



PARTNERS IN CARE

Oahu's Coalition of Homeless Providers

ATTN: Committee Clerk
TO: Representative Tom Brower
FROM: Holly Holowach
Holly Holowach, Chair – Partners In Care
DATE: Wednesday, February 4, 2009 (9:00 a.m., Room 404)
RE: **HB 1580, Relating to Data Collection**

LATE TESTIMONY

Partners In Care is a coalition of homeless service providers, City and State officials and interested community members who meet monthly to advocate for and improve services to the homeless on Oahu in a variety of ways. We have over 45 members from all parts of the island, with each member representing a different agency.

Partners In Care was created at the request of HUD, (the Department of Housing and Urban Development) who mandated that all those receiving funding from HUD must be an active participant. At their request in the late 1990s, we formed the Continuum of Care to link service providers together, to create as seamless a service delivery to the homeless as possible, to encourage strong working relationships with State and City officials and to make sure that there isn't redundancy within the system.

One important requirement that HUD mandated was the creation of the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS.) All agencies who receive state and/or HUD funding are required to enter data into the HMIS about each homeless individual that we serve. Each island has their own coalition just like Partners In Care. We are all linked to the State Homeless Programs Department through the HMIS. The data that is collected is the national data standard set by HUD and is already a centralized data collection system such as you are suggesting in this bill.

The HMIS system already collects the following information and more:

- (1) The number of homeless individuals in the state;
- (2) Where the homeless are located;
- (3) Where beds are available for the homeless;
- (4) Where services are available for the homeless

The HMIS system does not currently collect data of (5) whether homeless individuals have family members in the state; and (6) Other information needed by the various service providers, but most services providers get that information when they do individual intakes with the consumers, if they feel it is needed.

All those agencies mentioned in your bill on page 2 are active partners who attend meetings regularly. This past year, Partners In Care created an IT Committee to further advance the efficiency of our current system and create a website to further link the partners and provide access to information for the homeless and those interested in helping them.

Furthermore, there is also a group called the Interagency Council on Homelessness that meets bi-monthly. Those who attend council meetings include the Department of Public Safety, the Department of Human Services, the Department of Labor, the Department of Education, the Department of Community Services, a representative from the Governor's office, a Catholic Conference representative, the current Partners In Care Chair and representatives from each of the neighbor islands. The Interagency Council focuses on the bigger issues on homelessness and how it affects the resources we have.

If you need any more information about Partners In Care or the HMIS system, please feel free to contact Partners In Care. I will be happy to provide my assistance in any regard. You may reach me at wwwholly@hawaii.rr.com or 259-6804.



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Oahu's Coalition of Homeless Providers

FROM : Curtis J. Kropar, Chair - IT Committee- Partners In Care
TO : Committee Clerk, Housing Committee
HEARING DATE : Wednesday, February 4, 2009 (9:00 a.m., Room 325)
RE : **HB 1580, Relating to Data Collection**

LATE TESTIMONY

Regarding HB1580 - "creating a task force on the standardization for collecting Homeless Data"

Testifying As the Chair of the IT Committee on behalf of PIC - Partners In Care - Curtis Kropar, Executive Director of Hawaiian Hope.

My Name is Curtis Kropar and I am the Chair of the IT committee for PIC - Partners in Care - the Continuum of Care for Honolulu. PIC represent dozens of homeless service providers, Non profit organizations, individuals, state, city and county offices.

As the PIC - IT committee, one of the areas currently in development is the standardization of and better workings with homeless data through the states existing HMIS (Homeless Management Information System) the national data standard set by HUD. We are working with the state housing office and their HMIS system that is mandated by HUD and used by most homeless service providers to collect and report data.

One of our recent accomplishments to collect greater data is getting a grant submitted, approved and funded to upgrade the HMIS System. This software upgrade will create an interface with outside systems so that data collected by homeless service providers through their own separate systems may be electronically submitted and integrated to the HMIS, then even better standardized in the HMIS.

If you need any more information about Partners In Care or the HMIS system, please feel free to contact me. I will be happy to provide my assistance in any regard. You may reach me at Curtis@HawaiianHope.org or 808.352.8800

Thank you