

## Kitsap County Continuum of Care Meeting September

### Introductions

Presentation: Bremerton Police Chief Strachan gave a presentation regarding the proposed installation of a camera near the intersection of 6<sup>th</sup> and Park with the stated goal of providing information, answering questions and requesting feedback from Continuum of Care agencies.

The purpose of installing a camera is to prevent and document criminal activity. This specific intersection has been identified due to the number of incidents of criminal activity.

If installed, the camera will be enclosed in a 2' x 2' steel box with a flashing light on top; the steel box will be elevated and possibly attached to an existing power pole. These boxes are very sturdy, easy to move, can be set up in about 20 minutes and have recently become very affordable with priced reduced from \$60K to \$6K.

The camera records similar to a DVR, data is recorded over on a set schedule, which could be as often as weekly. The material recorded will not be reviewed unless a specific request reporting a crime, with date and approximate time are submitted. The request will need to be approved by the City Council before the material is reviewed; only material from the date and time frame included in the request will be reviewed. The information is accessed wirelessly, no file is created or transmitted. The system provides an audit trail which identifies who accesses the video.

The Chief also said if the camera is installed, they want to make sure they aren't looking into residences, just businesses and public places. He has spoken about this proposal with staff at the Salvation Army, the Salvation Army Board of Directors, the NAACP and the ACLU. The ACLU has created a best practices policy about how filmed material can be accessed; the Chief would want to implement this policy.

Chief Strachan stated the Department is interested in preventing crimes committed by criminal transients against members of our community, including people who are homeless. BPD is anecdotally reporting they are seeing more

aggressive and defiant folks in Bremerton. They believe many of these are coming from Seattle; based on their experience there, they don't expect to get arrested. BPD provides a proactive approach – if you need services we can help you – but, if you are going to be a jerk, you are going to jail.

He shared that the Kent PD has been piloting this for about 6 months at the Great Wall mall where racers show up on weekend evenings. Most of the questions Kent PD has received is people want to know why there aren't more cameras. He ended the presentation by stating he is soliciting input from social service agencies and looking for answers to provide to local elected officials.

#### Questions:

1. Will it move the problem somewhere else? If so, can the Department get more cameras or move it?
2. What area near 6<sup>th</sup> and Park will be viewed? The Chief said the Department wants to be respectful of Kayak, the Opal Robertson Teen Center and Marvin Williams Community Center.
3. Did Kent experience crime in other places after putting these up? No, the crime didn't move.
4. How frequently will the video be over written? The Chief isn't sure yet; he is looking for feedback from the community.
5. Will improvements in lighting be made in conjunction with installation of a camera? The Chief said he would check with bike officers regarding existing lighting and if more is needed.
6. Will agencies like the Salvation Army also have access? The Chief said he has to check with legal.
7. How many cameras will be installed? Initially just one.
8. What did the City of Kent experience? Did it push crime, etc. to another block? Not really – it's always there, so it didn't displace it, but, it could.
9. Will the BPD know let people who are causing the problem know that the camera is there? Yes. Chief wants to be very proactive about letting everyone know about the camera.
10. Time frame? The Chief is thinking about just ordering it – it won't take long to obtain, but will still need to go through a process to obtain City Council approval. He said he will probably order the camera within the next month.

Kurt Weiss stated that his office overlooks the corner of 6<sup>th</sup> and Park; he has a great view of the court, Kitsap Rescue Mission and Salvation Army. When BHA moved into the building, they installed additional parking lot lighting and cameras and haven't had many problems.

Monica Bernhard stated she supports this because a small group of homeless people impact the way the public views the entire homeless population. It won't be proactively watched.

Ginny states she's worried that since the video won't be monitored, homeless people who don't report they've been a victim of crime will be disillusioned if there isn't follow up to something that happened to them.

Chief Strachan sits on the Body Camera Task Force that will recommend policies to the Legislature for the use of body cameras. He asked that we provide our opinion / feedback about this issue as well.

Approval of the minutes:

Two corrections were made to the minutes, correction was made to the spelling of Linda Hollingsworths' name; Kitsap Connect was incorrectly referred to as Project Connect. Trudy made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected, Manny seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion re: potential tent city or other encampment at the Housing Kitsap owned property on Almira Drive next to Keller House and behind Fred Meyer. Stuart Grogan, Housing Kitsap Executive Director, Manny Cruz from Kitsap Mental Health and members of the outside homeless committee recently held a meeting at the site with about 14 people who are homeless.

It was reported that Mr. Grogan told meeting participants that if a tent city or other encampment is approved, only the people in attendance would be eligible to live there. Manny said he has specifically notified KMHS clinicians they are not to send clients there as they won't be accepted.

Next Steps: For this to move forward, an organization will need to submit an application to the County through the transitory accommodation ordinance. Questions to be answered include how much it will cost to get this started. For

example, the property, which is approximately 8.5 acres, will need to be fenced. The fencing behind Fred Meyer will form part of the fence. Members of the committee have met with Fred Meyer representatives.

