



San Francisco SRO Task Force

1660 Mission Street, 6th Floor
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Members:

Rosemary Bosque, J.D.
Department of Building Inspection

Jeff Buckley
Central City SRO Collaborative

Bruce Burge
SRO Operator

Angela Chu
Chinatown SRO Collaborative

Vacant
Tenant Representative

Seth Katzman
Nonprofit SRO Owner/Manager

Vacant
Families in SROs Collaborative

Johnson Ojo
DPH Environmental Health Services

Sam Patel
SRO Operator

Jorge Portillo
Mission SRO Collaborative

Charles Siron
Tenant Representative

Alex Tse, J.D.
City Attorney's Office

Scott Walton
Human Services Agency

Eric Whitney
DPH Housing & Urban Health

Chair:

Rosemary Bosque, J.D.
Department of Building Inspection

SRO HOTEL HEALTH & SAFETY TASK FORCE COMMITTEE

MINUTES – April 21, 2011

101 Grove, Room 302

Chair: Scott Walton (HSA)

Members Present: Jeff Buckley (Central City SRO Collaborative); Bruce Burge (SRO Operator); Angela Chu (Chinatown SRO Collaborative); Sam Patel (Independent Hotel Owners & Operators); Alex Tse (City Attorney's Office); Scott Walton (HSA-Housing & Homeless Programs); Eric Whitney (DPH)

Absent: Excused – Rosemary Bosque, (DBI); Seth Katzman (Conrad House); Johnson Ojo (DPH-BEHS); Jorge Portillo (Mission SRO Collaborative); Charles Siron (HIV Health Svcs Planning Council);

Guests: Tomas Picarello (SRO Tenant); Charles Pitts (SRO Tenant); Joshua Vining (Mission SRO Collaborative); Elisa Gasca (Chinatown Community Development Center); Alma Snyder, (San Francisco State University); Jeremy Miller, (Education not Incarceration, Co-Director)

Minutes: Bernedette Perez (DBI-HIS)

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Scott Walton at 9:09AM.

2. Roll call/Determination of Quorum

Roll call was taken and there was no quorum.

3. Approval of Minutes of March 17, 2011 (Action)

Approval of Minutes of April 21, 2011 (Action)

(No action taken because of the lack of quorum)

4. Administrative Announcements (Discussion)

Scott Walton commented on the labels have been given to Delene Wolf for the mailing of the Uniform Hotel Visitor Policy. Ms. Wolf will notify the Collaborative on when the mailing will go out.

Public Comment

Tomas Picarillo made comments on HSA budget and to make it relevant to SRO Tenants.

5. Presentation by Mental Health Association of San Francisco regarding SOLVE Project –Discussion & Possible Action

Scott Walton introduced Laura Kauth of the SOLVE (Sharing Our Lives Voices and Experiences) Program Manager. Ms. Kauth passed out information regarding the SOLVE Project and mentioned that their office is located in the Flood Building. Ms. Kauth indicated that the Program has been in existence since November 2009 and that they have 30 people on staff with experience as mental illness service providers, and have knowledge of the process of recovery. The SOLVE program offers presentations to the community so that they can help the public understand mental illness and breakdown the stigma of that illness. They also work with the SF Police Department to assist people who suffer from mental illness.

Laura Kauth also mentioned that they are recruiting speakers for their program 3 times a year. They provide 3-hour training for speakers.

Angela Chu asked what type of language translations do they provide. Ms. Kauth responded that they have Spanish, Russian, Tagalog, French and Basque, but they are in need of Mandarin and Cantonese speakers.

Laura Kauth stated that their SOLVE's goal is to spread the message that recovery is a reality with mental illness, especially in the corporate world where they do not understand. She also mentioned that they will have a presentation at the library later in the summer, and they will be speaking at the Commonwealth Club in July.

Scott Walton recommended that Ms. Kauth send an email to Bernedette and the member's information and send the application electronically for those who may be interested in applying.

Tomas Picarello asked if they have programs available for SRO Tenants regarding hoarding and cluttering and if they interface with managers, hotel owners regarding mental illness.

Laura Kauth replied that they have treatment groups and they recruit members when there is a special need. They refer these groups to the Program Manager Mark Salazar.

Alma Synder stated that there is a stigmatism with mental health issues, and inquired if the agency has given any thought to segregation about regular mental healthcare?

Laura Kauth commented that their main focus is to look at each individual's needs and have them make their own decisions on what kind of treatment that they need also when it comes to hoarding and cluttering they will give referrals to people.

Scott Walton asked if there were any questions from the collaborators.

Bruce Burge asked what type of speakers they have and what services do they provide?

Jeff Buckley stated that the Mental Health Association of SF provides training managers/operators, and addresses hoarding and cluttering,

Jeff Buckley mentioned that he has been involved with two SOLVE meetings and these meetings helped him to understand what the triggers are for hoarders and clutterers. It was also mentioned that we should encourage our operators to sign up for these trainings.

Tomas Picarello asked what the percentage of operators participate in the programs for hoarding and cluttering. Laura Kauth responded by saying that that question should be directed to her Program Manager.

6. Proposed Amendments to SRO Task Force By Laws- Discussion & Possible Action

No action was taken due to lack of quorum.

7. Update on Upcoming Bed Bug Special-SRO Task Force Meeting Next steps –Discussion & Possible Action

Scott Walton spoke of the update of the upcoming Bed Bug Special SRO Task Force Meeting.

It was suggested to devote the Regular SRO Task Force meeting as the “Bed Bug Special Meeting”.

Alex Tse and Eric Whitney suggested that this was to take place at this May or June meetings.

Scott Walton commented he would make this recommendation to the Chair.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Tomas Picarello suggested making a separate meeting for bed bugs and suggesting dates for the June and July meetings.

Charles Pitts commented on that the SRO Task Force should submit regular reports and address them.

8. Reports from SRO Collaboratives-Discussion & Possible Action.

No report from SRO Collaboratives.

9. Prioritization of Future Meeting Topics- Possible Action

Jeff Buckley stated that the violence and bed bug issue in SRO's should be a priority.

Annie Chu made stated that the violence and mental health issues in SRO's in terms of how tenants get along, and that it effects each other and care for people who have mental illness. It was also mentioned that there is a lot of violence between the battle of the sexes. Community organizers have suggested having floors only for women.

Jeremy Miller stated that there should be structural surveys regarding SRO Units and the resilience and health when adverse weather and earthquakes occur.

Eric Whitney commented that on the recent fires that have occurred, efforts should be made regarding disaster preparedness, and to see if the hotel operators would like to come to a meeting so that SRO can assist them.

Charles Pitts commented on items that should be discussed regarding the two to three fires that have occurred in SRO's in the past six months and that he would like to see a report from the City Attorney's office regarding what that office is doing about the conditions and Mr. Pitts stated that he would like to discuss emails that members have received that might not be legal.

Scott Walton mentioned that there are two seats that have been posted on the City Website. We need a representative from a collaborative and tenant who resides in an SRO. Please refer to the email that Bernedette sent.

Scott Walton asked if there were any general public comment.

General Public Comment

Jeff Buckley stated that the Franciscan Towers is an apartment building not an SRO.

Tomas Picarello commented that he was disappointed that there was no quorum.

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50AM.