

**Coalition of Service Providers for the Homeless
Meeting Summary – March 9, 2016, 10:00-11:30am**

Flyers, Sign In Sheets, and Other Meeting documents can be found at
http://www.councilforthehomeless.org/csp_docs/

Issues, Hot Topics, Discussion

Announcements

NW Justice Project, Amy McCullough, amym@nwjustice.org

- Amy Reynolds mentioned that Amy McCullough was recently recognized by the Bar Association for her work. Congratulations to Amy!
- The NW Justice Project is looking for new avenues to pursue. In the recent past they have focused on the following:
 - assistance with re-instatement of drivers licenses (and mounting fines) to help people get back to work.
 - Narrowing the definition of “neglect” or “abuse” of children toward a more “just” administration of proportionate consequences

City of Vancouver, Danelle Norby

CDBG action plan is looking for initial recommendations from service providers by March 21st. There will be a Public Hearing on May 2nd. The Action plan is available on the [City of Vancouver website](#).

WLIHA Conference, May 11th and 12th in Spokane. You can find information here on [Conference on Ending Homelessness](#) and [Registration Details](#).

Presentations

YWCA’s Homeless Childcare Program,

Leah Reitz, lreitz@ywcaclarkcounty.org

Leah disburses the homeless childcare vouchers for three counties. This federal program provides childcare for up to 13 years old (or older children with disabilities) as a bridge for 90-120 days that can be used any licensed childcare (home or centers). There is almost always extra funds. Eligibility is based on the McKinney-Vento definition of homelessness and the reason for the need for childcare being one of the following: seeking childcare or permanent housing or attending appointments with service providers, job searching or holding a temporary job, etc. The main referral sources are shelter managers and word of mouth from people who have share the information that the YWCA can give assistance.

Share’s Lincoln Place Update

Katherine Garrett and Amy Reynolds, deputydir@sharevancouver.org

Both senators came and spoke passionately about the Housing First model, which was exciting to see. Lincoln Place is now open with 30 units of Permanent Supportive Housing for people who would otherwise be most likely to die on the streets.

A vulnerability assessment tool was used to determine the 30 placements. CSNW is on site to provide services. Continual assessments will be made for future options.

Temporary Emergency Shelter

Kate Budd, Kate.Budd@clark.wa.gov

The community is trying to create a temporary emergency shelter. There was a pursuit of an outside space at a Nazarene church on Mill Plain. Other efforts with other churches have not panned out. *How can we find a faith-based community that may already have service to homeless within their culture?* The conversation turned to our WHO programs and St. Paul in particular, who currently serves 24 men in their facility, may be extending into the non-winter months. They were very enthusiastic to do so. Currently, they will serve up to 12 single women after the WHO program ends. Hopefully, it will be as absolutely low barrier as possible with paid peer support staff (case management) onsite during the night. This will bridge the time gap for these vulnerable women until St. Andrew reopens for the winter. The way to access is still the Housing Solutions Center. This is not part of the WHO model. The new temporary shelter will be called WHAT.

Advocacy Update

Andy Silver, asilver@councilforthehomeless.org

Lots of Good news with current Legislation regarding Housing:

- **Fair Tenant Screening Act – Bill 6413 finally passed.**
- **Homeless Students Stability Act** was passed to bring more resources around homelessness and education. Now, hopefully it will be funded in the budget.
- **Rainy Day Funding:** The biggest investment for homelessness would could come out of the rainy day fund. The house appropriated budget would appropriate 37M from the rainy day fund to use for housing and now we are waiting on budget negotiations to see if hopefully the senate would also approve this.

Advocacy Opportunity: Reach out to both members of house and senate and say we liked the house investment in services and we want the final budget to reflect that!

Affordable Housing Levy Update

Andy Silver, asilver@councilforthehomeless.org

Funding from an Affordable Housing Levy could be used to build more places like Lincoln Place – without the barriers of funding that come from Federal Income Tax Credits. That will be a BIG focus of our local advocacy. It will take a ballot measure in order to pass ... we will need all of the volunteer help that we can possibly get.

Work Group Updates

Continuum of Care Steering Committee

Amy Reynolds, deputydir@sharevancouver.org

The Housing First funding has been renewed (\$900,000). We are still waiting for Tier II funding renewal news.

HMIS

Dale Whitley, <mailto:dwhitley@councilforthehomeless.org>

- 94.7% of data quality on HMIS. Most of the programs data quality is above that.
- Project Homeless Connect – 212 attendees. Of these there was an increase in literally homeless and doubled up. 25 social services with an average of 22 guests helped by each. The final report is due to HUD by the end of April. (Increases in PIT across the state were staggering.)
- As far as our HMIS system in about a year's time there is going to be another major upgrade, an interface ... if you have been sitting on an improvement idea, it's a good time to send it to Dale.

Coordinated Assessment Workgroup

Olivia Resnick, oresnick@councilforthehomeless.org

The work group meeting hosted a presenter from the YWCA to speak about legal advocacy that DV survivors can receive.

Housing First Cohort

Olivia Resnick, oresnick@councilforthehomeless.org

The discussion is focusing on how to manage the flow of scattered site and case conferencing between programs.

Bridges to Employment Task Force

Kate Budd, Kate.Budd@clark.wa.gov

This group is identifying employment models for people who are homeless and a potential pilot opportunity. There was great engagement from employment programs in the community at this initial meeting, notably supportive employment and pre-apprenticeship programs that would be based on best practices. What messaging could we provide to potential funders to bring these to the community and who are the appropriate partners? SW WA Workforce Development Council and a partnership with Clearview ... this expertise could go into a pilot. [The Bridges to Employment](#) final report can be viewed here.

Youth Access Group

Scott Conger, sconger@janusyouth.org

Networking opportunity to meet other agencies that serve youth. Fourth Friday every other month, 1:30, at Center for Community Health (Rebecca Royce). At the last meeting, the discussion topic was employment opportunities for youth.

Next Meeting: May 4, 2016 10:00-11:30am

YWCA 3609 Main Street, Vancouver WA 98663

The Coalition meets on the 2nd 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. For more information on the Coalition, visit www.councilforthehomeless.org and click on Agency Resources.