

WCCH Steering Committee Meeting Notes

November 19, 2007 (8.30am-9.32am)

Bellingham/Whatcom County Housing Authority Conference Room

Attending	Thad Allen, Gail de Hoog, Julie Foster, Jackie Mitchell, Peter Theisen, Gary Williams, as well as guests Jim Cozad and Greg Winter
Absent	Riannon Bardsley, Katie Franks, John Harmon and Kay Ziels
Recorder	Kathy Reed
Agenda Item	Discussion Notes
Review of HGAP I Project	CTED yet to sign the contract although Gary has been assured this will happen soon. A couple of technical issues need resolving before the administrative services contract with the Opportunity Council can be finalized.
2008 Operations & Management 2060 Award Recommendations	The Housing Advisory Task Force recommended funds be awarded to: Interfaith Coalition (\$10,000), Lydia Place (\$15,000), Opportunity Council/Dorothy Place (\$10,500), Opportunity Council/Rental Assistance Vouchers (\$20,000), Sun Community Services (\$35,000) and the YWCA (\$9,500). An additional \$9,500 was held in reserve for possible allocation in the coming months.
November 5th Housing First Community Training	All agreed the community training was a success and the information shared of great value. Greg said a video will be available in January, adding that the presenters were interested in future information-sharing opportunities.
Point in Time Count (to be held in mid-January, 2008)	Jim said the 2008 Count would emphasize greater agency participation (especially online) and a stronger outreach effort. Greg distributed copies of the draft form and instruction sheet, noting that the challenge is to keep the documents user-friendly (short and simple), while at the same time ensuring the resulting data is comprehensive enough to provide the information the county needs to make the best decisions regarding its ten-year plan to end homelessness. The committee discussed the documents at length, offering several suggestions. Greg will email the revised documents to all WCCH members for their input, including a response deadline that is in advance of the December 6th WCCH meeting.
December 6th WCCH Presentation	Jackie will discuss substance abuse treatment and prevention and the myths surrounding this issue. Greg and Jim will discuss the Point in Time Count and updates to the county's ten-year plan.
HGAP II	Nineteen counties submitted proposals for the grant money. Gary expects an awards announcement in the near future.
Youth Planning Work Group	Because the policies, programs and procedures for assisting homeless youth are very different from those involving adults, a two-page draft document listing the discreet components has been developed for inclusion in the county's ten-year plan. Greg said the draft ten-year plan that he will present to the coalition on December 6th will include the youth segment, although it will not include cost estimates. However, he expects to incorporate them by the end of the year.
Project Homeless Connect (PHC) Day	A date for the Project Connect Day in Bellingham has yet to be determined, but organizers expect it will be sometime in April.
Other	CTED has asked the county to "pilot" the new HIMS program. Greg said he is willing to help with this, but feels it would be best if there is participation by an Opportunity Council employee. Gary does not feel this will be possible. All agreed that it is in everyone's best interests to align the county's data gathering/analysis methodology with the State's. Also, as there are still some "bugs" in the HIMS software, participation would be an opportunity to ensure that the shortcomings are satisfactorily addressed.
Date of Next Meeting	December 17, 2007 - 8.30am-9.45am