



Meaningful Collaboration: Maximizing the Opportunity of
Interagency Councils on Homelessness

July 16, 2012



Purpose

Explore techniques that establish and strengthen the work of state and local Interagency councils through engagement, collaboration, and goals clarification.



Agenda

- Welcome, Framing, Flow
- Check-In
- Cafes
- Open Space
- Check-Out
- Closing Remarks



Brief Introduction

Please share:
Which state or city are you from? And,
Do you have a state or local ICH?



The National Context: Opening Doors

Opening Doors, the federal plan to prevent and end homelessness, is based on partnership with state government, local government, and agencies directly housing and serving homeless persons.

It is simply unacceptable for individuals, children, families and our nation's Veterans to be faced with homelessness in this country.

- President Barack Obama



Purpose of the Plan

Targeted, solutions-driven goals

- Cost-effective/strategic use of government expenditures

Roadmap for joint action by 19 Council agencies

- Guides development of programs and budget proposals

Set of priorities the federal agencies will pursue over the 5-year period: FY 2010 - FY 2014



The National Context: Opening Doors

Goals of Opening Doors

1. Finish the job of ending chronic homelessness by 2015
2. Prevent and end homelessness among Veterans by 2015
3. Prevent and end homelessness for families, youth, and children by 2020
4. Set a path to ending all types of homelessness



Opening Doors

Five Themes

1. Increase leadership, collaboration, and civic engagement
2. Increase access to stable and affordable housing
3. Increase economic security
4. Improve health and stability
5. Retool the homeless crisis response system



Opening Doors Across America: A Call to Action

States and Communities are encouraged to

1. Align your community plan with *Opening Doors*
2. Set targets and measure results
3. Act Strategically
4. Partner in the national efforts to end homelessness



Purpose of a State Council

A State Interagency Council Coordinates the State-Wide Response to Homelessness

Create a state plan to prevent and end homelessness that assesses overall needs, coordinates resources, and promotes national best practices. SICHs can facilitate alignment of state-wide and local plans with the goals, vision, values, and strategies of *Opening Doors*.

Foster the development of local community plans to end homelessness throughout the state.

Recommend policy, regulatory, and resource changes needed to accomplish the objectives outlined in the state plan.



Purpose of a State Council (Cont.)

A State Interagency Council Coordinates the State-Wide Response to Homelessness

Ensure accountability and results in implementation strategies.

Create a state wide partnership with local stakeholders and local elected officials through Continuums of Care and Ten Year Planning Councils.

Promote a research-driven, performance-based, results-oriented plan and implementation strategy.

Sustain a non-partisan approach to address homelessness.



Establishing a State Council

A State Interagency Council on Homelessness can be established in one of three ways:

1. Executive Order of the Governor
2. Executive Order and Legislative Action
3. Legislative Action

The most common vehicle of creation is an Executive Order that identifies membership, meeting frequency, functions, and timeframe.



Council Membership State Agency Officials

Representatives from the following Elected and Appointed Statewide Offices:

- Governor's Office
- Lieutenant Governor's Office
- Judicial Offices
- Attorney General's Office
- State Fiscal or Comptroller's Office

AND...



Council Membership State Agency Officials

Secretaries & Commissioners (or their Representatives) from the following Departments, Agencies, and Resources:

- Housing & Housing Finance
- Substance Abuse & Mental Health
- Veterans Affairs
- Office of Management & Budget
- Social Security/Disability Determinations
- Managed Care Entity
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
- State and County Corrections/
Public Safety/Juvenile Justice
- Education
- Labor/Employment Services
- Welfare
- Medicaid
- Transportation
- Children & Families/Youth Services
- Health & Human Services/Homeless Services



Council Membership Stakeholders

State Councils should include non-state and community stakeholders as part of the Council. These are critical members as they add grassroots perspective to the Council. Some states have non-state officials as co-chairs. Councils can include the following:

- Local Federal Officials
- Local elected leaders
- United Way and Philanthropic Groups
- Business and Corporate Representatives
- Local Continuum of Care Representatives
- People with first hand experience of homelessness (currently or formerly)
- Providers of Homeless Services, including Veteran - serving Groups
- State Advocacy Group Members
- Faith-Based Representatives



Council Membership: Federal Agency Representatives

1. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) – Field Office Director, CPD Director or Regional Administrator
2. Veterans Affairs (VA) – VISN Director or VISN Network Homeless Coordinator
3. Labor (DOL) – Regional Liaison to state or WIA Directors/Administrators
4. Health and Human Services (HHS) – Regional Liaison to state
5. Social Security Administration – Field office director
6. Agriculture (USDA) – State director
7. USICH – Regional Coordinator



Council Organization

Three Alternative Models:

State Officials + Stakeholders meet as a combined group.

This is the recommended model.

