



Oklahoma Health Equity Campaign Partner Meeting Minutes  
March 28, 2013

**Attendees:**

**VC= Video Conferencing**

Nicole Alexander, Community Health Centers Incorporated. (CHCI) OKC  
Allison Ball, Oklahoma Health Care Authority (OHCA) OKC  
Melody Ball, Empower Oklahoma, OKC  
David Boeck, Oklahoma University (OU) OKC  
Karla Brown, Health Equity and Resource Opportunities Division Oklahoma State Department of Health, OKC  
Jevonna Caine, OSDH Community and Family Health Services, OKC  
Shaina Cerilus, OSDH Turning Point, Lawton (VC)  
Robin Chipman, OSDH, Center for the Advancement of Wellness, OK C  
Mary Daniels Dulan, Metropolitan Fair Housing Council, OKC  
Sherry Ehrhart, Oklahoma Department of Human Services Aging Services, OKC  
Jeff Hamilton, First Christian Church, OKC  
Deborah Hicks, Office of Disability Concerns, (ODC) OKC  
Janea Hogan, OSDH, Craig County Health Department, Vinita (VC)  
Jeff Hughes, Progressive Independence, OKC  
Eric Jaekel, Washington County Wellness and Housing Coalition, Bartlesville (VC)  
Albert Janco, ASME, OKC  
Donna "M'Liss" Jenkins, Washington County Wellness and Housing Coalition, OSDH, Bartlesville (VC)  
Sarah Johnson, OSDH Turning Point, Cherokee County, Tahlequah (VC)  
Joni Jones, Oklahoma City County Health Department, OKC  
Julie Ketelsen, OSDH Turning Point, Altus (VC)  
Keith Kleszynski, Turning Point of Central Oklahoma, United Way, OKC  
David Lee, OSDH Health Equity and Resource Opportunities Division, LLLS Master Trainer, OKC  
Aline Ludwig, Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) OKC  
Richard Marshall, Oklahoma City Housing Authority, OKC  
Jo Miller, Hope Clinic, Elk City (VC)  
Regana Mouser, Telligen, OKC  
Gene Naukam, LLLS Trainer, OKC  
Marisa New, OSDH Health Equity & Resource Opportunities Division, OKC  
Nicole S. Prieto Johns, OSDH Administrative Services, OKC  
Natasha Riley, Washington County Wellness and Housing Coalition, Bartlesville (VC)  
Elton Rhoades, OCCHD, OKC  
Dan Straughan, Homeless Alliance of OKC, OKC  
Valencia Stiggers, Office of Disability Concerns, OKC  
LeeAnn Tyson, Red Rock Behavior Health Services, OKC  
Dana Webb-Randall, OSDH Comanche County Health Department, Lawton (VC)  
Rebekah Zahn-Pittser, Oklahoma Department of Commerce, ODOC, OKC  
Tony Zahn, TEEM, OKC

**New Members:**

David Boeck, Jevonna Caine, Shaina Cherilus, Deborah Hicks, Eric Jaekel, Sarah Johnson, Elton Rhoades, Naasha Riley, Angela Rogers, Valencia Stiggers, Lee Ann Tyson, Tony Zahn and Rebekah Zahn-Pittser.

**Welcome/Introductions:** Jeff Hamilton, OHEC Chair

**Update:** Living Longer, Living Stronger Expansion of the Chronic Disease Self Management Program - Zach Root, OKDHS Aging Services Division

The Living Longer Living Stronger (aka CDSMP) program is a 6 week program developed through Stanford University, where groups of 10-15 people meet once per week for 2 ½ hours for a 6 week period and discuss ways to handle their chronic pain or condition. This program has operated in the State of Oklahoma for 6 years and we received an additional 3 year grant from the Administration on Aging (AOA) that runs through the fall of 2015. The program works with a variety of state agencies, such as the Oklahoma Department of Corrections, Oklahoma Health Care Authority, Area Agencies on Aging and a variety of local community partners. Our goal is to spread the program throughout the state, in the next couple of years we will be focusing on our tribal and Latino populations. If you are interested in partnering with the Living Longer, Living Stronger program please contact Alixa Lee at DHS or David Lee at OSDH.

**Draft Review:** Housing and Health Position Statement – Richard Marshall, OHEC Steering Committee Member  
Policy Recommendations: See Attached Revision with edits highlighted.

**Q & A:**

**Q: (OKC)** What is being done to make sure that housing is accessible to public transportation to the people who move there?

**A. (Richard Marshall, OKC Housing Authority)** There are two types of housing:

- Section 8 housing: We do not control where the families move to or live.
- Public Housing: The property is owned by the housing authority, and all of those properties are accessible to the public transportation.

**Q: (OKC)** With Section 8 housing is there a way to strongly encourage that the housing paid for by section 8 be on public transportation lines.

