

## **Steering Committee Notes 9/15/2008**

### **Whatcom Homeless Coalition**

*Present: Thad Allen, Danae Armstrong, John Harmon, Gail de Hoog, Jackie Mitchell, Peter Theisen, Greg Winter, Riannon Bardsley. Note taking: Christy Greenwald*

#### **1. Review August 18 Steering Committee Meeting Notes**

##### **2. Update on Homeless Service Center**

So far WHSC has served 98 clients; about half have been housed. Processes are still being worked out, which will be a continuing effort. Staff is still speaking with outside agencies about WHSC services, recently went to NAMI, and they were excited about WHSC staff's speaking and have clients readily available for services. Presentations for DSHS planned, Riannon suggests speaking to DCFS as well. Training with Wendy Jones planned; John would like WHSC to speak with BWCHA staff about processes and services. Greg notes that all of WHSC presentations should highlight the 10-Year Plan as our goal and purpose.

Landlord Guarantee Fund (Risk Mitigation) is officially in place. WHSC can offer up to \$3,000 for units with two or more bedrooms, and \$2,000 for one-bedrooms or studios.

##### **3. Update on Shelter Plus Care**

Opportunity Council is seeking to become a sponsor; would have 20 slots, five of which may go to Re-Entry Coalition. O.C. Board is in support of sponsorship and Re-Entry partnership, and OK with not being held harmless. WHSC is getting an MOU signed with WCPC. WHSC can't commit to very long-term case management, but is a partner in developing other creative solutions to providing WCPC clients (or former clients) with long-term housing case mgmt; With S+C, some clients need CM. for five-ten years. Partnership also benefits clients in this way: when clients become healthier and do not qualify for clinical mental health services (although they still qualify for Medicaid) through WCPC, the O.C. could take on sponsorship. (Blanket policy is still to get clients on Section 8 for transitioning out of S+C.)

Re-Entry Coalition is now a 501 (c) 3; Thad will give update at upcoming WCCH mtg.

##### **4. Rapid Re-housing Grant**

This is a McKinney funding opportunity. Deadline has been extended to 9/26. The project Whatcom is submitting is in collaboration with Clallam County because they have an 18-month, successful, history with Housing First. Neither county has the homeless population to utilize the entire grant alone.

Project: All families with children, with moderate barriers; \$775,000 between two counties, roughly 50 families total. Families must be homeless or have been in a shelter for previous seven days. According to last PIT, Whatcom had 25 families who fit these criteria. Grant will become SHP renewable.

3 tiers- The first tier (all clients) will receive three mos. CM, and avg. rent assistance of \$600. Tier 2: clients that need additional support go on to up to 3 more mos. CM and

\$400 rent assistance. Of that group, some will go on to receive up to six more mos. CM and an avg. of \$200 rent assistance.

#### **5. Point in Time Planning**

PIT will coincide with PHC, January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2008.

City will not contract with Greg Winter or Jim Cozad, as they're working for WHSC program. Gary Williams will most likely coordinate project, and Greg and Jim will pass on Count coordination tools they used previously, to Gary. Project will be run mainly by volunteers. Cornerstone Strategies can provide technical data support for data collection, analysis and reporting.

2009 would be a realistic benchmark year for PIT.

#### **6. Phase 4 Planning- Introduce concept of Community Funding network**

Clallam has Community Funding network; Kathy Wahto, Clallam contact, supports this network because it works well for planning programs to strategically and intentionally line up with 10-year Plan. Whatcom would benefit from having a matrix to look at/ a systems approach to line up all funding sources and programs. Employment services, SSI, etc. will need to be included, but first focus will be big funding sources.

Phase 4 proposal will happen soon. No time requirement unless it changes the 10-Year Plan, which it shouldn't.

#### **7. Berkeley Waterson's request for Coalition list**

Christy will look at sign-in sheets from past three WCCH meetings and compile a list of agencies who have attended. Berkeley can have this agency list, instead of list of individuals. At October WCCH meeting, the group will be asked to recommend ways to develop a better list and what information should be included on that list. What other related issues are there to consider about sharing member information? For example, should WCCH email list be visible to all it's sent to?

#### **8. Other**

##### Social Marketing

Greg has changed the next three WHSC Advisory Committee meetings to be focused on developing social marketing strategies to recruit more landlords into the program. Marketing plan will include key informants, focus groups and larger surveys. The resulting outreach plan/campaign will be implemented in late 2008/early 2009.

#### **9. One-tenth of one percent matters**

Whatcom has \$3 million deficit. Every department has to take a cut. Could possibly affect mental health funding; Jackie will report outcomes as she is made aware of them. County staff and other stakeholders are beginning to develop detailed proposal for four of the six strategies outlined in the Comprehensive Behavioral Health Plan that was released in July 2008.