



July 17, 2013 Meeting Minutes

1. Meeting called to order at 2:00 PM by Co-Chair Chris Brunell.
2. Attendance: *Chris Brunell – Co-Chair, Sarah VanCleve – Co-Chair/Secretary, Monica Bernhard, Kirsten Jewell, Denise Agee, Susan Brown, Penny Lamping, Linda Kerkes, Becky Boughton, Julie Graves, Patti Peterson, Tara Moss, Marta Holt, Walt LeCouteur, Ginny Duff, Diana Gilman, Kim Stevens, Susan Kaiser, Robin O’Grady, Beverly Kincaid, Gina Lindal, Jenell DeMatteo, Tim Thompson, Jeff Bailey, Dave Frederick, Scott Bloom, Christina Magdaleno, Terry Schroeder*
3. Introductions were made around the table.
4. **Agenda Review:** No changes made.

Minutes: Denise Agee moved and Bev Kincaid seconded to approve the minutes from June 2013.

Real Change: Tara Moss, Program and Human Resources Manager for Real Change. Real Change is a street newspaper with a weekly distribution of over 800,000. The homeless and low-income vendors make about \$1 million per year. The vendors buy each paper for \$.60 and sell it for \$2. Real Change also has an Advocacy Department. Two of the things they are currently working on are stopping the clearing of tent sites and aggressive panhandling. They currently have approximately 300 vendors selling their newspaper. Real Change is a member of the North American Street Newspapers and the International Street Newspaper and is one of the largest in the US. The one thing they have not done is to start a satellite location. They hope to do that in Bremerton.

Vendors are considered independent contractors and are held accountable for their behavior. Information about Real Change, including their annual report and most current newspaper was distributed. The vendors do not need a business license as they are protected by free speech. If they sell on a store front or on private property, they must get permission from the store/business. Store fronts tend to be the best places to sell the newspaper. Vendors typically sell in the same location and have regular customers. Curbside vendors are the most likely option for Bremerton.

A question as to how the content would be made relevant to Bremerton. Depending on circulation, they may be able to focus a little more on Bremerton/Kitsap information. The Board of Directors has identified expansion as one of their goals. Real Change feels that a goal of 7 to 15 vendors in the Bremerton area would be a good start. In surveying readers, 70-80% say that their primary reason to buy the newspaper is the vendors. Real Change currently has over 100-200 vendors per month. They do need people to assist Bremerton Foodline in this venture. They would come over every two weeks or so to do the vendor training.

The test sale day that was done last month only resulted in one newspaper being sold. The key is going to be acceptance within the community. Money has been put aside for marketing, but it will

also be useful for CoCC members, clients and volunteers to help disseminate information about Real Change coming to Bremerton. There was a question regarding vendors who would use the money they earn to support their chemical addiction. Real Change's philosophy is to not tell people what to do with the money they earn. However, they are accountable for their behavior and are not to show up for work inebriated or high. Tara can be contacted at 206-441-3247, x204, www.realchangenews.org

Project Connect – Chris Brunell: Chris stressed that we still need an Overall Coordinator and a Vendor Coordinator in order to do a Project Connect event. Let anyone on the Executive Committee know if you are interested.

Nomination Committee – Terry Schroeder: The nomination committee met and will have their slate of officers ready in early August.

Coordinator Report – Terry Schroeder: Terry reported that she has attended Outside Homeless where they have been discussing goals that they can support. At this time, they are focusing on supporting Kitsap Rescue Mission's goal to get an overnight shelter operational. They have also discussed the various statistics and will have a subcommittee look at how these statistics provide a clear picture of homelessness in Kitsap County. She also worked on the application for the Coordination activities of the CoCC, participated in a conference call for the Homeless Advisory Committee, and attended the HSC Advisory Committee and a Vision Council meeting.

AGENCY UPDATES

Department of Corrections – Jeff Bailey: Jeff is the person who is working with the earned release date housing voucher program for Kitsap County. He has a network of landlords who are willing to rent to felons. He has more landlords than he is able to use typically. If someone has a felon who has income and needs housing, he would be happy to provide information on landlords that may be willing to rent to that person. In his program, those that receive their earned release, receive a voucher for housing assistance that is good for three months. Jeff can be contacted at jeff.bailey@doc.wa.gov or 253-680-2741.

Housing Solutions Center – Monica Bernhard: Monica and the Advisory Board received the list of questions that the KRCC wanted to be answered as part of their set-aside request. They will need information from their partner agencies in answering some of the questions. There is also a committee that is working on researching and applying for other funding sources. Their wait list remains short and their statistics remain consistent.

