

**Coalition of Service Providers for the Homeless  
Meeting Summary – July 8, 2015, 10:00am-12:00pm**

Flyers, sign in sheets and handouts at: [http://www.councilforthehomeless.org/csp\\_docs/](http://www.councilforthehomeless.org/csp_docs/)

**Introductions:**

Andy Silver opened the meeting and introduced himself and allowed for introductions of others.

**Announcements:**

**\*Exploratory Meeting for Establishing Safe Church Campsites – all faith communities are invited!**

July 15, 6:30-8:30pm, at Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church (12513 SE Mill Plain Blvd, Vancouver, WA, across from McGraths). The purpose of this meeting is to explore ways of making car camping safe until more permanent housing can be arranged.

**\*Faith, Homelessness, and Affordable Housing Meeting**

August 29, 9-noon at St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, 5607 NE Gher Rd, Vancouver, WA 98662)

**Hot Topics, Discussion:**

**\*Meeting Emergency Needs**

Andy Silver, Council for the Homeless [asilver@councilforthehomeless.org](mailto:asilver@councilforthehomeless.org)

**Summary:** Andy's comments focused on community conversations regarding meeting basic needs. The trend is that the people we are serving are less able to use vouchers to secure housing. Largely this would be answered by policy, but policy change can be slow. So the question for the coalition is two-fold: "How do we build more capacity in our community around affordable housing" and also "What do we do to assist folks in the meantime?"

**Options:**

Day Center: This would be a place for low barrier adults who don't have a place to be during the day to be used for showers, bathrooms, naps, laundry, charging the cell phone ... basic life functions.

Night Shelter: This winter the HSC turned away 1182 different people due to lack of capacity at the WHO. Conversations have bubbled up in the faith community around increasing shelter capacity.

-Safe Car Camping Meeting: The organizers of this meeting are hoping for a mix of folks from the community: faith groups, service providers, etc. This discussion will build toward October 3, when the ED from Interfaith Council in Tacoma will speak about their effective safe car camping initiative.

-St. Andrew's Lutheran Church will be hosting a summit on August 29<sup>th</sup> from 9-noon to address "Faith, Homelessness and Affordable Housing." This discussion will address long term solutions and immediate needs such as what could more WHO-like shelter look like?

Discussion Ideas from coalition members:

- Zoning that would allow for folks with additional rooms to allow them to board folks
- Changes in Tenant Laws to increase numbers of folks with vouchers being seen as viable renters
- Preservation of current affordable housing that is on the market
- Put more money into prevention of homelessness.

### **\*Affordable Housing Task Force**

Peggy Sheehan, City of Vancouver [peggy.sheehan@cityofvancouver.us](mailto:peggy.sheehan@cityofvancouver.us)

**Summary:** Peggy's talk focused on updating folks on the issue of affordable housing. The Mayor's Task Force was put into place to 1) protect vulnerable renters in the short term and 2) support increase in affordable housing in the long run.

The Task Force meets on the second Thursday of each month from 9-11 in Aspen Room of City Hall. Folks are invited to attend although the window for public comment is short. There is a [portal for public comment](#) on the city's website. All of the [task force documents](#) are also available on the city's website. The task force expects to be able to take their recommendations to City Council in August and a list of and links to potential policy tools can be viewed on the page with the other [task force documents](#).

### **\*Legislative Session Update**

Kate Budd, Clark County Community Services [Kate.Budd@clark.wa.gov](mailto:Kate.Budd@clark.wa.gov)

**Summary:** Kate's update shared that income decrease, rents increase, vacancy rate decrease is common to the communities that she has conversations with. So this issue is being recognized statewide and the governor has had priorities. The budget has been signed on June 30<sup>th</sup> so this new budget will be in effect July 1, 2015-June 30, 2017.

