

WCHC Steering Committee Meeting

May 21, 2007 (8.30am-9.45am)

Bellingham/Whatcom County Housing Authority Conference Room

Attending	Thad Allen, Riannon Bardsley, Gail de Hoog, Julie Foster, Katie Franks, John Harmon, Gary Williams and Kay Ziels
Absent	Jackie Mitchell and Peter Theisen
Recorder	Kathy Reed

Agenda item	Discussion/Action to be Taken
SC Elections/ New Members	<p>The WCHC filled three of the five open positions at their meeting on May 16th. Those elected were Thad Allen (Department of Corrections), Riannon Bardsley (Northwest Youth Services) and Kay Ziels (Dorothy Place).</p> <p>Because Gail no longer works for the Opportunity Council, Katie said one of the remaining open positions should come from that organization. Gary agreed and will talk with Dave Finet. Other suggestions for representation included Mental Health and the Homeless.</p>
Steering Committee Charter/Size	The interim and permanent directors of the proposed Homeless Services Center (WCHSC) will serve on the committee in a staff capacity, bringing the number to 13.
Presentation at June 7th WCHC Meeting	Amy's Place will be the presenter.
HGAP Update/ Temporary Position	<p>Now that \$1.4M has been secured for the WCHSC, two key issues must be addressed: The first is securing an interim director. John is chairing a sub-committee whose task it will be to develop a PD for the interim director. The PD will then be submitted to the full committee for their review and input. The interim director's responsibilities will include public education, design and implementation of training programs, contract development and assisting in the development of the permanent director position. Both positions will report directly to the WCHAC. Ideally, both would be filled by the same person.</p> <p>The second issue to be addressed is the entity's operational plan, one of whose main functions will be to award performance-based contracts to organizations that assist the homeless.</p> <p>To keep the process moving forward, a task force will be appointed, with representation from both city and county. They will be charged with developing a timeline and mission statement, "fleshing out" the operational plan, and establishing an interim director selection process.</p>

<p>Trainings: CTED and Aids of Washington</p>	<p>CTED will offer training, at their expense, in June and July.</p> <p>Greg Winter is researching vendors who provide web-based data management systems with a virtual single point of entry. In addition to streamlining operations, these systems enable organizations to generate accurate and timely reports that are crucial when analyzing the success of programs and contracts.</p>
<p>Announcements</p>	<p>John and Dave Bergmann (BWCHA's CFO) met with Terry Hines and Gary Williams to request \$500,000 in unused 2060 funds be awarded to the BWCHA to help fund two imminent housing developments, the Laube Hotel and Meadow Wood II. This will leverage more than \$9M in funds. Gary brought the proposal before the WCHAC at their May 16th meeting where it was approved and submitted to the County Council for final approval. The two projects will provide a total of 45 units, 32 of them reserved for 50%-below-AMI incomes. Gary noted this will not be a precedent-setting award and any non-profit can apply for these funds. The next opportunity is two years out with about \$200,000 expected to be available.</p> <p>Governor Gregoire recently signed HB 1359, implementation of which will result in an additional \$13M for homeless programs statewide. 90% of money accrued will remain in the counties. In Whatcom County, that translates into \$275,000-\$330,000. Gary noted, however, that the impact will not begin to be felt until January of 2008.</p> <p>The North Sound Mental Health Administration Network has awarded a \$500,000 contract to Interfaith Clinic.</p>
<p>Other</p>	<p>Thad discussed the need for public housing for individuals who have served their time in prison or jail and are re-entering society. Assisting their re-entry is critical in lowering recidivism rates.</p>

<p>Date of Next Meeting</p>	<p>June 18, 2007 - 8.30am-9.45am</p>
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