



October 21, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 2:00 PM by Chair Sarah VanCleve

Attendance: Sarah Van Cleve-*Chair*, Dave Frederick-*Vice Chair*, Trudy Stacy-*Member At Large*, Beverley Kinkaid, Jenell DeMatteo, Manny Cruz, Kirsten Jewell, Mike O'Shaughnessy, Sue Battin, Holly Paterson, Joe Summers, Robin O'Grady, Linda Hollingsworth, Jackie Brown, Sandra Paulino-Winborn, Denise Frey, Mary McKee, Amanda Smitley, Ginny Duff, Angie Zimmerman, Doug Washburn, ClaraAnn Ness, Mary Allison Brown, Julie Graves, Ruth Westergaard,

Introductions were made around the table.

Agenda Review: No corrections were made to the agenda

Julie Graves moved and Trudy Stacy seconded to approve the minutes from September as corrected.

West Sound Treatment Center – Robin O'Grady: Robin O'Grady, Executive Director for West Sound Treatment Center presented a video describing their programs. Their program has been in existence for 33 years in Port Orchard. When Robin came on in 2006, they had seven employees and six critical programs. Robin realized that it is hard for this population to stay clean and sober without housing. O'Hana House is for women and women with children. There is a full-time case manager and treatment is mandated. Lighthouse is for eight single men and one room for dads. Their other housing programs are based on Housing First. Forward Bound has fourteen units for families with project-based vouchers provided by Bremerton Housing Authority. They must be chronically homeless and the case manager walks beside them as they address barriers. About three years ago, they received a grant to start a substance abuse treatment program in the jail, but were not able to get it off the ground. This year, they started the New Start Program with three full-time employees who work with inmates and surround them with re-entry services before they leave the jail. If they don't have housing, they will be released to the New Start House for Men or for Women, which is transitional housing for six to twelve months. Another program is Compass Vocational Services. All West Sound Treatment Center participants have access to Compass and it is offered to several community agencies and the people they serve. They now have thirty employees and six programs. In April 2015, they opened an outpatient clinic in North Kitsap, in the Poulsbo Village next to Sound Publishing.

End Veteran Homelessness – Kirsten Jewell: We are definitely not going to be able to end veteran homelessness by the end of 2015. The committee is working on drawing attention to the need for housing for veterans, the need for Housing First and reaching functional zero for veterans homelessness soon. Julie Graves commented that she had participated in a webinar that showed

how Spokane converted two McKinney projects to Rapid Rehousing. They received no additional money, but the percentage of persons in permanent housing increased and the percentage in transitional housing decreased significantly over a three year period. Julie will send a link to Terry to put on the website, once it is available. One way to move Housing First forward is to identify veterans who could be served in a Housing First program. One question was whether Kitsap County should use one vulnerability assessment tool or use a separate one for veterans. They are working on coordinating between the organizations that serve the unsheltered veterans. Anyone who is interested in serving on this committee, contact Kirsten.

Coordinated Grant Application – **Kirsten Jewell:** The recommendations for funding have been posted and the written public comment period closes on Friday October 23. On Monday October 26, 10:30 am, it goes to the Board of County Commissioners (BOC) work study session and then on November 9, 5:30 pm, to the BOC for action. On November 9, there is an opportunity for public comment.

Homeless Housing Plan (HHP) – **Kirsten Jewell:** The Homeless Housing Plan draft goes to the Board of County Commissioners on October 26 for work study and on November 9 for action. The times are the same as the Coordinated Grant recommendations. Written comment is due by Friday October 23 and oral public comment can be given on November 9. In the plan, the five different goals: Make homelessness rare, brief, one-time, continually improve the homeless response system and expand community engagement. There are three to five strategies per goal and 61 action steps. A committee will be formed to determine the action steps to work on first; they will meet intensively over the next six months.

Kirsten passed out a page with information on Kitsap's Homeless Response System Performance, 2nd Quarter 2015. Data comes from data from HMIS, Housing Solutions Center, and Commerce. The response system is looking at how we are responding to people who are experiencing homelessness. Prevention is based on the amount of funding available and is to help households that are most vulnerable. The third quarter report will be done at the end of October. Return to homelessness has increased since third quarter 2014. New to homelessness has also increased since third quarter 2014. There is information on the type and duration of housing, individuals housed by population, and how we are doing exiting to stable housing. Prior quarters are on the Kitsap County website, Housing and Homelessness Services in Human Services. A comment was made at the City Council that people are coming in to Kitsap County because we have great services here. There is not a way to validate why someone is coming into the county, as there are many different reasons. Question was asked as to whether there was anything that could be done with the military to figure out what to do about housing. There was a question about the number of people unable to be referred. That number comes from the Housing Solutions Center data and the most common reason is they are either over or under income for assistance or there is no resource currently.

Coordinator Report – **Terry Schroeder:** Since the beginning of October, Terry has been working on the Balance of State CoC grant funding. There is Bonus Funding available. There has been some interest. West Sound Treatment is in the process of putting together the initial application to submit to Department of Commerce. Kirsten would like to get a committee together to look at doing a Housing First project that could then apply for the Bonus Funding. If interested, let Terry or Kirsten know. .

There was a short discussion regarding Portland, OR, Hawaii and Los Angeles, CA declaring states of emergency for homelessness. It is felt this allows access to some federal funding.

KCoCC Awards – Kirsten Jewell: The Executive Committee has decided to take a moment in December and recognize some of the good things being done in Kitsap County. Take some time to nominate someone in any of these categories:

- Innovative Project/Program
- Community Impact
- Volunteer of the Year
- Elected Official – Friend of the Homeless
- Sally Santana Lifetime Achievement

Agape – Angie Zimmerman: Their Sisyphus housing is full. Sara is doing well after knee surgery and should be back soon. .

Habitat for Humanity- Amanda Smitley: They are beginning work on a West Bremerton neighborhood revitalization. Their next three homes will be dedicated on November 21.

YWCA – Jackie Brown/Denise Frey: They are working on a new project, Morrow Manor. North Kitsap Rotary is building eight new houses and granting them to YWCA debt free.

Kitsap Community Resources - Jenell DeMatteo: There are 40 persons on the HSC wait list today. HSC is doing outreach at Kitsap Regional Library, Ferry terminal, encampments. There is funding for family members raising minor relatives through Kinship Care. Housing rental assistance and rapid rehousing is also currently available. HSC is also doing outreach at the YWCA.

West Sound Baby Corner – Beverly Kincaid: They are moving along and are taking donations of gently used baby items. They are still looking at sites for the HUB.

Kitsap County Public Health District – Ruth Westergaard: There is a Health Summit on October 26th. Ruth distributed flyers for free flu shots; the flyer is also on the KCoCC website.

Kitsap Rescue Mission – Michael O’Shaughnessy: They are hiring a Veteran Advocate – a new position. Mike shared that one of the men in their Fresh Start program, with large barriers has been working hard over the past four years to overcome those barriers and just got a job in the nursing field!

Benedict House – Mary McKee: They are having a pancake breakfast fund raiser at Applebee’s on November 7th; all are invited to attend. .

At 4:00 the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Brunell, Secretary