

Homelessness Social Work Council

February 1, 2018

Meeting Notes

Present: Katie Allston (Marian House), Errol Bolden (Coppin State), Sarah Butts (UMSSW), Donna Earling (UMSSW), Caroline Fernandez (SAMHSA), Katherine Fornili (UMSON), Angela Jachelski (UMSSW), Daniel Mullins (UM School of Pharmacy), Adam Schneider (UMSSW), Gene Severance (UMSSW), Mary Slicher (Project PLASE), Diane Marie St. George (SOM School of Public Health)

By Phone: Samuel Little (UMSSW), Yvonne Perret (SOAR)

Guest: Officer Yale Partlow, Homeless Outreach Liaison, University Police

Opening Remarks

Sarah Butts welcomed the Council and introduced Officer Yale Partlow, the new homeless outreach liaison. Under the new leadership of Chief Alice Carey, the UMB Department of Public Safety has established a homeless outreach office, which is part of the Campus Outreach and Support Team (COAST). On January 31, the UMB Police and COAST sponsored a Homeless Outreach Symposium. The guest speaker, B.B. St. Roman, executive director for the New Orleans' Police Department Homeless Assistance Unit, talked about how their police department interacts with the homeless, the services they provide, and the challenges they face. The symposium was well attended with staff from different schools and organizations across the City. [An article about the symposium is attached.]

UMB Homeless Outreach

Officer Partlow informed the Council of the COAST pilot program, which the campus police are implementing to better service homeless individuals and those at risk in the campus community. The pilot models the Baltimore Police Department's Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) Program for minor violations. It has been successful in diverting individuals from incarceration and improving public safety. When a call is received for drug abuse or prostitution violation, the LEAD-trained officer will conduct a screening to determine whether the individual is eligible to receive services instead of being arrested. If the individual is eligible for services, the officer contacts the district attorney to let them know. Instead of being incarcerated, the individual is taken to where they can receive services. The LEAD team offers a lot of different

services, ID documents, housing, rehab, etc. One caveat, the individual cannot have any open warrants, unfortunately many do.

Officer Partlow has been given the authority to expand his range of duties (e.g., transport to doctors's appointments). He and several officers have taken crisis intervention training, and there is a big push to make the training standard. The training provides a new perspective on homelessness and those suffering with mental illness.

It is a new police culture. The BPD's model includes a social worker and a registered nurse who work with the police. We are interested in having students intern. Dr. Little will work on getting a student assigned to the program. Katherine Fornili from the School of Nursing could place a student. Someone certified will need to supervise them.

Yvonne Perret teaches mental health first aid training for those who are not mental health professionals – there is a module for police officers. She would be happy to work with the school.

Carline Fernandez from SAMHSA can connect him with PATH people. SAMHSA has a center for serious mental illness on the streets and they have a PATH webinar slotted for criminal justice. She can provide connections and resources.

This is a great opportunity to develop inter-professional education at UMB for servicing the homeless; all our students/schools can pull together. Adam Schneider will find someone from the Law School. The University of Washington has created a tent city on campus to provide services and care. It would be good if we could provide a space. Our new police chief is familiar with the tent city and the challenges. For the most part it has been a good movement.

Professional Development Day

Dr. Little discussed holding an event to bring the community service providers to the school during the last week of March (Social Work Month), perhaps the last Friday, March 29. He is looking for a keynote speaker and a panel, and would like to offer CEUs for the half-day event. The other schools would be involved and we would offer a resource package. He is contacting the Mayor's Office of Homeless Services to get them involved with co-sponsoring. There could be a photo gallery. He asked the Council for ideas to make it exciting and engaging.

What would be the draw? A book signing and keynote speaker might not be enough to attract them. We could have a dialog with the community providers to learn what their needs are and connect them to classes and resources. He is open to suggestions for a speaker. There is DAO committee and a NASW conference on March 29.

The meeting adjourned for lunch at 11:45 AM.