

**Coalition of Service Providers for the Homeless  
Meeting Summary – September 9, 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.

**Issues, Hot Topics, Discussion**

**Mayor's Affordable Housing Task Force:** Alishia Topper, Vancouver City Council Woman, addressed the CoC regarding the three ordinances for the protection of vulnerable renters on which there would be held a hearing on Monday, Sept 14 and a vote on Monday, Sept 21. She encouraged everyone's participation. The next four meetings of the Mayor's Task Force will focus on recommendations for affordable housing: inclusionary zoning; reducing fees for property owners, etc, in order to bring a long term vision for increasing the affordable housing stock.

**Project homeless Connect , January 28<sup>th</sup> 9:00-2:00** David Bilby addressed the CoC regarding this annual event. Every fourth Thursday of January, HMIS conducts a point in time count, so we invite anyone who is either housed unstably or vulnerable to lack of housing or literally homeless to come and receive services. We limit the services to 20. This event held at St. Joseph's Catholic Church includes free LUNCH and dental, haircuts, eye care, chiropractic, and message. If service providers want to be involved, they can email [David Bilby](mailto:David.Bilby@hmis.org). Look for flyers to come out soon to post at your organizations.

***The first planning meeting is October 1 at 4:30pm at the VHA in Hough Conference Room.***

**Data Quality :** Dale Whitley addressed the CoC regarding HMIS. At the last meeting it was discussed that data scores were in flux because of the new standards that needed to be met. Gradually, organizations have been able to get up to date with the standards, and we are at the point now where we can produce reports. In July the CoC score was 92%, which has come up since the changes. Thank you to all the organizations who have been diligent to implement the changes to bring the scores up. More updates are coming in February. One is related to Domestic Violence. The other is about destinations for children. In October we will be collecting data for the homeless report for HUD. The next Data users meeting is scheduled for September 25, 10-11 at the VHA.

**Survey Results and Program Scoring for CoC Funded Programs:** Kate Budd addressed the Coc to thank everyone who completed a survey. HUD puts out a notice of funding in September. It's a huge commitment to fill it out. It brings in about 1 million every year. To receive that funding we are mandated to hold the coalition meeting. The CoC steering committee sets the agenda for the coalition, strengthens the system and increases our outcomes. The CoC steering committee also oversees the programs that receive CoC funds – 11 different programs in the community. HUD has become more sophisticated in requiring outcomes. A monitoring committee has set up a program to provide scores and will use the survey feedback to focus improvements. According to the survey results the strengths of our coalition are in the following three areas: using data to evaluate outcomes; having a culture of openness; collaborating with mainstream systems. The areas for improvements are in the following three areas: investing in low-barrier and permanent supportive housing; maintaining comprehensiveness of system; becoming more aware of evidence based practices.

## **Guest Speaker for OutsidersInn and Homeless in Vancouver**

Adam Kravitz addressed the CoC. Adam is a long time resident of Vancouver who has a college degree, a veteran, father, has lived outside, survived from dumpsters and donations; grew quite a bit from that experience; it tore me down – the hardest part was to deal with the scrutiny.

He has started a social media campaign to bring the face to the homeless. He has spent many months networking and getting support throughout the state, spreading thought provoking messages and images to bring awareness.

He has been working to bring about the following changes:

- Giving input on policy and procedures concerning due process of handling homeless person's belonging and camps.
- Advocating for the Day Center – 150 surveys so that homeless has input in the day center being provided. This has deep and lasting results – helping them be heard and listened to.
- Working with the team on the need of single women's shelter.
- Collecting food and clothing donations and distributing to outlying areas as well as DT core – pockets of people who don't come into town.
- Providing navigation and resources through social media.
- Being trained by HSC to do housing assessments so he can be sent out to encourage them to keep trying, that things change.
- Providing peer Support.
- Working with faith based partners to collaborate: car camping and inter-faith coalition to end homelessness.

Adam seeks to be a conduit of love and support through [OutsidersInn](#) and the [Homeless in Vancouver](#) page.

**Continuum of Care Steering Committee:** Amy Reynolds reported on the decisions of the CoC steering committee. She reported that since housing vouchers have high rate of stability, they are looking at combining the vouchers with folks who are slipping into homelessness. Three new work groups are also being implemented in light of the current planning: Housing Task Force, Employment Task Force, and a Youth Task Force.

**Youth Access:** Lydia Sanders spoke on behalf of youth planning. They are working to define strategies and will focus on two priorities: Networking and sharing information; and a larger project that will be fill a need for youth.

***Next meeting is Sep 25, 1pm, at Center for Community Health.***

**Coordinated Assessment:** Olivia Resnick reported that the Housing Solutions Center has expanded Prevention services based on high volume of calls. Community in need of more Prevention supports – so they are working at building capacity to provide those supportive services (The HSC received approximately 40 calls a day and the availability for placement is 10 spots a month.)

***The next meeting date is scheduled for November 4<sup>th</sup>*** due to the original date being Veteran's Day and a holiday for some. The meetings from now on will be from 10:00-11:30 with last 15 minutes for networking.