

**Coalition of Service Providers for the Homeless  
Meeting Summary – March 8, 2017, 10:00-11:30am**

**Flyers, Sign In Sheets, and Other Meeting documents can be found at  
[http://www.councilforthehomeless.org/csp\\_docs/](http://www.councilforthehomeless.org/csp_docs/)**

**Announcements**

Janus – now has Permanent Supportive Housing

REACH – Grand Opening of Isabella Court

Speaker Matthew Desmond, Author of “Evicted” will be speaking in Portland

**State Level Advocacy, Dimitri Groce: [dimitrig@wliha.org](mailto:dimitrig@wliha.org)**

**Statistical Basis for Legislation to support those experiencing homelessness:**

- There is a great need for permanent affordable housing in every community in Washington State.
- The Point in Time Count in January 2016 counted 20,844 people experiencing homelessness that night, across the state. Over 8,400 of them were unsheltered, including families with children and unaccompanied youth.
- This same study found that with every additional \$100 in median rent that there was a corresponding 15% increase in homelessness in metro areas, and 39% increase in suburban and rural areas. When there is a low vacancy rate, the burden falls mostly on those who have low income.
- For every 100 people in need of housing in Vancouver, there are only 29 units available.
- It takes a 98 hour work week at minimum wage to afford a 2 bedroom in Vancouver.

**Advocacy:** As advocates for housing, we have the opportunity to help our legislators to do the right thing through both education + visibility. WLIHA sets its policy priorities around easing people’s access to housing and then advocating for more services so people can stay in those homes. The Emerging Advocates Program, for example, helps people to organize themselves to make a difference in their community.

**Bill Process:** WLIHA primarily targets advocacy to legislature as the bill goes through its process: Policy Committee, Fiscal Committee (Capitol Budget Committee and Appropriations Committee (H) and Ways and Means Committee (S); then it needs a simple majority in the House and in the Senate (51%). A trick is to have a champion on each side write companion bills so they go through the House and the Senate at the same time.

**Homelessness Assistance Act** was brought into law in 2005 to secure document recording fees (nominal fee on new construction) for investment through local grants for homeless services.

**Three priorities for current legislative agenda:**

- Eliminate the built-in sunset on the collection of document recording fees as well as increase the amount of the fee (Washington Housing Opportunities Act (HB1570) 5.5 million comes in to Clark County through grants funded by the collection of the document recording fees.
- \$200 million biennial investment in the Housing Trust Fund
- Outlaw discrimination based on a renter's source of income

Contact your legislators today!

**City of Vancouver Affordable Housing Update, Peggy Sheehan:**

[Peggy.Sheehan@cityofvancouver.us](mailto:Peggy.Sheehan@cityofvancouver.us)

The Affordable Housing levy in Vancouver, WA, passed by 58%. Levy is a 6M levy that expires in 7 years. The Policies and Procedures for the use of Levy collected funds are posted on the City of Vancouver website:

- Describes how funds will be collected and used
- Final version will be drafted in May 2017

**Who the Fund Serves:**

*Fund must serve very low-income households earning up to 50% of area median income (\$36,650 for family of four)*

Priorities:

- Seniors
- Families with children
- People with disabilities
- Veterans
- People experiencing homelessness

**Allowed Fund Uses:**

- Increasing Housing Supply (2.5M)
- Preserving Existing Housing: 1.6M
- Prevent and Address Homelessness
  - Rent vouchers and self-sufficiency services
  - Rent buy downs for market-rate properties
  - Homeless shelter
- Implementation

**Community Housing Resource Center, Charlene Dahlen:** [charlene@homecen.org](mailto:charlene@homecen.org)

If you are working with clients who haven't had their taxes prepared, please send clients to Charlene because she could possibly save people. Earned Income Tax Credits (which can be claimed for up to three years) that folks might not be aware of can help people settle debt or pay off history of bad credit.

## Updates

### Project homeless Connect

We recognize the work of David Bilby. There were over 275 attendees at St. Joseph and of those, over 200 were identified as unsheltered, which was a record number: 35 dental, 78 foot care, 30 haircuts and 30 visual appointments. The Point in Time count that is taken on this day is vital in educating legislators about the challenges that our community is facing in housing.

### Continuum of Care Steering Committee

Amy Reynolds, [deputydir@sharevancouver.org](mailto:deputydir@sharevancouver.org)

### HMIS Users

Dale Whitley, [dwhitley@councilforthehomeless.org](mailto:dwhitley@councilforthehomeless.org)

Please note the change in date of the May meeting to accommodate attendance at the Washington Low Income Housing Alliance [Conference on Ending Homelessness](#), May 17 and 18<sup>th</sup>.

[Registration](#) has begun!

Click here to see the [Conference Program Schedule](#)

**Next Meeting: May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2016 10:00-11:30am**  
**3609 Main Street, Vancouver, WA 98660**

The Coalition meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday bi-monthly for planning to prevent and end homelessness in Clark County.

**Contact:** Council for the Homeless (360) 993-9561 or [asilver@councilforthehomeless.org](mailto:asilver@councilforthehomeless.org). For more information on the Coalition, visit [www.councilforthehomeless.org](http://www.councilforthehomeless.org) and click on Agency Resources.