

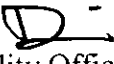




Social Sustainability
321 Maple Street
PO Box 580
Fort Collins, CO 80522

MEMORANDUM

December 27, 2012

TO: Mayor Weitkunat and City Council Members

TH: Darin Atteberry, City Manager 
Bruce Hendee, Chief Sustainability Officer 

FM: Joe Frank, Director of Social Sustainability 

RE: Sister Mary Alice Murphy Center of Hope

The purpose of this memo is to update the Council on the status of the Sister Mary Alice Murphy Center of Hope. Last November, a small group met to discuss the near future of the Murphy Center. The group consisted of Gordon Thibedeau (United Way), Randy Ratliff (CEO Touchstone Health Partners), Cheryl Zimlich (Bohemian Foundation), Julie Brewen (FCHA), Bryce Hach (Homeward 2020), and Joe Frank (Social Sustainability Department). This was a more intimate follow-up to a meeting held a few weeks earlier that included a larger group of affected interests. The Murphy Center is a one-stop center in Fort Collins for homeless and near homeless persons; approximately 24 agencies provide services at the Center; the Center also provides showers, breakfast, phones/computers, washers/dryers, clothing, day shelter services, and more.

Background

The brief background is that, originally, United Way committed to owning/funding/operating the Murphy Center for 3 years. The three year commitment was completed in March of 2012. Touchstone Health Partners have been operating the facility for United Way United Way staff is hoping for an ownership change by the first of next year, 2013. Touchstone is willing to continue to be the operators but still will require funding in order to do so. The Center is a linchpin to the delivery of homeless services in the Fort Collins area. A large group of homeless service providers, City staff, homeless persons, and others, recently attended a four day clinic, hosted by Homeward 2020, on a potential new model for the north Front Range homeless system; the Murphy Center is an important component of any future service delivery system.

The City has invested approximately \$75,000 of federal funds in the property and funds several of the agencies that provide services in the Center. The City has been a long term financial supporter of the facility and wants to be sure the Center continues to operate as originally intended. For the past several months, United Way has been searching for someone to take over the Center. The Salvation Army (SA) and a non-profit arm of the Timberline Church have indicated an interest (Touchstone Partners and Catholic Community Charities declined), however, some concerns have been expressed (by whom?) about any future owners; specifically the desire is that they not have a religious emphasis, and wanting the future owners to have appropriate experience and be committed to a new regional model, to



name a few. Nearly everyone agrees that the Murphy Center needs to continue to be a "community" asset. Nearly everyone agrees that there needs to be a long term sustainable plan for the Center.

Conversations have thus far centered on interim funding for the next six months and developing a long term funding strategy that will ensure a stable financial and operating environment. The immediate need is for six months of operating costs, which will be approximately \$190,000. There have already been some financial commitments but there remains an approximate \$70,000 funding gap. The City has not yet committed to any funding. Currently two options are under consideration: 1) reducing programs to reduce cost; 2) finding additional revenue to cover the gap. The program demand is quite large so there is a desire not to reduce costs unless absolutely necessary however, United Way is considering the options in the event this is necessary.

There is a meeting scheduled in January to further discuss these matters.