- \$75 million has been advocated for the Housing Trust Fund, this is a statewide pot of dollars used to create affordable housing. We will continue to benefit from this locally.
- HEN Program run through SHARE locally was fully funded.
- ADD run through DSHS locally was fully funded.
- 9% increase in the TANF grant

Defunded Programs:

Community Voice Mail is no longer being funded, which locally was run through Council for the Homeless.

WA Telephone Assistance program is no longer being funded.

A few notable bills that were enacted:

- Created an office of youth homelessness in the Dept of Commerce for 18 and under, which she sees as a good start
- HB 2263 – It is a local option to create a .1% sales tax to create and operate affordable housing and mental health facilities. In order to enact it, a County Council needs to vote to put it on the ballot and a

majority of the voters would need to approve it. If a County has not acted for two years, a City within the County could follow the same procedure.

There were 3 tenant rights bills, but none of them really gained traction. WLIHA will put these bills forward again.

#### **\*Data Quality Updates:**

Dale Whitley, Council for the Homeless [dwhitley@councilforthehomeless.org](mailto:dwhitley@councilforthehomeless.org)

**Summary:** Normally, this is where Dale discusses the data quality scores beaming with pride, but it's a little more complicated because additional data standards have been added and there is a new report card that looks at those. So, we need to go back and update entries and exits in keeping with the new standards. We are also taking the opportunity to go through the lengthy list of programs and clean up the programs that no longer exist.

#### **CoC Steering Committee**

**Amy Reynolds, Chairman** [programdir@sharevancouver.org](mailto:programdir@sharevancouver.org)

\*Several items already mentioned are under discussion in the steering committee. Small number of committees that are time limited will be designed to address issues.

\*Currently, there is a programming monitoring committee to meet the standards of HUD: Kate Budd, Scott Conger, and Kathy Neary are going through files and reporting back to HUD.

\*There has also been a discussion regarding what other communities are doing in regards to the rental market crisis. You can view the presentation here. These are helpful resources related to landlord engagement.

#### **Navigating Landlords Presentation**

#### **NAEH Landlord Engagement**

#### **Youth Access**

Scott Conger [sconger@janusyouth.org](mailto:sconger@janusyouth.org)

**Summary:** This is one of the two work groups that will continue. It is useful to connect youth providers to engage around topics such as youth homelessness, employment, education, and filling gaps. A key area is data collection; they will be hosting a youth task force to figure out what kind of data is needed and how to best use it.

\* A new action plan has been developed regarding strategies to end homelessness among youth. Scott will send out an email to CoC in the hopes of seeing items come to fruition through the group. Please provide feedback.

**Next meeting:** August 28, 1:30-3:00 location TBA

#### **Coordinated Assessment**

Olivia Resnick [oresnick@councilforthehomeless.org](mailto:oresnick@councilforthehomeless.org)

**Summary:** The HSC has changed their assessment tool to the SPDAT, which is used across north American and is highly effective in determining best outcome for the client. HSC has been reassessing all the clients on the waitlist using this new tool.

**Next meeting:** August 12, 10-11am, VHA, Hough Conference Room

**Additional Items:**

**CoC and HMIS Surveys**

Kate Budd, Clark County Community Services [Kate.Budd@clark.wa.gov](mailto:Kate.Budd@clark.wa.gov)

**Summary:** We have a responsibility as the Clark County CoC (Continuum of Care) AKA Coalition of Service Providers. The steering committee is the umbrella group over the coalition. We are charged with monitoring the programs that are funded through the CoC. One of the programs funded is HMIS, which is coordinated through Dale Whitley.

We need to more clearly and with more transparency monitor how the program is doing in the community. So, there are two surveys being taken: HMIS Satisfaction Survey and Effective Continuums of Care Survey. Both of these will be used as indicators of how we are progressing toward the standard of being effective as a Continuum of Care. Please participate in the survey today before you leave and for those not in attendance an electronic version is being provided.

At the next CoC Steering Committee a summary of results will be provided.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:07.