**A: (Richard Marshall, OKC Housing Authority)** That is not something we would enforce or attempt to enforce. There are a lot of things that families take into consideration on where they live, such as school districts or specific neighborhoods close to their church or jobs.

**(Dan Straughan, Homeless Alliance)** For our clients, when the housing authority gives us a housing choice voucher or section 8 voucher, public transportation is one of the things that our case managers are looking at for our client. Part of the problem is that we do not have a robust public transportation system in OKC. When we built the WestTown campus, with 40 homeless serving agencies all on one block, we spent \$25,000.00 doing a bus cut out on the promise that I would have a bus stop there, then we were told the bus drivers do not like making left turns so we will not go to this location. We see almost 300 people a day, and almost all of our clients if they are not on bike or foot use public transportation. This does have health impacts on everyone.

**Comments:** PowerPoint presentation available upon request.

Governor's Interagency Council on Homelessness – Rebekah Zahn-Pittser, Oklahoma Department of Commerce

The three main goals of the Governor's Interagency Council on Homelessness (GICH):

- Created to promote collaboration amongst stakeholders
- Develop and implement strategies to improve access to services and mainstream resources.
- Promote and support ways to develop affordable and permanent housing

To find out additional information about our efforts we have a newly created website: [www.homelessinoklahoma.org](http://www.homelessinoklahoma.org)

There are regional networks called Continuum of Care, (CoC's). These networks are normally multi-county, but some will include one city, such as the (CoC) in Oklahoma City.

The goals of these regional networks are:

- Organize and implement plans to provide housing and services to meet specific needs of those who are literally homeless or at risk of becoming homeless
- "No Wrong Door"
- Developing Centralized Intake Process

For more information on CoC's go to [www.hudhre.info](http://www.hudhre.info)

**Presentation/Discussion:** Power Point Presentation available upon request.

"100,000 Homes, Oklahoma City Campaign" – Speaker: Dan Straughan, Executive Director, Oklahoma Homeless Alliance

**Q & A:**

**Q. (Beckham County)** Do you ever run into people being resistant and not wanting to get into a home?

**A. (Dan Straughan, Homeless Alliance):** Yes, we do. People sometimes do not want housing; you just have to keep after them. Sometimes the denial of the housing comes through the lens of serious substance abuse or mental health issues. When they understand that you are not requiring them to quit drinking to get into the housing, or get rid of their dog they generally agree. On that one day you can get them to agree, you have to move quickly. That is why it is important to have partners like the OKC housing authority, who can enable you to move very quickly and remove the barriers from getting them into a home. Of the 50 that we have done no one has resisted for more than a day or two.

**Q. (OKC)** When you were here last year you had Real Change Vouchers, do you still give those out?

**A. (Dan Straughan, Homeless Alliance):** Yes we do. They're called "Real Change" vouchers and they're actually a response to panhandling. The idea is that you give a Real Change voucher to a panhandler (instead of cash – which is sometimes put to unhealthy uses) and it's good for a free MetroTransit ride from anywhere they pick up to the stop(s) nearest City Rescue Mission, Grace Rescue Mission, or the WestTown Homeless Resources Campus. People can find them on our website: [http://www.homelessalliance.org/?page\\_id=37](http://www.homelessalliance.org/?page_id=37)

**Comment: (OKC)** I attended the public transportation meeting and the figure stuck in my head, when a councilman stated that the budget for Metro Transit is only 12 Million. It was stated that we do not have a dedicated funding source for our public transportation system in OKC. We are very blessed to have the system we have, but it can be better. We need to have more people involved in trying to get a dedicated funding source for public transportation in our city.

**Q. (Washington County Coalition):** Do you have any specific suggestions on enlisting participants in the 100,000 home campaign. We do not have a great deal of infrastructure on that but how do we approach it whether it be churches, community partners, home builders or landlords. Do you have any advice on how to start the conversation?

**A. (Dan Straughan, Homeless Alliance OKC)** We had the cost study which helped us go to the entities involved to show them the costs they were incurring. And show them in dollars and cents what they were spending on services such as hospitals, fire and police etc. This made it easier to get them on board with the plan. For the faith community we ended up going with some umbrella faith organizations rather than individual churches. We let them bring their individual players to the table. You also need the service providers, such as substance abuse, mental health, housing and homeless shelter providers to the table. For us getting the homeless shelters to the table was a stretch, they are dedicated to the housing readiness model.

**Q. (Washington County Coalition):** Did you have trouble getting the landlords or housing authorities to lift some of their eligibility criteria?

