



Whatcom County Housing Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date/Time/Location: February 14, 2008 - 9:00 – 10:30 AM – Whatcom County Health Department, 509 Girard Street, Bellingham

WCHAC Members Present: Ronald Buchinski, David Cahill, Paul Schissler, Laura DeRose, Michele Hall, Rebecca Johnson, Sue Parrott, Gail DeHoog, Nancy Larsen, Regina Delahunt, Carole Wells, Gary Tomsic, Dave Finet

WCHAC Members Absent: John Harmon,

Whatcom County Health Depart Staff/Guests: Gary Williams, Human Services Supervisor, Pat Fisher, Human Services Clerk

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action/Who
1. Review the January 10, 2008 minutes.	The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM. The January 10, 2008 Minutes were reviewed and approved with corrections:	Corrections: Add Regina Delahunt and Rebecca Johnson to the list of absent members.
2. Update on HGAP I & II Projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Whatcom County-CTED HGAP I Update<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Project Manager selection review complete The application and screening process was completed this week. The screening team interviewed five applicants and has selected two possible candidates. Background checks and references are being completed and it is expected that an offer will be made by the end of the week. Job descriptions are being developed for the Rapid Exit Coordinator, Housing Resource Coordinator and Administrative Assistant. This will allow the new director to hire for these positions in a timely manner.○ RFQ 08-08 Case Management – Feb 13th release The applications are due back by end of March. The RFQ	

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<p>2. Update on HGAP I & II Projects (cont.)</p>	<p>Applicant' Selection Committee will include representatives from the Homeless Coalition, WCHAC, the City of Bellingham and Whatcom County. Because the applicant's selection committee will consist of individuals who have no fiduciary interest in the RFQ a request for volunteers from WCHAC will be delayed until the March meeting to allow members the opportunity to apply.</p> <p>The RFQ is posted on the County web page at: http://www.co.whatcom.wa.us/as/finance/purchasing/current_bids/index.jsp</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whatcom County-CTED HGAP II Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ TSF under review by CTED by 1/29/08 The technical submission has been received by CTED and is under review. Gary will contact CTED to discuss the process in order to be able to meet the 2/29/08 deadline. ○ Risk Mitigation Sub-committee – Update The Risk Mitigation workgroup has met three times and the outcome has been extremely effective and valuable. The workgroup has done extensive research into best practices and community safety concerns. Two handouts were provided for the Committee, the first one summarizes identified concerns regarding Re-Entry Housing Principle Goals, Needs and Access and Criteria for RFQ Re-Entry Development, the second addresses the HGAP II Re-entry Project Logic. <p>It was discussed that a pro-active involvement of the media is needed to provide public education. It was suggested that Joe Bates, who is the County Information Coordinator, could be invited to the March meeting to begin discussion on community information and education regarding the Re-Entry Program.</p>	<p>ACTON: Extend and invitation to Joe Bates, County Information Coordinator for the March 2008 WCHAC meeting to discuss community information and education regarding HGAP II Re-Entry program.</p>

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3. Whatcom County 10-Year Plan schedule for Council Action Feb 26th	<p>The County 10-Year Plan has been approved by the Whatcom County Homeless Coalition and the WCHAC. It is scheduled for County Council action for February 26 or depending on County process could be delayed until March 11, 2008 council meeting. Once it is approved by County Council it will be submitted to CTED as the County revised plan.</p>	
4. Project Homeless Connect Update	<p>Bruce Johnson provided a brief history of Project Homeless Connect and his involvement in the event.</p> <p>He provided a handout listing event location, time and planning activities to date which include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A listing of the leadership group involved. ○ Efforts to obtain a non-profit sponsorship ○ Volunteer recruitment information ○ Service partnerships ○ Event logistics. <p>Bruce updated the Committee on the recent development of parish objections regarding family planning and the distribution of condoms for HIV/AIDS prevention and Committee plans regarding solutions to provide a full spectrum of services for homeless individuals. The Planning Committee will meet today and look at proposals for alternate site options and various ways of providing a full range of services. The concern is that there is about six weeks until the event and site information has been released to the public for approximately two months.</p> <p>Bruce provided a question/answer and discussion session for Committee clarification and input on event planning.</p>	<p>ACTION: It was requested that Bruce return in March to provide another update.</p>
5. 2008 Point in Time Count	<p>Gary provided an update on the PIT Count to date. Preliminary figures show 1326 homeless individuals in Whatcom County. This is prior to identifying duplicate submissions. This should put the figure is about 1300, which mirrors the previous two years. The results support consistency in data gathering and will provide a good base for evaluating the effectiveness of the Homeless Service Center after next year's count. The final report should be submitted to the Committee at the end of March. This release should coincide with Project Homeless Connect and information regarding the Homeless Service Center.</p>	

