



## Topeka/Shawnee County Homeless Task Force



c/o Community Resources Council  
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DATE: 9-14-2011

minutes by G.R. Laughlin, CRC Rep.

**Present:** Tom Benaka/Chesney Park Neighborhood, Gary Carter, Randy Crandall/VA, Heather Davis/VA, Glenda DuBoise/Antioch Family Life Center, Denise Fasse/LetsHelp, Barry Feaker/TRM, Al Hammons/Breakthrough House, John Homlish/CommAction, Justyn Hosman/TRM, Jeff Karas/TRM, G.R. Laughlin/CRC, Janlyn Nesbett-Tucker/TMTA, Melissa Nolte/KS legal Service TMAP, Kenneth Oldridge/OSR Volunteer, Thomas Pfeiler/TMAP, Mitchell Root/Flocrit, Martha Stanley/Cornerstone, Kim Swinney/KLS, Danette Tipton/Breakthrough House, Rachele Vega-Retana/COT HND, Charlene Wallace/Fam Svc. & Guidance, Doug Wallace/Valeo, Susan Wheatley/CommAciton, Corrie Wright/COT HND, Sally Zellers/SafeStreets

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	FOLLOW UP
Rescue Mission Status	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current count at 260 which is down but should continue to climb with the colder temps coming</li> </ul>	
Sept. 1 Public Mtg.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Short-term:</li> <li>• Overflow-empty houses? Explore how to acquire/use property, contact owners.</li> <li>• City, county, state structures. Explore how to use public bdlg's, ie, Expo Center</li> <li>• Look at what other cities have done, "Family Promise" and other programs</li> <li>• Salvation Army</li> <li>• City foreclosed properties; can some be used for overflow?</li> <li>• Sponsor/mentor program Churches, businesses, nonprofits sponsor families &amp; help shelter them</li> <li>• Give a tax break to hotel/motel owners to use rooms when needed for overflow</li> </ul>	Funding process-committee for marketing and awareness...raising money & building the understanding in Shawnee County of Homeless Potential Problems (GR Laughlin, Doug Wallace, Janlyn Nesbett-Tucker, and Al Hammons?)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mid to Long-term:</li> <li>• Visibility issue Public Service Announcements, spread the word through social media</li> <li>• Put specific needs on Face book, i.e. "need of the week"</li> <li>• Fundraisers</li> <li>• Transitional assistance for guests at the Mission-i.e., po box, clothes, job readiness training</li> <li>• Have one year where all churches in county give all money for homeless prevention/shelter</li> <li>• Youth groups from churches and other organizations do work for homeless causes instead of leaving town for missionary work</li> <li>• Have Valeo at Rescue Mission full-time (day and night)</li> </ul>	Have a perm. Plan for funds/ resources needed to address issue with general public.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>	