**A. (Dan Straughan, Homeless Alliance OKC)** As far as Landlords, that is an ongoing challenge in a market like ours. Properties are probably 95% rented up. So, the landlords can kind of pick and choose who they rent to. We are fortunate in Oklahoma City as Richard mentioned we have the HUD-VASH Program

which combines housing choice voucher rental assistance for homeless veterans with case management and clinical services provided by the VA. This program has been very successful for a number of years. So, this enables us to go to the landlords and then going to the landlords in groups, like the residential real estate council and say we can guarantee you an income stream through the section 8 vouchers, and also let them know that the individuals will have professional case managers not only checking in on them, but the landlord will have the case managers phone number too if there is a problem you can call the case manager and they will be on the problem.

**Q. (Washington County Coalition):** Who case manages the individuals that are placed through the 100,000 homes project? Is it the regular service providers?

**A. (Dan Straughan, Homeless Alliance OKC)** We have all these providers at our table, and we staff every other week. We look at the individuals and what their problems are, and we assign a lead case manager based on the major need of the client, then we have subsidiary case managers who might handle another issue. We have 40 agencies on the team, so it is spread out where we try not to have more than 10-15 clients per case manager. This is considered the national model on how many clients a case manager should have.

**Q. (OKC):** As we all know the availability of accessible housing is ridiculous. We had a lady we were working with who has a severe disability, is pregnant with twin, and we were trying to find an accessible unit with is readily available. We have been working for a long time trying to get the best strategy or approach to increasing the availability of safe, affordable, accessible housing. How can groups such as the Governor's Interagency Council on Homelessness, and the Oklahoma Health Equity Campaign help put a little more emphasis on coming up with concrete strategies on increasing the availability of these units.

**A. (Mary Dulan, Metro-Fair Housing, OKC):** We would like to see accessibility added to the OHEC position statement. Just to point out the need for this because this is an ongoing issue we are facing. We appreciate all that the housing authorities are doing to provide affordable housing, but we are hitting a brick wall when it comes to accessible housing. The housing authorities are doing the best they can as far as trying to make the units affordable and accessible, but the numbers of units needed are increasing to a critical level. The other dynamic is that if the unit is accessible to a person in a wheel chair who operates it by hand, it may not be accessible to a person in a power chair due to the width of the chair.

**A. (Richard Marshall, OKC Housing Authority):** We had people with disabilities in mind when we wrote the health and housing position paper, but we will be adding the word accessible to the position statement as well.

### **Local Presentation:**

Washington County Housing and Wellness Coalition – Donna M'Liss Jenkins, Natasha Riley and Eric Jaekel

### **Q & A:**

**Q. (OKC) –** You talked about developing housing units in the core of Bartlesville; I am working with the City of Norman on how to put age friendly housing that is affordable in the core of Norman. How are you encouraging builders and developers to build in the core of Bartlesville?

**A. (Washington County Coalition)** Walkability is key, we've had several opportunities in the downtown area of Bartlesville, for example the Phillips Hotel, has been turned into loft based apartments. It is an example of a building that might have been torn down, but fortunately someone intervened and decided it would be a good use of the building. Five years ago this might not have even been a consideration, but because of the activity in the downtown and the focus on revitalizing the downtown area this project was possible. We have also looked into a whole block of homes that are not only addressing the low income housing, but also

the market rate housing needs. The issues are complex, but what we've tried to do is find out what is the best area nearest to the downtown area that can serve the population we are targeting. One of the things that we are looking into is voluntary at this time but inclusionary zoning, which requires inclusion of low-moderate housing in new residential developments. Our interests in having this sort of developmental area is to make it clear that you can do this affordably from a builders perspective, but also in the selling of the homes.

Another incentive that is being used is tif financing: this stands for tax increment finance district. Basically, it is a way that the community sets aside taxes for a certain agreed upon time and those monies go directly towards benefiting that particular finance district.

**Q. (OKC)** How did you address public transportation when you are putting in housing?

**A. (Washington County Housing and Wellness Coalition.)** Transportation was a big issue for us, so we developed a bus route system that is designed for where we felt the biggest need was. Our line has stops at our local mental health center and other health services, and the cost is \$.25 and during the summer when school is out families with children can ride for free. This program was piloted last year and was hugely successful. Our next plan is to go for a sustained funding stream for this program through our city council.

**Comment: (OKC):** This is another reason to get to know the Oklahoma Housing Finance Agency. This agency is also responsible for the tax credit program for the State of Oklahoma

Marisa New shared a flyer from Legal Aid Services of Oklahoma. There is a program where Legal Aid helps individuals facing possible foreclosure and other mortgage problems, this programs helps them work towards the best possible solution to avoid foreclosure. These services are free to lower income homeowners. This program is part of the Attorney General's "Resolution Oklahoma" Program. Flyers are available in both English and Spanish and will be provided upon request.

**Final Comments and Request for Announcements:** Richard Marshall, OHEC Steering Committee Member