

**Coalition of Service Providers for the Homeless
Meeting Summary – November 10, 2014, 10:00am-12:00pm**

Flyers, sign in sheets and handouts at:

http://www.councilforthehomeless.org/csp_docs/

Announcements during Introductions:

Feb 17, 2015 Homeless and Housing Advocacy Day. More info can be found at www.wliha.org.

Hot Topics, Discussion:

***Local collaborative application to HUD** presented by CFTH Director, Andy Silver

Summary: Annual application to HUD is done for the year and posted on the CFTH website. The community scored very well last year, so likely to get all programs funded again for next year.

***Clark County Asset Building Coalition** <http://clarkcountyabc.org/> provided a panel presentation of a group of non-profits, financial institutions who come together with the goal of an interconnected network of resources to help people overcome poverty and connect to assets.

Panel presenters were as follows:

Amy McCullough, Northwest Justice Project Washingtonlawhelp.org

Service: Not for profit law firm and civil matter free legal services; runs a statewide intake and hotline, which is called CLEAR. (9:10-12:25 M-F) #1-888-201-1014. The types of issues are rental agreements, public benefits, freedom from family violence, and employment type issues.

Charlene Dahlen, Community Housing Resource Center Homecen.org

Service: Free Tax Service with AARP - FYI: (Encourage folks to sign up for affordable health care through Feb 15th previous to filing taxes so that they will not have a penalty.) Also provides counseling to help community build a good financial foundation to keep their housing. They have the tools to help folks get a better credit report, which is essential for finding and being accepted for stable housing. Can also help settle debts and use tax returns to negotiate with creditors. They also do financial education to assist toward stability.

Kelly Riley, Share IDA Coordinator idacoor@sharevancouver.org

Service: Manage restricted savings account for low income families. Application is online (<http://sharevancouver.org/share-ida-program/>). This program provides a 2 to 1 match for savings for capital expenses such as starting a business or purchasing a house or attending school. 12 hours of education is required to participate in the program.

(continued on next page)

Abby Wood, Metropolitan Family Service abbyw@metfamily.org

Service: Ways To Work offers loans for parents who are working to purchase vehicles. Basic eligibility can be found at www.waystowork.org. The program will loan up to \$8,000 for a well-maintained used car and also to make repairs or refinance at 8%.

***Continuum of Care (CoC) Steering Committee Update**

Amy Reynolds programdir@sharevancouver.org

Summary: Amy reported that there is an opening on the steering committee for an individual who is formerly homeless. Please refer suggestions to Amy.

Workgroup Reports

10 Year Plan

Pete Monroe, pete.monroe@clark.wa.gov

Summary: Kate Budd reported on behalf of Pete Munroe that October's meeting focused on the Homeless Plan Report card. How are we moving our homeless plan forward? Also, there will be advocacy issues around HEN (Homeless Essential Needs) program. There's a proposed 13% cut on the table, but there will be advocacy opportunities.

Next meeting: **Dec 4th, 8:30am**, Center for Community Health

Agenda will include discussion of updating 10 Year Plan.

Youth Access

Scott Conger for Chelsea Chunn, cchunn@swwdc.org

Summary: October meeting focused on indicators and strategies to recommend the CFTH 10 year plan.

Next meeting: **Nov 14th at noon** at Share Fromhold; Then also on Dec 5th 12:00 TBA

Discharge Planning

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

Summary: Kate Budd reported on that the meeting included a great employment panel of resources for people exiting systems of care. (A complete list of resources is available in the October meeting document on the CFTH website.) A number of opportunities arose from that and the discussion will continue.

Next meeting: **Dec 17th, 9:30** at the Wellness Project at 39th and Main

Prevention

Amy Reynolds, programdir@sharevancouver.org

Summary: RJ Strangler shared the model of prevention used at Impact NW.

Next meeting: **Dec 9th, 1:00-2:00**, at Share Fromhold Center

Data Management/Housing Inventory

Dale Whitley, dwhitley@councilforthehomeless.org

Summary: Latest data quality (97.42%), another new record. Please thank those who keep track of data that their efforts are noted and they directly affect funding. The Point in Time count will be the last Thursday of January, the same day as Project Homeless Connect. Email Dale if your organization would like to assist.

Next meeting: **Dec 17th, at 10-11am** at the Vancouver Housing Authority

Coordinated Assessment

Olivia Resnick, oresnick@councilforthehomeless.org

Summary: Housing First projects have started and a couple placements; still coordinating on the VAT and looking for the most vulnerable people experiencing homelessness. People who are on a transitional housing list will be contacted 3 times and then they will go on a separate list. Once their documents are completed, they can get back into their former place in line.

Next meeting: **Dec. 19th, 10am** at the Vancouver Housing Authority

Further Update on the 1o Year Plan

Andy Silver, asilver@councilforthehomeless.org

Summary: Andy reported our community is in the process of updating the homeless plan. CFTH is taking the lead on community engagement which will inform the update. We are looking to move from the current format to a shorter, action plan format organized around populations rather than strategies. The plan will focus on action steps that can be accomplished within two years.

For each population listed will be the solution, the current barrier/issue impeding the solution, the resources needed to attain the outcome, and the resource partners.

Andy also reported that we are entering perhaps the most troubling legislative session in the State of WA because it's possible that 5-6 billion (of an 11 billion discretionary budget) will need to be put toward the state's compliance with the McCleary Act to adequately fund public education. And with a Republican Senate, Democratic House and Democratic Governor, there is not yet a clear path for the revenue needed for issues around poverty. More than ever before we may need to be reaching out to unusual partners to fund planning efforts and come up with solutions. He would like to see us all come together to advocate for the needed funding for homelessness prevention and bring elected officials to come to inform and discuss. A date may be planned for this gathering in the future.