

**Coalition of Service Providers for the Homeless  
Meeting Summary – March 11, 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 Kate Budd who was at the meeting to provide information and lead a discussion around our collaboration with DSHS.

**Announcements:**

**\*WLIHA State Homeless Conference in Tacoma is May 13-14;** open registration begins Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup>. (The next CoC meeting has been canceled since it was scheduled for the same date as the WLIHA Conference.) So now you can get the “coalition experience on steroids” at the state level! Scholarships are available and please let CFTH know if you’re in need.

**Community Action is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary on Thursday, March 12<sup>th</sup>**, from 6-9pm, with a dinner and special screening of “American Winter.” Everyone is invited to the event at Clark County Community Services Center for Community Health Room C210. For more information, visit: <http://www.clark.wa.gov/community-action/documents/CAA50thAnniversaryEventFlyer.pdf>

**The YWCA is hiring a legal advocacy specialist**, and the position closes Monday, March 16. View the job description here: <http://ywcaclarkcounty.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/04/2015-PA-DVPC-Legal-Advocacy-Specialist1.pdf>

**Hot Topics, Discussion:**

**\*Facilitating connections between DSHS and the Homeless System**

Kate Budd, Housing Stability Manager at DSHS: [buddka@dshs.wa.gov](mailto:buddka@dshs.wa.gov)

**Summary:** Kate is glad to be a resource between coalition members and DSHS to marry public policy and cross divisional efforts to better support households in stability. The goal is to work together toward better efficiencies. She presented a **Graph of Affordable Housing Gap** which illustrates the data that statewide there are only 16 units available for 100 households.

***Kate’s talk focused on five main points regarding using DSHS as a resource:***

**State Level Information Systems:** The state is interested in how information can be shared for improved service. DSHS was able to obtain the HMIS data from the Dept of Commerce to cross reference folks who receive homeless assistance and those who receive DSHS assistance and is a great resource for data sharing.

**Research and Development Administration:** This department gives an amazing analysis regarding youth who are homeless and families who are homeless and research that can inform work that we do as well as grant applications.

**2015 Housing Needs Assessment:** A number of groups came together including Affordable Housing Assistance Board and other entities to help communities and state understand why they are having such a hard time finding housing for folks in need of it. At [WA State Dept of Commerce](#), search for the WA State Housing Needs Assessment.

**Infrastructure of DSHS:** DSHS Secretary oversees 7 units: Aging and Long-Term Support; Administration Behavioral Health and Service Integration; Children's Administration, (Currently, any youth that ages through foster care thru 18 has the option to opt into extended foster care thru their 21<sup>st</sup> birthday, which means they could have their rent paid for and have case management through age 21. This is useful info for screening youth who may be eligible for funds and they can go in and out.); Developmental Disabilities Admin; Economics; Financial Services; Juvenile Justice & Rehabilitation Administration.

**Economic Services (where Kate works):** 3 divisions

\*Community Services Division – Refugee and Immigrant Assistance, SNAP, Work First, and Child Care

\*Division of Child Support – This is a resource coalition members can call to work out a reasonable support payment plan, something that's manageable and get parents re-involved in the system.

\*Division of Disability Determination Services – Determines medical availability for social security.

Kate led a discussion of how we can best form partnerships within the systems, sharing our information and learnings toward increased effectiveness. She would like folks to discuss ways that our agencies can partner with DSHS to inform each other's work toward increased effectiveness. *How do you currently interact with DSHS? What are pipe dream ideas that DSHS could work better with the approach or service that you are coming from? Let's work together!*



Systems Work: I'm sure glad the hole isn't in our end ... (but of course we're all in the same boat.) 😊

**\*Legislative Session Update** presented by Andy Silver, Director of CFTH  
**Andy Silver:** [asilver@councilforthehomeless.org](mailto:asilver@councilforthehomeless.org)

CFTH has an Advocacy List Serv that is separate from the Coalition List. To ensure that you are a recipient of advocacy updates, go to [Council For the Homeless Advocacy List Serv](#).

