



## Blue Ribbon Task Force: CW & Z&S%\$ Bullet Points

- Recap Previous meeting, clients presented testimonies
- Future meetings: May have others present testimonies
- Mr. Winter's testimonial
  - ◊ His General Assistance (GA) hearing has been pending for months
  - ◊ Food Stamps (FS) and GA are active
  - ◊ Aid Paid Pending is a manual process
  - ◊ Concerned about having to call Appeals to receive grant
  - ◊ Once deemed unemployable he will not receive bus pass
    - Possible solution is to activate case immediately, (grant appeal)
    - Mental Health Advocates indicated they offer bus passes
    - There is a need for affordable housing
- Community Coalition Presentation:
  - ◊ Overview of Regulations
  - ◊ Building Opportunities for Self-Sufficiency (BOSS) & East Bay Community Law Center (EBCLC) Vision
  - ◊ Goals may have conflicts
    - Unemployment tied to GA recipients
    - Decrease of percentage of revenue in GA
    - Real unemployment rate may be closer to 26%
      - ◊ Oakland may be at 34% (17x2)
    - Need for better measure in budget's net county cost
  - ◊ Collaboration with county services needs, e.g. Community clean up with unemployable GA population
  - ◊ Leverage resources in new (vision) program.
  - ◊ If we address 25% of population in need, then we can quickly make a positive impact
    - 8.2% Chinese speaking population
    - 17% Are 64 years and older
  - ◊ Addressing parolee population needs assist other county issues including public safety. Also assist parolee families, e.g. summer skills programs
  - ◊ Suggestion to add a labor market expert to group
  - ◊ Include WIB/Employment Services
  - ◊ Look at Prison enrollees/discharged population and unemployables in that group.
    - 2/3 caseload is African-American
    - 52% are middle aged or older
    - 45% do not have High School Diploma
    - High mental health illness
    - When time limits went into effect, roughly 4,000 GA recipients were designated unemployable. The number has held fairly constant. Presenters questioned whether additional GA clients should be so designated.



- ◇ Breakdown in communication and conveying services availability
- Yolanda Baldovinos-SSA Director:
  - ◇ Appeals Decision time frames should be looked at due to possible services delays
  - ◇ Issue – Internal system problems
  - ◇ SSA has an SSI advocacy unit, and through contracts supports a significant number of SSI advocacy slots. Other public organizations support SSI advocacy as well. And Advocacy is available from private attorneys. Nevertheless, the current advocacy is far from adequate to provide services to all 4000 unemployable GA clients.
  - ◇ Social Services has increased SSI/Advocacy and seen some results. Impediment to immediate services is large need
- Changes needs to be fiscally sound
- It would be a wise investment to allocate funds to clear SSI Advocacy backlog
- SSA estimates that about \$ 3 million will be returned to the GA program this fiscal year through recoveries that occur when GA clients successfully transition to SSI
- SOAR Model (National model active in different locales, including Portland, OR)
  - 2 Tier model
    - ◇ Expedited SSI
    - ◇ MOU with Federal Government
      - Flag severally disabled individuals
  - ◇ Alameda County is working with the SOAR model

Housing and Transportation:

- Due to foreclosure dilemma: suggestion to use large venues for housing services
- High number of individuals with mental health issues
- Look at Housing Data taking into account many applicants are not self-reporting homelessness due to decrease in grant; thus it is critical to have accurate data.
- Suggestion: Transportation vouchers.
- Next meeting December 2<sup>nd</sup> @ 2pm 2011– Meetings will be held Thursdays
- Future Meetings
  - ◇ 1/6
  - ◇ 2/3
  - ◇ 3/3
  - ◇ 4/7
  - ◇ 5/5