

# Interim Report of the ad hoc Task Force on Permanent Supportive Housing to the Fort Worth City Council

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January 26, 2015

## Background

On August 26, 2014, the Fort Worth City Council created an ad hoc Task Force on Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) and requested that it perform the following tasks:

- (a) Conduct an inventory and analysis of existing permanent supportive housing in Fort Worth and Tarrant County;
- (b) Investigate best practices among comparable cities and urban counties in Texas and other states;
- (c) Formulate appropriate criteria for the development of permanent supportive housing in Fort Worth and Tarrant County; and
- (d) Evaluate alternative policies and strategies for the development of permanent supportive housing and advise the City Council accordingly.

The Council further requested that the Task Force produce an interim report of findings and, after receipt of public comment from interested citizens, a final report of the Task Force's conclusions and recommendations be delivered to the Council no later than April 28, 2015.

### Task Force Members

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|--|------------------------|
| 1. Councilmember Kelly Allen Gray, Chair | 8. Perry Pillow        |
| 2. Councilmember Danny Scarth            | 9. Alex Jimenez        |
| 3. Councilmember Dennis Shingleton       | 10. Flora Brewer       |
| 4. Tarrant County Judge Glen Whitley     | 11. Norbert White      |
| 5. Andy Taft                             | 12. MaryEllen Wellbaum |
| 6. Barbara Holston                       | 13. David Zappasodi    |
| 7. Lee Nicol                             |                        |

## **Activities to Date**

To date, the PSH Task Force has met four times.

### **October 23, 2014**

- Window tour through Fort Worth eastside neighborhoods;
- Discussion of the CitySquare portfolio of affordable and permanent supportive housing;
- Tour of CityWalk@Akard, a permanent supportive housing development in the central business district of Dallas;
- Tour and discussion of CitySquare Opportunity Center (also located in Dallas), a comprehensive project that will provide a food distribution center, wellness center, and employment training center, and
- Window tour of the site of The Cottages, an \$8 million housing project for the chronically homeless.

### **November 24, 2014**

- Fernando Costa provided an overview of the task force charge and work plan;
- Heather Lyons, a consultant with the firm, CSH, provided information on the “dimensions of quality in supportive housing” as well as detailed descriptions of supportive housing activities in other communities; and
- Otis Thornton provided an overview of existing supportive and affordable housing throughout Fort Worth

### **December 22, 2014**

- Otis Thornton presented an overview of the City’s Directions Home plan and the final report of the 2014 ad hoc Task Force on Homelessness
- Heather Lyons presented a permanent supportive housing financial and production model for Fort Worth

### **January 26, 2015**

- Deirdre Brown of MHMR Tarrant County will provide an overview of supportive services in permanent supportive housing;
- Naomi Byrne of the Fort Worth Housing Authority will provide information on the development and operation of mixed-income housing, including lessons learned; and
- Otis Thornton will present on permanent supportive housing development policies

## Key Concepts

The Task Force on Permanent Supportive Housing has studied and discussed a great breadth of material. Three key concepts that have emerged include:

1. Permanent supportive housing delivered with a Housing First approach, improves public safety, reduces public sector costs, and helps the most vulnerable members of our large and fast-growing city, live better lives.
2. Permanent supportive housing is a subset of quality, affordable, accessible housing.
3. Quality, affordable, accessible housing that is well-designed, strategically located, and professionally managed is a financial and social benefit to neighborhoods and the community at large.

## Work Plan

The PSH Task Force has an ambitious plan for the remainder of its work. The plan, which is included on the following page, and all of the Task Force materials are accessible to the public on the City's website:

<http://fortworthtexas.gov/boards/homelessness/supportive-housing/>





## Permanent Supportive Housing Task Force

<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Meeting Agenda</b>	<b>Working Documents and Presentations</b>	<b>Outcomes</b>	<b>Council-assigned Tasks</b>
<b>October 10/23 1:00 – 5:00 Tour</b>	Scope & Extent of Homelessness in Tarrant County  Definition of Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)  Tour of PSH: Woodhaven, Dallas	2014 DH Fact Sheet  PSH Basics and Housing First Supplemental Stats	Participants will gain baseline knowledge of the problem to be solved, an introduction to the terminology of PSH, and eyeballs on local supportive housing stock	(3b) Investigate best practices
<b>November 11/24 @ 3 – 5pm*</b>	Best Practices  Distribution of Existing Supportive Housing and Affordable Housing	Best Practices: Dimensions of Quality; Housing First ; Community Profiles (7)  Housing Distribution Maps	Presentations and handouts will provide participants with an understanding of best practice standards, the housing first approach, and the distribution of housing in our community	(3a) Conduct an inventory and analysis of existing PSH
<b>December 12/22 @ 3pm</b>	Overview of Directions Home plan and 2014 Homelessness Task Force Report  Financial and Production Model	Financial & Production Model	Participants will understand how to develop a model for the financing and production of 600 units of PSH	(3b) Investigate best practices  (4) Interim Report
<b>January 1/26 @ 3pm</b>	Overview of Supportive Services in PSH, and Mixed Income Development  Development Criteria  Draft Interim Report to Council	Draft Development Criteria  Draft Interim Report	Final Development Criteria	(3c) Formulate appropriate criteria for the development of PSH
<b>2/3/15 @3pm</b>	Deliver Interim Report to Council	Final Interim Report	Council input on progress to date	(4) Interim Report
<b>February 2/23 @ 3pm</b>	Policy & Strategy Development	Draft Policies & Strategies	Final Policy & Strategy Options	(3d) Evaluate alternative policies and strategies for the development of PSH
<b>March 3/23 @ 3pm</b>	Public Meeting	First Draft Final Report	Task Force members will receive public comments on Draft Report	(4) Conduct one or more public meetings
<b>April 4/6 @ 3pm</b>	Review & Approve Final Report to Council	Second Draft Final Report	Final Report to Council	(4) Final Report
<b>4/21 @ 3pm</b>	Deliver Final Report to Council	Final Report	Council adoption of recommendations	(4) Final Report

\*An agenda for each meeting will be posted on the City's website: <http://fortworthtexas.gov/>. The November meeting will be held at Samaritan House, 929 Hemphill St., Fort Worth, TX 76104; ALL OTHER meetings will be held at City Hall, 1000 Throckmorton Street, Fort Worth, TX 76102, from 3 – 5pm.