

MEETING SUMMARY
HUNTERS VIEW COMMUNITY PARTNERS (HVCP)
Meeting with
HUNTERS VIEW RESIDENTS
Wednesday January 28, 2009
5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Hunters View Tenant Association Offices
227-229 West Point Road, San Francisco, CA

The meeting began at 5:30 p.m. Tessie Ester, President of the Hunters View Tenant Association called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Approximately 50 people attended the meeting.

Tessie introduced Margaret Campbell of the John Stewart Company and with Hunters View Community Partners (HVCP). Margaret announced that the agenda for the meeting included an overview of service planning and training and employment opportunities and that many staff from different city agencies were in attendance to speak to those topics.

Margaret introduced Kimberly Wicoff from Communities of Opportunity and Kate Durham, the Services consultant that has been retained by HVCP to help with the services planning.

Kimberly provided an overview on the city's efforts around the near term services planning. Near term services planning includes the services that residents are and will continue to be connected to in the immediate term. Many of these services are offered through Community Based Organizations and non-profit entities that are city funded, and the city is working with these organizations to ensure that slots are being saved for Hunters View residents. The city will be working with residents to assess their services needs to ensure that the services being offered meet the needs of all Hunters View residents. In addition, the city is working to bring in more support for the outreach and case management services that already exist to ensure that there is adequate manpower to effectively link residents to these services.

Kate Durham provided an overview of the longer term service planning effort. Kate has been contracted on a short term basis to help HVCP, the city and residents create the longer terms services plan that will extend beyond the immediate future (5+ years). Kate has begun her work on this front, but her real first step will be having conversations with residents so that she can better understand their perspectives, needs and desires. The services planning also ties into educational planning and Kate is working with Tessie to schedule a meeting in February that will focus on both services and education. This meeting will be an opportunity for Kate and others who are thinking about the educational strategy for Hunters View, to learn from the residents and to hear their ideas. There will be follow-up as to the day and time for this meeting, and all are encouraged to participate.

Margaret then introduced Charlene Henderson from Parent University who provided a brief overview of the mission of the group and the current programs. Parent University is focused on families and supporting those who have children. There are a variety of programs going on right now including playgroups, Census test preparation, and Individualized Education Planning. Charlene provided some flyers on these programs and indicated they plan to continue to work

with Hunters View residents and to grow the work they are doing at Hunters View. Charlene encouraged residents to come by Parent University (which is at Malcolm X) to learn more, participate in program, or to get access to resources (such as groceries).

Margaret thanked those who provided these overviews on the services component for Hunters View and transitioned to the second part of the agenda which focused on job training and employment opportunities. Margaret started by providing an overview of the hiring that has taken place to date. Two residents have been hired by organizations working on the revitalization of Hunters View; many residents have received stipends for conducting outreach, catering meetings, and participating in working group meetings; and additional non-construction related training and job opportunities will be targeted to Hunters View residents.

Margaret introduced Guillermo Rodriguez from the Mayor's Office of Economic and Workforce Development (MOEWD). Guillermo indicated that his office has been working with a variety of city agencies and HVCP on the job strategy for Hunters View and that his office will be leading all efforts around construction related job training and hiring. The bulk of jobs resulting from the revitalization of Hunters view will be construction oriented which Guillermo indicated fall into a few different categories. The project will start with demolition and abatement, which will be followed by grading and infrastructure, which will be followed by the construction of buildings.

Guillermo indicated that MOEWD wants to start getting residents into training programs now that will ensure they're prepared to participate in the construction related job opportunities as they become available. One of the key things for residents to know is that in order to be eligible for many of these employment opportunities, minimum criteria will need to be met, including: must be 18 or older; be able to pass a drug test; have graduated from high school or have a GED; and have a California driver's license. These are not requirements of HVCP or MOEWD, but rather the requirements that will be imposed by unions and contractors so it's very important that anyone who wants to pursue one of these jobs meets these criteria. There will be training programs and assistance available for residents to help those who need to work to meet these criteria.

