

Whatcom County Homeless Coalition



Steering Committee Notes

March 15, 2010, 10:30-11:45 am
BWC Housing Authority Conference Room
208 Unity Street, Bellingham

Present: Kirsten, Greg, Debbie, Riannon, Gary, Gail, Sharon (guest)

1. Review February Steering Committee Meeting Notes

Approved.

2. WA State Steering Committee update

Nothing to report.

3. Gail's discussion about who else needs to be at this table in order to move the 10-year plan to the next level.

It is suggested that we recruit more stakeholders to be involved in planning. For example, Gail is talking to City of Bellingham staff about re-engaging in the Coalition and the Steering Committee. [UPDATE: Torhil Dunham, Executive Assistant to Mayor Dan Pike will be participating from now on in Homeless Coalition Steering Committee]. Other organizations to recruit as active planning participants include DSHS, Catholic Community and Housing Services, Pioneer Human Services, private sector partners (e.g. banks, realtors, landlords), PeaceHealth, criminal justice agencies, drug and alcohol treatment providers, mental health providers.

It is also suggested that there be more cross-linking to other community committees that have a stake in what the Homeless Coalition is doing. These include Whatcom Count advisory committees: Substance Abuse, Mental Health, Law and Justice, 0.1% Sales Tax; City of Bellingham's Community Development Advisory Board (CDAB) committee; United Way, Housing Authority Board, Domestic Violence Commission, and WorkSource.

It was also discussed that we need to more deliberately seek consumer perspectives so these are also represented in the plan.

The Steering Committee decided to plan a half-day, morning “summit” on May 1 and to invite some of these other organizations to join us to get more diverse input into the 10-Year Plan.

There was also a suggestion that we use a stakeholder survey to offer more opportunity for many voices to offer input.

4. By-Laws Discussion

Tabled until April meeting.

5. Other

Members of steering were reminded that input on draft bylaws is still needed by the bylaws committee.

Next Steering Committee meeting: Monday, April 19th 10:30-11:45 a.m.