

**Whatcom County Homeless Coalition
Thursday, December 6, 2007
City of Bellingham – Municipal Court Bldg.
Fireplace Room - 3:30-5:00 PM**

1. Introductions, review November Meeting notes announcements.

Introductions of those present were conducted.

There were no comments or corrections regarding the November meeting notes.

Announcements were as follows:

A person in the community has household furnishings that can be supplied to needy families in Whatcom County. This person needs a warehouse to store and organize the many items. For further information contact Jim DeGolier, (360) 676-2220.

2. Steering Committee Report

The Steering Committee met on December 17, 2007. Update reports were given on the HGAPI Contract Project, Ten Year Homeless Plan, Point in Time Count, and Project Homeless Connect. Committee meeting notes will be sent to the Homeless Coalition members by e-mail.

3. Update of HGAP Projects

The HGPA I contract has been signed and sealed with the State of Washington. On December 4, 2007 the County Council passed the contract with the Opportunity Council to establish the Homeless Service Center. The contract starts on January 1, 2008. Hiring for the Project Manager and all other activities with the Homeless Service Center will start in January 2008. The Application Committee needs one representative from WCCH, WCHA, Whatcom County and City of Bellingham; and two representatives from the Opportunity Council to be on the screening committee for the Project Manager position. The WCCH representative will be selected at the January 3, 2008 meeting.

Whatcom County is one of ten counties selected from sixteen applicant's state wide to receive full funding for the HGAPII application. The award for Whatcom County is \$1,214,400.00. The County will send out an RFP for the Human Resource portion of the Homeless Service Center in late January or February 2008. This will identify which agencies will be providing the Human Resource to support the various elements. With the new grant just received WCCH needs to think about having the County do an RFP in late March or April 2008 for a new entity that is responsible for master leasing and employing the Case Manager with the Re-Entry contract.

4. Planning for 2008 PIT Point in Time

The 2008 PIT Count will be held in Whatcom County on January 24, 2008. A Homeless Coalition Taskforce meeting will be held on Thursday, December 13, 4:00 P.M., Three Trees Coffee House, 118 W. Holly, to discuss outreach and implementation strategies.

Greg Winter distributed copies of the 2008 Whatcom County PIT Homeless Count draft form and instruction sheet to WCCH members. Greg noted 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 date for the Pizza Feed for the Homeless at the Rainbow Center and the Training Date for the 2008 PIT Count will be determined at a later date. For further information contact Jim Cozad: Jccoza01@comcast.net, (360) 961-8841.

5. Presentation : Substance Abuse Housing

Jackie Mitchell did a brief presentation on substance abuse and handed out brochures on drug treatment, drug addiction and prevention facts. Jackie was asked to do her presentation at the WCCH meeting on January 3, 2008.

6. Portland Technical Training Monday November 5th

The Portland Technical Training meeting was well attended. The presentation was excellent and the training was very valuable. The training session was filmed and it is hopeful that a one hour presentation of the training will be available in March 2008 for public viewing on Channel 10. The film would be a valuable education tool for the public, and the presentation would be available at the same time as the Homeless Service Center opens, Point in Time (PIT) 2008 Count, and Homeless Connect happens in Whatcom County.

7. Draft 2008 Whatcom County Homeless Plan Update

The Draft copy of the 2008 Whatcom County Homeless Plan Update was sent electronically to WCCH members for review and comment. Service needs for Youth Homelessness and Re-Entry Offenders have been identified by the Task Force and are addressed in the Ten Year Plan. The draft covers prevention, housing, outreach and assessment, emergency shelter, transitional housing , permanent and permanent supportive housing, and supportive services. A hard copy of the Draft was mailed to WCCH members for review and comments by December 31.

8. Youth Focus Group Update Draft

Greg Winter stated 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.

9. Update/Bellingham Whatcom Project Homeless Connect

Bruce Johnson gave an update on the planning progress for Project Homeless Connect. The one-day event is planned for early April 2008 at Assumption Church in Bellingham. The group is working in several Task Groups, which include Location for the PHC Event; Communication Plan Services; Business Plan and Budget; and Volunteer Coordination Plan. For further information contact any member of the Task Groups or Bruce Johnson at (360) 961-6953.

10. Washington State Coalition for the Homeless 2008 Legislative Agenda

Washington State Coalition for the Homeless (WSCH) goal is to provide housing and supportive services to those who are presently homeless and to prevent at risk household from becoming homeless. The WSCH requested WCCH members for their support of the 2008 Legislative Agenda.

MOTION: It was moved and seconded and passed unanimously by those present to support the WSCH 2008 Legislative Agenda.

11. Other

Greg Winter attended a two-day meeting held by CTED on December 3 and 4. The purpose of the meeting was to have the two vendors who are competing to supply WA State with the large data software package for the Homeless Information System. Greg had an opportunity to interview the vendors and to have hands on experience using the different software packages. CTED continues to be impressed with the work that the Homeless Coalition is doing in Whatcom County, and has asked Whatcom County to pilot the new HIMS program.

❖ **Next Meeting: Thursday, January 3, 2008**

If you have any questions call or e-mail:

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Gail de Hoog – Northwest Youth Services 734-9862 or email – gaid@nwys.org
Ann Holmes at 676-6724 Ext. 50811 or email aholmes@co.whatcom.wa.us