**Summary:** Legislative Updates: We had a really good turnout at Advocacy Day with about 30 attending from Clark County and a total of 650 advocates from across the state. We had a chance to meet with most of the elected officials. This year there is a 105 day state legislative session and we are well into it. Budgeting (which begins around March 23<sup>rd</sup> for the House is where our biggest work will come in ... there are HUGE budget challenges this year. The governor was able to preserve funding for projects related to homelessness; however, he did this by proposing that revenue be raised, which will make his budget controversial especially in the Senate. We can't let that distract us from the huge challenge we have moving forward.

**Opportunities for Advocacy** [WLIHA.org](http://WLIHA.org) has a list of the bills for advocacy. There are many opportunities for Advocacy at the local and state level, so sign up with [Council For the Homeless Advocacy List Serv](#) to receive advocacy updates.

**Fair Tenant Screening Act** – The passage of this bill would ensure that folks who are applying for housing would only have to apply one time! They could purchase one screening and it would be good for 30 days. This has gone through the House and is going to the Senate.

**Truth in Evictions Act** – Right now if a tenant is sued in court to be evicted, everything from that point on is reported the same way (as an eviction) even if the case is won by the tenant. This bill would allow courts to seal certain types of evictions so they wouldn't get counted against the tenant. At the time of this writing, Senator Benton is trying to get this bill through the Senate. (It's useful to call and encourage him today to get this done. It's also useful to go through the list of senators and say this is important. We have to get this done.)

**There is also a Bill that would give communities the options to provide lengthier amount of time to consider other options**, once notice of rent increase or a notice to vacate is given. Right now it's 30 days – this would give options to the jurisdiction to make it anywhere between 30 and 90 days. This is important in our community. It doesn't stop ability to raise the rent, but it gives people more time to find new housing.

There are also two BILLS that apply to youth and homelessness:

**HSSA** – This Bill would provide additional support to our school liaisons, getting money to school and housing partnerships. This Bill made it through the first round.

**Children's Homeless Programs** – This Bill would move programs all together with the rest of the homeless services under Dept of Commerce.

## Workgroup Updates

### CoC Steering Committee

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

\*The steering committee is excited about opportunities to be more actively involved with our City. You are encouraged to stay in touch with what is going on in the community because we have the opportunity to go and advocate at many engagements.

\*Structure of the work groups are being downsized to fewer work groups and instead there will be opportunities to concentrate and volunteer on task force on a more limited basis around special projects. The work groups that are ending are Prevention, Data Management, and 10 year planning group (which will now fall under the CoC steering committee). Stay tuned for Task Force Groups that will commence around the county's finalized action plan.

### 10 Year Plan final update (no future meetings)

Pete Munroe [pete.munroe@clark.wa.gov](mailto:pete.munroe@clark.wa.gov)

**Summary:** At the last meeting on Feb 5<sup>th</sup>, Andy reported on the community conversation at the Methodist Church, gave an update on Courtyard Village, and presented the draft of the homeless action plan.

### 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.

**Next meeting:** April 24<sup>th</sup>, 12:00-1:30 at Clark College

### Data Management/Housing Inventory final update (no future meetings)

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

**Summary:** Reviewed system wide data quality. We are still at 97%. Our results from annual homelessness assessment report, which is broken down into 14 categories, has been sent into HUD. They accept and publish the data based on quality of the data. 2014 all 14 categories have been accepted. Please continue to do a great job of data entry. [CFTH](#) posts an update of the [Point In Time Count](#).

### Coordinated Assessment

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

**Summary:** Our Rapid Re-housing placements will now include Safe Choice. This added collaboration should more greatly ensure that women don't return to their abuser. Also, we are now using a targeted prevention tool that was created by Commerce to more finely target those in real need of assistance where there is the most likelihood of them becoming homeless.

**Next meeting:** April 8, 10-11am, VHA, Hough Conference Room