

Steering Committee Meeting Notes 6/16/2008

Present: Shannon Webb, Gary Williams, Thad Allen, Riannon Bardsley, Debbie Paton, Gail deHoog, John Harmon

Note Taking: Christy Greenwald

We should find out how to best communicate with Robert Ables to inform him of meetings.

1. Review May 19 Steering Committee Meeting Notes

2. Update on Homeless Service Center

- All staff hired; both Kristin Hill and Lydia are Rapid Exit Coordinators; Kristin specializing in landlord connections, Lydia specializing as community liaison.
- Concern that expanding committees will turn Advisory Board into another Homeless Coalition. Advisory Board should come up with mission statement to have HAC approve. Bill will come up with operational ideas for Board, WHSC Advisory Board should be an implementation committee to make sure WHSC is on track with County contracts/ City/ WCCH/ HAC. Also to serve as an evaluation system/ political cover for WHSC.
- Policies & Procedures approved by County Friday 6/13/08 afternoon; First case gone through. Young employed woman with young child who didn't want much financial support, good "test case"; created new landlord connection for WHSC. Two more families being processed through NWYS and Lydia Place is working on one more.
- WHSC has "pitch" to give to people, using it now to answer questions about service timeline and drop-in capabilities.

Gary asked about BWCHA doing intakes and sending them to WHSC. WHSC should think about educating all places where walk-ins/ call-ins happen so they can do intakes instead of re-directing people. Maybe come up with short-form intake. Part of Lydia's job could possibly be receiving intakes and directing clients to case management. NWYS may have a case manager work one day/ per week just to interview clients. BWCHA and others could refer to this case manager, BWCHA will continue to make referrals to Opportunity Council's CRC and WHSC-contracted case management agencies.

3. Follow up from June Coalition discussion

- Thanks to Bellingham Police Department for attending and presenting. PD and Parks Dept. try to give notice before taking belongings from encampments. Sun Community House and Law Advocates responded to call to help create receptacle system for items that can be re-used and stored for a specified period of time. We will give agencies/ people more time to respond- Rainbow Center? A lot of things to consider- items that have mildew/ mold/ how to decide what to keep? Maybe rent storage units? No one should bag belongings by alone for accountability. We should find out what people really do want to keep, what's important for homeless? We should ask them. At least store legal documents? Revisiting tent cities at WCCH.
- WA State wants input on WAC's, Shannon helped push to get comments. Dept. of Health website no longer accepting public comments, but two contacts in Shannon's email that Christy sent to Coalition still accepting comments. Next logical step might be to get funding from State to change WAC's.

4. Possible WHSC Shelter Plus Care “sponsorship” (and other creative solutions to open up S+C spots).

S+C dilemma is that there is \$250,000/ year unspent (about 50 units' worth); sponsors can't take outside clients on. Rumor has it that one of the current sponsors is dropping from 50 to 30 slots. Need to confirm. Archdiocesan Housing Authority unable to take on sponsorship for people outside of their units. O.C. has to take on the liability in order for WHSC to become a sponsor; must clarify to O.C. that WHSC will be taking on actual liability. Need to have clients put in some money towards deposit, so they have vested interest in taking care of unit. Make this priority for WHSC so we can utilize S+C dollars for tertiary population. Steering Committee is in favor of O.C. becoming a S+C sponsor. Possibly use Risk Mitigation Fund dollars for operations cost because it's necessary to make landlords comfortable with renting to clients. Concern of agencies' ability to find willing landlords with available units.

5. New Housing position at County possibly filled?

Pending County approval, Gail will accept position with BWCHA as Housing Specialist, leaving NWYS.

6. Project Homeless Connect now slated for January 29, 2009 (in coordination with annual Point in Time Count).

Budget: \$30,000. Can Project Homeless Connect happen same day as PIT? PHC is an event. We need to secure a site, which costs money. Possible MOU with United Way so PHC does not need its own 501 c)3. WHSC supports 29th date; this could be a WHSC project. Create incentive for people to come to event (pizza feed?). HAC passed motion to support PHC. Gail will try to find out if the \$3000 from Pete Kremen came from 2163 fund. Thad will talk to Bruce/ Jennifer Moon.

7. Other

- Gary: After he gets back from Budapest, he will schedule meeting 3rd or 4th week of July regarding HGAP/ offenders/ risk mitigation.
- Thad: HGAP II RFQ- High risk offenders shifts to high need offenders. Concern is that non-profits can define high need however they want, and we need to be careful to not exclude a large population (for example, sex offenders).
- Laube Opening is this Wednesday at noon, Womenscare Shelter Bay Cruise Friday, June 27th
- Gladstone House...?