

WCCH Steering Committee Meeting Notes

December 17, 2007 (8.33am-9.34am)

Bellingham/Whatcom County Housing Authority Conference Room

Attending	Thad Allen, Riannon Bardsley, Gail de Hoog, Julie Foster, John Harmon, Jackie Mitchell, Gary Williams, and Kay Ziels, as well as guests Jim Cozad, Dave Finet and Greg Winter
Absent	Katie Franks and Peter Theisen
Recorder	Kathy Reed
Agenda Item	Discussion Notes
Update of HGAP I Project	<p>Both contracts were approved by County Council on December 5. Dave said filling the project manager and case manager positions will be given top priority the first week of January. Gary said he expects the homeless services center will be up and running in April or March.</p> <p>CTED has not yet selected the groups who will be testing the HMIS software, but Greg is hopeful that Whatcom County will be chosen.</p>
Update on 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness in Whatcom County	Greg distributed copies of the latest update of the plan (dated 11/30/07) and said he has received a great deal of positive feedback, as well as suggestions for further modifications. He provided a review of the document, highlighting the areas that address youth and ex-offenders. Projected timeline: WCCH and the HSC will have another opportunity to review the plan in January; the finalized plan will be presented to County Council in February; if approved, the plan will then be sent on to Olympia.
January 24 Point In Time Count Update	Jim and Greg provided copies of the project's executive summary and timeline. They facilitated a review of the questionnaire, noting that a special effort will be made to obtain information about our nation's homeless veterans. Jim expects the results to be even more conclusive this year as an additional 160 questionnaires will be emailed to clergy members throughout the county via a St. Joseph's mailing list.
Project Homeless Connect	This event has been scheduled for April 8.
HGAP II	<p>Technical submission is due January 29, with a final submission date of January 28.</p> <p>An emphasis of the county's proposal will be funding for the ex-offenders re-entry program. The committee discussed the importance of educating the public about the value of assisting these individuals for a variety of societal and economic reasons. Gary also stated his regret that a recent newspaper article gave the impression that the housing assistance would be of a permanent nature. The committee held a "brainstorming session" on individuals who could serve on a workgroup that would spearhead this effort. Names put forth included Thad Allen (chair), Sue Barrett, Dave Finet, Wendy Jones, Byron Manering, Richard Maneval and Paul Mueller.</p>
Elections	Each year a third of the steering committee membership is turned over by means of an election at the annual meeting in March. It was suggested that ideally the homeless services center project manager would serve as committee chair.
Date of Next Meeting	January 28, 2008 - 8.30am-9.45am