeting is scheduled for April 18<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. at Tenth Street Place. Room to be determined.

Respectfully submitted: Sarah Pena