

**Coalition of Service Providers for the Homeless
Meeting Summary – November 4, 2015, 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

Upcoming Changes to SWBH and Mental Health Training Option

Janis Housden, janis.housden@swbh.org

PDF handouts: *Mental Health First Aid Training Brochure* and
Excerpt from Mental Health First Aid Training Manual

Janis can train 8-32 people for the cost of the manual which is \$16.00 per person.

Changes to SWBH: SWBH manages the Medicaid dollars and subcontracts out direct services to other agencies. SWBH is going away on April, 2016. The state has determined that there will be no more silos for mental health and physical health and they are blending the administrations together. Clark County is going through “Early Adopter,” being one of the first counties in the state to incorporate all services. The new organization will be called Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organization. For the client this will be one stop shopping; it will be better for the clients to get all the services they need at one point of contact. There are many parts of a person’s care, and one of the pieces that our clients need is behavioral health services. CEO, Vanessa Gaston, is ensuring that service providers know of available Mental Health Training before the funds run out.

Mental Health First Aid Training is a 8-10 hour program to be certified that demystifies the language used in mental health: psychosis, schizophrenia, bi-polar, etc, and humanizes the concepts. It explains behaviors that might be clues that someone is experiencing a mental health crisis. What do you look for? Janis will bring the training to agencies and supply a manual and resources. The training addresses the following: early prevention, talking to someone who is suicidal, recovery, comfort and support.

Update on Interested Landlord List and Discussion with Property Managers

Andy Silver, asilver@councilforthehomeless.org

The state legislature passed a bill for deed recording that every community has to have a list of landlords that are interested to renting to people in our programs. Formerly, we made this list available at the CFTH website. Now, it’s not a helpful list because there are so few places to rent. The tool currently being used instead is HousingSearchNW (which is a list of landlords that will rent to clients that is managed by the landlords themselves). As part of the law we have 2 meetings a year that talk about the list and have a meaningful discussion about the availability of rental properties.

Andy introduced the guests on the landlord panel:

- Chris Hanson, Director of AH for VHA – Government Properties
- Caleb Locke, Coast Real Estate – Private Properties
- Ben – REACH Community Development – Non-profit Properties

Andy addressed the fact that as service providers we look at clients from their barriers (felonies, past evictions, bad credit) which is assessed by the VAT assessment tool. But the landlord doesn't see this, and we need to successfully bridge the gap between what we assess and what property managers need. The need for partnership with quality communication was stressed by the panel. When referring a client, please send written information to the property sites, keeping in mind that the following information is most helpful:

- What program / agency is referring the client?
- What program are they in?
- What monies are being paid to help them?
- How long the \$ is going to last (progressive engagement)?
- What are the maximum security deposit payments, application fees or % of income that will be paid. (He advised that sometimes a higher security deposit is needed if issues turn up in the background check.)
- How often will the case manager be involved?
- Will there be after care?
- Provide reference letters and also follow up correspondence. Also provide case management contact information with the name of a secondary contact person (because if they can't get ahold of the case worker, they move on.)

Project Homeless Connect

David Bilby, david@goconnect.org

Project Homeless Connect will be held on January 28, 2016, 9:00-2:00, at St. Joseph's Catholic Church.

Free LUNCH and dental, haircuts, eye care, chiropractic, message will be provided.

Primary objective is to provide direct service to the homeless. Please promote this event at your agencies. Flyers are available at this link: <http://www.goconnect.org/files/phc>

Point in Time Count

Dale Whitley, dwhitley@councilforthehomeless.org

Every fourth Thursday of January, HMIS conducts a point in time count, so we invite anyone who is housing unstable or vulnerably unstable or literally homeless to come and receive services. Everyone who comes gets a survey form. Outreach workers go out and do counts. Notices will be going out. Volunteers are needed to do the count.

Data Quality Report

Last time we met score was 92% and now 92.6%. We really want to get to 95% which is considered an "A" in our system. The new data standards have caused a temporary drop in scores.

Continuum of Care Steering Committee

Amy Reynolds, programdir@sharevancouver.org

COC application is for up to 1.2 million with an opportunity for bonus funds. The COC application is due November 20 and Andy is working diligently to ensure it is submitted a few days before. There was a new application for bonus funding from Janus Youth. HUD will score the award funding based on the COC scores.

Coordinated Assessment

Olivia Resnick, oresnick@councilforthehomeless.org

Olivia reported that we are seeing increased stabilization for VETS. Encourage them to call us and make contact.

Housing First Task Force

Olivia Resnick, oresnick@councilforthehomeless.org

Olivia reported that the first meeting was held last month and the intention is to improve our understanding of Housing First model and address challenges. Last meeting we established the baseline of our understanding.

Bridges to Employment Task Force

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

The goal of this task force will be to connect employment with folks who are homeless. A lot of employment programs were not compatible with the clients we are serving so the task force will be looking at how we can get folks to the point where they can take advantage of those programs.

Youth Task Force

Scott Conger, sconger@janusyouth.org

This task force will begin by being educational in nature and will host 2-3 spotlight speakers each meeting. The next meeting is December 11, 1:30-3:00.

Update on Camping Ordinances

Andy Silver, asilver@councilforthehomeless.org

It has been illegal to sleep on public property. That's been on questionable legal footing. City responded by stopping enforcement of the ordinance while figuring out what to do. Then passed an amendment 9:30pm-6:30am that camping is against the law during the day. During that process the group grew to 145 people camping near Share House. CFTH has gone out to do housing assessments to determine the needs of individuals and is also trying to find a place for a temporary emergency shelter. The City convened a group to come up with solutions. One of the hopes for providing a tent community is the ability to provide access to services and safety.