St. Vincent de Paul – Denise Agee: Denise shared some challenges she has recently had at their shelter. They do have some openings at the present time.

Benedict House/HEN – Chris Brunell: Benedict House is full, except for the family room; with space for a father and one or two children. The group of men living there are a good group, with about 75% working or going to school. HEN received funding for this year with some limitations. There is a Run4Shelter that will benefit Benedict House and Stella Maris shelters on August 3rd, starting at Our Lady Star of the Sea.

DSHS – Bremerton CSO – Gina Lindal: The CSO is able to provide anyone who is receiving services through their office with a card that they can take to Department of Licensing and be issued a Washington State ID card for \$5. They can be receiving just medical or food assistance.

Kitsap Recovery Center – Linda Kerkes: They have had a lot of coming and going in the Guest Program, but are keeping full. Their numbers are higher than normal and their inpatient program is also full.

Washington Department of Veterans Assistance – Christina Magdaleno: They were awarded some optional funding for their programs.

Bremerton Foodline – Patti Peterson: Patti continues to work toward getting Real Change on board in Kitsap. They are gearing up to be used as the Severe Weather Shelter again this year. Patty asked for people to contact legislators regarding totally cutting the Farm Bill with no other bill to replace; the Farm Bill provides a lot of food assistance for vulnerable persons.

Bremerton Housing Authority – Sarah VanCleve: They are closing their Public Housing wait list on July 31. . There is currently about a 4-5 year wait, so they are not sure when they will be able to reopen. Public Housing is subsidized at 30% of the client's income, but the subsidy stays with the unit. Section 8 (wait list is NOT open) is a portable voucher that stays with the client.

Kitsap Community Resources – Jenell DeMatteo: KCR has openings at the Family Place Emergency Shelter and in their supportive housing units.

Housing Kitsap – Julie Graves: Julie talked about the Woodcreek and Robinswood projects that have met the criteria and could be up for sale and no longer offer subsidized units. She has talked with the US RD Specialist who did indicate that if the projects no longer offer subsidies, the current residents in subsidized units will receive vouchers. The vouchers are helpful, but Kitsap County could still lose several units of subsidized housing and that is not a positive thing for the community as a whole. Virginia Villa is another complex that is not currently for sale, but has been on and off the market. Unfortunately, Housing Trust Fund money, that could be used to purchase these projects and then sustain the subsidies, has to have application submitted by January of the first year of the biennium in which the money would be needed (i.e. for the 2013-2015 biennium, requests had to be submitted by January 2013). Julie would like to find a way to proactively address the potential loss of these subsidized units.

Kitsap Regional Coordinating Council – Kirsten Jewell: Kirsten stated that the HMIS version 5 seems to be working well, after being rolled out a few weeks ago. They received 51 applications through the Coordinated Grant Application process – 36 were services and 15 were capital applications. The applications represent approximately \$4 million in requests with approximately \$2.8 million to distribute.

Housing Resources Board – Penny Lamping: HRB has met with the new Bainbridge police chief. They continue to work with NK Fishline on a Home Share program in Poulsbo.

Westsound Treatment Center – Robin O'Grady: They have a lot of people waiting for inpatient treatment. They are also seeing a lot of older adults with physical disabilities.

DSHS – Home & Community Services – Susan Kaiser: They provide for older adults in residential programs and work with their caregiver when they return home.

Agape – Diana Gilman: They have one empty bed right now and have seen a huge increase of pregnant moms in their programs. They currently have a couple of tenant-based units available, but the person would need income.

Habitat for Humanity – Ginny Duff: They are accepting applications on an ongoing basis with the mandatory application meeting being held on the second Wednesday of the month at 10 am or the fourth Wednesday of the month at 6 pm. Their new office is open, in the old Hallmark in East Bremerton, 3559 Wheaton Way, Bremerton (near their new store location). They have plans to build 32 homes over the next several years.

Kitsap Rescue Mission – Walt LeCouteur: Kitsap Rescue Mission lost the building they had hoped to be able to use for an overnight shelter. They continue to look for a building that they can use. Their Fresh Start House with eight beds has purposely dropped numbers as they are restructuring to add in the next phase of their program.

Coffee Oasis – Dave Frederick: They have completed the remodel of their Port Orchard site, which now has a two-bedroom apartment on the second floor. They are working on a partnership with DSHS to provide housing to youth, ages 18-21, who are leaving foster care.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sarah VanCleve, Secretary