

Coalition of Service Providers for the Homeless Meeting Minutes – May 8, 2013, 10:00am-12:00pm

See sign in sheets for attendees

Announcements during Introductions:

- Chelsea Jackson, Innovative Services Northwest: Chelsea is transitioning to a new position with the Boys and Girls Aid Society.

Hot Topics, Discussion:

Andy Silver, Council for the Homeless: Point In Time results and implications

Andy presented the results of the 2013 PIT and shared the 2012 results for comparison. He explained that HUD changed the count methodology, which affects how we count transitional housing (TH). Prior to 2013, people in TH were counted as homeless. Now, people in site-based TH programs where participants have to move at the end of their time in the program are counted as homeless. If they do not have to move, they are not counted as homeless.

2013 PIT take-aways:

- Slight increase in unsheltered, but within that number families are down and singles are up
- Small decrease in those in emergency shelter (families in particular), which correlates with the slight reduction in demand we saw.
- Continue to see a dramatic increase in doubled-up
- Even with more people at risk of homelessness we did not see a dramatic increase in homelessness overall. This correlates with the growing understanding that not everyone at risk becomes homeless.
- Hard to know if our sub population numbers are trends as the numbers are so small.

City of Vancouver Consolidated Plan

Peggy Sheehan and Bryan Snodgrass presented the draft goals for the Vancouver Consolidated Housing and Community Development Plan, which is updated every five years. The plan will cover 2014-2019. It aligns the City with HUD goals, sets priorities and guides resource allocation. See attached slides and demographic and housing data handouts. Feedback should be directed to peggy.sheehan@cityofvancouver.us or bryan.snodgrass@cityofvancouver.us

HousingSearchNW

Charlene Welch, Council for the Homeless presented the new HousingSearchNW online search tool designed for landlords and renters to use in advertising and finding affordable housing. This tool will replace Housing Connections. The Council's Landlord Outreach program is working with local landlords to populate the site. The site is also accessible through a toll free multi-lingual help line. Several features make HousingSearchNW user-friendly including search features and security. Social service providers can encourage their clients to search or search on their behalf. www.housingsearchnw.org

Medicaid Enrollment process

Melody Scheer of Clark County Public Health reported that she is coordinating a local group discussing strategies for enrolling priority populations, including homeless persons, into the expanded Medicaid coverage. Enrollment begins Oct. 1 and new insurance begins 2014. To be added to the coordinating group distribution list, email Melody at melody.scheer@clark.wa.gov

Workgroup Updates –

Andy presented a draft reorganization chart of the workgroups. The new structure aligns with HUD requirements and outcomes. Highlights of the proposal are:

- Dividing Discharge Planning and Prevention into two groups
- Existing Coordinated Services Task Force becomes a work group of the CoC
- Functions of the Ten Year Plan work group are moved to the required CoC board
- Housing Partnership group becomes part of the Landlord Outreach program, meeting regularly but not as a CoC work group

Contact Andy with questions or feedback.

Ten year Plan – Kate Budd for Pete Munroe

- Reviewed the Point In Time numbers and communicating them to the public and an update on the HEN program.
- Watching advocacy issues as the legislature reconvenes May 20
- WLIHA conference coming up May 15. First time ever sold out!
- Next meeting is June 6, 8:30am at the Center for Community Health on Fourth Plain

Discharge Planning and Prevention – Kate Budd

- Learned about re-entry support for inmates at the jail, including making an assessment appointment at the Housing Solutions Center in conjunction with their release date.
- NWJustice Project is focusing on barriers to employment.
- Next meeting is April 21, 9:30am at the Wellness Project at 39th and Main and will include discussion about dividing the group in two; one group to focus on Discharge Planning and the other on Prevention.

Youth Access - Chelsea Jackson

- Group is reviewing the 10 Year Plan for areas that overlap with youth priorities, especially prevention resources for specific age ranges.
- Next meeting is May 24 from 1-2pm at Innovative Services Northwest - 9414 NE Fourth Plain Vancouver, WA 98662. Stay tuned as this date may change.

Data Management- Dale Whitley

- Next meeting is April 24, 10am at the Vancouver Housing Authority. Group will review HUD changes to universal data elements and the AHAR report.

Coordinated Assessment – Andy Silver

- Group reviewed operations since opening the Housing Solutions Center, including the shift in reserving appointments for people who are literally homeless and scheduling appointments for those at-risk to match the number of agency openings.
- Coordination of back rent prevention services will begin possibly in the fall.
- This group meets monthly for foreseeable future. Typically 3rd Friday of the month, 10am at the VHA. Next meeting is May 31.

Advocacy update: There continues to be big differences between the House and Senate budgets, with the Senate budget calling for significant cuts to social services. Watch for advocacy opportunities through the WLIHA and the Council for the Homeless.