State Officials and Advisory Group of Stake Holders Meet Separately

State Officials Only



Discussion Themes

- Organizing Councils for Action
- Sustaining Progress and Increasing Impact
- Challenges in Meaningful Collaboration and Maximizing Effectiveness of Councils



Check-In

Who am I and what matters to me about ending homelessness?



World Café

- Small conversation groups of 4-5 people
- 3 rounds of questions
- Table Hosts
- Moving between tables
- Harvesting out Answers



Café Etiquette

- **Focus** on what matters
- **Contribute** your thinking
- **Speak** your mind and heart
- **Listen** to understand
- **Link** and **connect** ideas
- **Listen together** for insights and deeper questions

Play, Doodle, Draw – Have FUN!



Café 1: Organizing Councils for Action

What wise actions and strategies have you used to establish an effective interagency council (state or local)?

How can Council members be inspired to make and follow through on commitments that advance progress on ending homelessness?



Café 2: Sustaining Progress and Increasing Impact

How do effective interagency councils measure progress and communicate results?

What are some suggestions to sustain interagency council momentum, and integrate new partners?



Open Space

What concerns or challenges exist in meaningful collaboration and maximizing the opportunity of Interagency Councils to end homelessness?



Check-Out

What will I do in the next 60 days to strengthen the connection between the goals of my United Way and our collective work to end homelessness?



Assistance from USICH

Regional USICH Coordinators throughout the country are available to provide support and guidance in the development and operation of your Council.

Clearinghouse of proven solutions and state contacts is in development by USICH to support the implementation of State Council strategies and will be available on www.usich.gov.

Connection/Introduction to Technical Assistance by Council Member Agencies.



Tools to Help

Visit the USICH Toolkit: www.usich.gov/tools

The screenshot shows the homepage of the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness. At the top left is the USICH logo. To its right is the organization's name and tagline: "United States Interagency Council on Homelessness. No one should experience homelessness. No one should be without a safe, stable place to call home." On the top right, there are links for "Subscribe to our Newsletter", "Site Map", and "Contact Us", along with a search bar and "Advanced Search" link. A navigation menu includes "Funding & Programs", "Resources", "Opening Doors", "Partners", "Take Action", "Media Center", and "About USICH". The main content area features the heading "Tools for Local Action" with a breadcrumb trail "Home > Resources > Tools for Local Action" and a "share this page" button. Below the heading, there is a paragraph explaining that the toolkit was created as part of the Opening Doors Across America Initiative. A button links to "Visit the Opening Doors Across America page". Another paragraph states that the toolboxes below contain resources to help local communities. A section titled "A Guide to Developing a State Interagency Council" is also visible, with a sub-heading "Specific information about how to establish a Council, tips on effective structure, and details on needed partnerships to ensure success".

United States Interagency Council on Homelessness
No one should experience homelessness. No one should be without a safe, stable place to call home.

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Tools for Local Action

Home > Resources > Tools for Local Action

+ share this page

This toolkit was created as a part of the Opening Doors Across America Initiative.

Opening Doors Across America is a call to action to states and communities to join the national effort to prevent and end homelessness by following specific steps that will ensure goals are accomplished and resources are used wisely.

Visit the Opening Doors Across America page

The toolboxes below each contain a set of resources to help local communities begin or enhance their efforts to prevent and end homelessness.

A Guide to Developing a State Interagency Council

Specific information about how to establish a Council, tips on effective structure, and details on needed partnerships to ensure success.

State Resources Map
State Homeless Resources Map

► Tools for Local Action
A Guide to Developing a State Interagency Council
Local and Community Strategic Planning
Retooling Crisis Response Systems
Building the Permanent Supportive Housing Pipeline
Using Medicaid to Fund Supportive Services



Additional Information on State Councils

USICH Regional Coordinators have specific local expertise and are based throughout the nation. Connect with the Regional Coordinator for your state for more information on current State Interagency Councils and more. Also, check out the USICH website at www.usich.gov.



Beverley Ebersold

AK, CO, ID, IN, IL, MI, MN, MT,
ND, OH, OR, SD, UT, WA, WI, WY
beverley.ebersold@usich.gov
(202) 754-1585



Michael DeVos

AR, CT, IA, KS, LA, MA, ME, MO,
NE, NH, NM, OK, RI, TX, VT
michael.devos@usich.gov
(202) 754-1584



Laura Zeilinger

NJ, NY
laura.zeilinger@usich.gov
(202) 205-4638



Matthew Doherty

AZ, CA, HI, NV
matthew.doherty@usich.gov
(202) 754-1586



Amy Sawyer

AL, DC, DE, FL, GA, KY, PA,
MD, MS, NC, SC, TN, VA, WV
amy.sawyer@usich.gov
(202) 754-1581



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