



Whatcom County Coalition for the Homeless: NOTES

Thursday, July 2, 2009
YWCA Ballroom
3:30- 5:00 PM

1. Introductions & Announcements

City Club announcement by Greg. – Where: Northwood Hall – luncheon meeting July 22nd – 11:30 to 1:30 – Program on Homelessness. Lunch cost is \$15.00 for non-members. Checking into the possibility of scholarships. Learn more at: <http://www.bellinghamcityclub.org/>

Bob Black (WCPC)– Budget cuts at WCPC. Bob has been bumped by Union Seniority. He is currently looking for other work. He hopes to continue to come to the WCCH meetings.

Theresa Josephson (Lydia Place) – Walton Place opens on 21st of July - Lydia Place has 10 units. At this time they are currently all filled. However, in case something should fall through, call Jessica for more information, especially if you have a family that can fill a 3-bedroom.

John Cummings (Garden Street Methodist Church) – The Mothers Leading the Way March was in Seattle on May 30th. This march was supported by the United for National Health Care organization. On June 20th the Food Co-op raised \$1,366 to donate to non-profit organizations.

Noriko Loa (Garden Street Methodist Church) - 1 or 2 families becoming homeless – needs help finding housing – looking for an affordable big house.

Theresa Meurs (Hope House) –August 8th is the Spirit of Hope House Sale. Hope House has purchased a new street outreach van and is in the process of purchasing another one. Welcome Baskets for City Gate – putting together lists of needed items for welcome baskets. Delivered the first 6 baskets, 10 more baskets coming.

2. Public Comment Period (limited to 3 minutes each)

None.

3. Review notes, March Coalition/Steering Com meetings Greg

Approved.

4. Homeless prevention assistance announcement Debbie

FEMA Homeless dollars for recently unemployed must be spent this summer. Send individuals to OC for eviction prevention. No income limit. Limited to one month of rental assistance. Also for mortgage assistance if under the cap.

5. WHSC Supplemental Fund Request Greg

WHSC has been going through rent assistance quickly. Partly due to high unemployment/job market situation – clients not obtaining employment as quickly as expected – it appears as

though the WHSC will fall short of the goals for 2009, and not be able to serve as many households as planned – Greg met with County Housing Advisory Committee – asked for supplemental fund of \$160,000 to supplement rent assistance. Approved by HAC – approval is subject to County Council Approval.

6. Balance of State/Legislative Update

No report this month.

7. HGAP2 Update

Gail / Joe

Thad Allen said that project participants are reviewing \applications for 10 people every couple of weeks. Several tenants have moved in. Things are going well.

Hope House has been providing baskets of household goods to help the tenants at City Gate transition to being permanent renters. Hope House is now looking for furniture for new City Gate tenants – need more beds and household items. Any house wares, dishes, bedding, couches, etc are needed. No beds and couches from street corners. Call Joe Nagel if someone has any items they would like to donate.

Garden Street Methodist is considering a request by City Gate staff to hold house meetings at the Church.

8. Organization update: Salvation Army

Cathy

The Salvation Army is one of the best kept secrets in town. They offer assistance with food, clothing, furniture, and eviction prevention. They have been working with Community Jobs to staff some of their positions. They like the CJ program because it helps to keep jobs filled. The Salvation Army is open 5 days a week. They are open M,T, Th, F 9:30–11:30am and 1:30–4:00pm, and W 9:30-11:30am. People can request food baskets usually only once a month – depends on certain cases.

Salvation Army does not usually, only once in awhile with individuals fleeing DV or being released from jail.

Eviction Prevention: Limited to once in a lifetime, need ID and 3 month income verification to prove they can afford their rent. Works with landlords and follow up with them. Financial literacy is a challenge for many of their clients: refer to Whatcom Dream and FLARE.

9. Community Employment Pathways - Building Changes

Sarah / Mark

SEE Supplemental Notes titled “Community Employment Pathways”

10. Future organization updates schedule

Greg

Womencare Shelter - August

Next Meeting August 6, 2009

Questions? Contact Stephanie Reinauer at 255-2091 or stephanie_reinauer@whatcomhsc.org.