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<p>5. 2008 Point in Time Count (Cont)</p>	<p>It was suggested that the Count could provide valuable information on chronic homelessness. Gary will ask Greg Winter if that can be considered in comparisons from year to year.</p> <p>Gary wanted to bring to the attention of the Committee the excellent job that Jim Cozad did in his volunteer efforts to facilitate a successful Point In Time Count event.</p>	<p>ACTION: Include a question in next year's count that could identify year to year repeats in order to identify the number of chronic homeless individuals in Whatcom County.</p>
<p>6. March Presentation – Mental Health Housing Plan</p>	<p>The Mental Health Region has just completed their Mental Health Housing Plan. Gary suggested inviting Tom Yost, Regional Mental Health Housing Coordinator, to the March 2008 WCHAC to provide a presentation on the plan.</p> <p>It is important to establish a working relationship between systems such as mental health and substance abuse to establish clear expectations of human services supports for various systems housing plans.</p> <p>There was discussion regarding the importance of client support and accountability and continuity in plans and standards to assure cost effective housing and savings.</p>	<p>ACTION: Invite Tom Yost, Regional Mental Health Housing Coordinator to provide a presentation on the Regional Mental Health Housing Plan</p>
<p>7. Update on CHAT process</p>	<p>The CHAT group has been meeting every two week for almost a year and the process is beginning to come to a close. The group is currently discussing and taking votes on ideas that will be sent forward to the County, City and Small Cities. Even though it was a very complicated process there was a lot of consensus on the issues.</p> <p>It would be valuable for the Committee to evaluate the outcomes of the CHAT process and make recommendations to County Council.</p>	<p>ACTION: WCHAC will review and evaluate the outcomes of the CHAT process and make recommendations to County Council.</p>
<p>8. Other</p>	<p>Gary's Retirement Announcement – Gary announced that he will be retiring in May, 2008. Several members expressed concern regarding the County's process for identifying a replacement with Gary's experience, ability, knowledge and local connections. Regina stated that there is a plan in development but since it has been such a short time since Gary made his announcement to the County the plan was still in its infancy. The County has advertised for a Housing Specialist that will oversee the CTED Grants and housing contracts. Regina stated that the county's commitment to ongoing housing projects and philosophies remains unchanged</p>	

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<p>8. Other (cont.)</p>	<p>and that the Board will be updated on the plan for Gary's replacement.</p> <p>New Addition of services at West Coast Services – Westcoast Counseling has hired Cathy Miller as the outreach worker for their Specialized Outreach Services program. A 2.5 FTE has been added to provide services to older adults, 50 years old and up.</p> <p>Planning Funds – Gary suggested that because County 2163 and 1359 funds are fully committed for local match to fund future projects he is requesting that the Committee support efforts to identify other grant and funding sources to support planning activities regarding the 10-Year Plan. More specifically this supports efforts to identified needs for youth homeless services. Committee support is requested for seeking planning funds in order to be prepared when a local match is again available to support our 10-year plan.</p>	<p>ACTION: That the Committee support efforts for identifying funding for youth planning activities.</p> <p>Motion #01/02/2008: Recommend support for efforts to seek funding for youth planning activities based upon the recommendations of the revised Phase II Ten-Year Plan to end Homelessness.</p> <p>Passed by a vote: (Yea 13) (Nay 0) (Absent 1) (Abstention 0)</p>
<p>Adjourn</p>	<p>The meeting was adjourned at 10:36 AM</p>	
<p>Next Meeting</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">9:00 - 10:30 AM 2nd Thursday—March 13, 2008 Whatcom County Health Department 509 Girard Street, Administrative Conference Room</p>	