A question was asked whether training classes and programs could be offered at Hunters View. Lottie Titus (resident) indicated that a GED computer program is available at the Community Resource Center. Guillermo indicated that the training programs are off-site as they are not solely for Hunters View residents (other people participate in them too) and it's important that Hunters View residents be able to get to a program off-site as many job opportunities (before construction on Hunters View starts or after it finishes) will be off-site.

Leaotis Martin (resident) stated that he wanted job opportunities at Hunters View and that residents should have priority for these jobs. Kimberly Wicoff agreed that residents will be given first priority for the jobs at Hunters View; however residents must be qualified for those jobs before they can be hired and that is why the training programs are important. Kimberly indicated that there are hiring goals that the team is required to work in good faith to meet and that is why we are working to ensure training programs are available that will help ensure that residents are qualified for the job opportunities.

Monica Autry (resident) indicated that it will be important for residents to do their part too. Education is an important part of being ready for these opportunities and residents who want these jobs will need to be committed to getting themselves prepared.

Guillermo introduced Steven Currie from MOEWD to talk specifically about some of the training programs that are coming soon. Steven indicated that the Mayor's Office has made Hunters View a priority and so MOEWD is now working to identify job training opportunities and asking organizations to hold slots in these programs for Hunters View residents. Steven indicated that tonight they will be presenting the RAMP program, but that there will be many other programs as well as things move forward. MOEWD is just starting by presenting this first program as they don't have details on all of the other programs locked down yet, but they didn't want to wait to start rolling out opportunities.

Steven provided an overview of the RAMP program and said it is designed to get people between the ages of 18-24 ready for jobs. This first RAMP class will be starting in early March and it will be offered by Conservation Corps. It's a six week program and there will be a stipend. The first RAMP class will be offered by SF Conservation Corps and the second class will be offered later this spring by Goodwill.

Steven introduced Chase Torres from SF Conservation Corps to provide information about the RAMP program. Chase handed out flyers and applications and indicated that he will be back next week to hold an information session for all interested candidates. Chase indicated that this will be a pilot program. The training will be focused on engagement, communication, and other skills required for securing and holding a job. Margaret and Chase indicated that they would work with Tessie to set up an information session for next week and that flyers with the day and time would be distributed.

Steven then introduced Tania Alexander and JP from Goodwill. Tania indicated that Goodwill will run the 2nd RAMP class. She said in addition to offering this program that Goodwill has other services and programs for Hunters View residents. Goodwill has a wrap around services program that includes drug counseling, help with homelessness, and other issues that may be facing residents. Goodwill has GED classes and also offers a truck driving class, and many other training programs. Tania indicated that she wants to help all residents but that first they need to be committed to help themselves. These programs are for people who are ready to be 100% committed. Tania provided brochures so that residents can follow-up for more information.

Kim Montgomery from the Individual Development Project in New York City introduced herself and said she is in the process of opening up a San Francisco office. They are working with the Sheriff's office and will be offering transitional programs for San Franciscans. Hunters View residents are eligible and should contact her for more information.

Guillermo wrapped up the job training portion of the meeting by reiterating that MOEWD and all the partners want Hunters View residents to be ready for job opportunities. So it is important that residents take advantage of the training opportunities that are being offered now. More information will be provided as programs are offered and all the people at the meeting tonight will be back to share more information again.

Margaret wrapped up this portion of the meeting and handed it over to San Francisco Housing Authority (SFHA) staff for a few announcements. Dominica Henderson from SFHA provided a copy of the HOPE SF newsletter and also said that SFHA wants to hear residents' perspectives on everything and that she is available if residents want to talk about relocation or anything else.

Joyce Armstrong from SFHA provided information and applications about hiring opportunities at the San Francisco Housing Authority. She said there are 15 open slots and that the pay is \$15.14 an hour. Joyce added that the first six months of income will not be calculated into the residents rent payment.

Denise Kimble from SFHA introduced herself and said she is here to help people with their Rental Assistance Programs (RAP) and that anyone should contact her as she's here to help ensure everyone is current on their rent.

Tessie closed the meeting with a thank you to everyone for their participation.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 and dinner was served.