Kitsap Rescue Mission will sponsor and provide staffing. Members of the encampment will self-manage. There is the potential to serve up to 40 people eventually, so KRM will apply for the large permit – which will allow up to 40 people. Kitsap Connect has 4 clients currently living there who are

BHA will be writing a letter to the Chair of the Housing Kitsap Board of Directors expressing the following:

1. This is not the solution to homelessness, but, it is part of a continuum towards permanent supportive housing,
2. The county has gone a long ways in passing an ordinance that makes a step such as this possible,
3. While this is not a solution, it's a good step towards finding a solution,
4. BHA has concerns about whether this is the best use of resources, money being spent on fences, etc., but, if the proposal meets all of the requirements of the ordinance, BHA will support it.

Discussion:

Monica Bernhard said that if a tent city / homeless encampment can't happen here it won't happen anywhere in Kitsap. This provides an opportunity to show other communities in Kitsap that this can work.

Questions:

1. What happens if someone in the encampment gets housing elsewhere? Can new people move in? The encampment gets to make the decision, but, people will go through a screening process at the HSC.
2. Does the Continuum want to send a letter of support? Julie made a motion for Sarah to draft a letter of support to the HK Board of Directors, with the letter to be reviewed by the Executive Committee. Ginny seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.

Members are encouraged to contact Kitsap County Commissioner Ed Wolfe directly. He is currently Chair of HK and this is in his district. Letters can be sent to:

Kitsap County Commissioner's Office  
614 Division St. MS - 4  
Port Orchard, WA 98366

The membership voted on a new name – Kitsap Housing and Homeless Coalition was selected from the following options:

1. Kitsap Council for Ending Homeless
2. Kitsap Homeless Coalition
3. Kitsap Housing and Homeless Coalition

#### Hunger and Homeless Awareness Week

This is coming up in November. Last year we had three proclamations approved and had a march from Salvation Army to the Ferry Terminal.

Ideas for how to get Hunger and Homeless Awareness Week publicized:

1. Hygiene drive / food drive
2. Unveil the new name of the continuum
3. Do a 7 day myth buster in our social media-
4. Get Josh Farley to publicize this on Bremerton Beat Blast
5. Approach Kitsap Interfaith Network about a special collection – they are doing the blessing of the hats and scarves the same week
6. Make a flyer about all of the things that will be happening that week

Kurt volunteered to make contacts with the press.

#### Executive Committee positions:

There was a last minute change to nominations for the Executive Committee, Sara Harvey is unable to run for Chair at this time. Each position only had one nominee.

Ginny made a motion that we vote for the slate as presented, Theresa Grant seconded this. Motion passed unanimously.

Kirsten Jewell provided the following update.

1. She handed out the Coordinated Grant Application Schedule as a reminder about the process. Funding recommendations will be published on 9/27, opening the Public Comment period, which will end on 10/27. The Public Hearing will be held on 11/13/2017 at 5:30 at the Kitsap County Commissioners office in Port Orchard

2. Almost all of the Consolidated Housing Grant contracts have been signed, this was previously held up due to state legislature delay.
3. The State Advisory Council on homelessness has been working on broad recommendations on using tiny houses to address the homelessness crisis. The recommendations will come out in October

A question was asked about next years grant process; will capital and public service be split again? Kirsten said staff haven't gotten there yet – will be having a de-brief soon. There are some things that should be changed, but don't have the details worked out yet. Kirsten is open to feedback about how people felt about the process this year. An unanticipated consequence was the 1/10<sup>th</sup> of one percent interviews and the consolidated grant interviews were back to back.

#### Agency Updates:

Sara Harvey, YWCA – advocate training coming up on 10/12, 13 and 20<sup>th</sup>. Free for potential volunteers, experiencing significant staff transition right now, will be advertising open positions soon.

PCAP – New brochures available

Ginny, Habitat for Humanity - Home dedication will be held Friday night at 5:15

KRL has some info to hand out

1/10 of 1 percent has finished their interview process, funding announcements will be made on 9/27

AGAPE is now serving youth 13 and up

Kurt Weiss, BHA – Closing on the sale of the last piece of land in the redevelopment of Westpark into Bay Vista will take place soon. The redevelopment effort increased the supply of affordable housing in Bremerton by 60%. More info will be published soon.

Jackie, Housing Solution Center. The HSC will be starting a 2<sup>nd</sup> group, Steps to Housing - similar to VHOG, to help non veterans with issues.

KCR - Energy assistance appointments now available – appts in October, November and December, rental assistance is also available through the HSC.

Kitsap Connect – fully staffed with 2 public health nurses and a mental health specialist. The team is working with highest utilizers of ER, Jail, 911 calls and has a case load of 25 at any time. In the past week 5 clients were housed; 3 permanently, 2 in temporary housing. Six clients are actively engaged with KMHS, 2 currently in treatment. The team has served 61 total individuals, 36 clients have actively been engaged in services. 5 have graduated, 7 waiting to get in.

Sheryl Piercy, Project Connect update:

Planning committee is meeting once per month. This year there will be 3 Project Connect sites; Tuesday at Christian Life Center in Port Orchard, Wednesday at the Salvation Army in Bremerton, Thursday at Village Green in Kingston.

Sheryl Piercy, Salvation Army - Lunch with the Electeds is coming up. SA is starting to get ready for Christmas.

Kitsap Recovery Center now open in Port Orchard

Sarah Van Cleve, BHA – Section 8 waiting list closed, new units coming on line, pulling names from the waiting list to offer project based section 8 housing opportunities at Casa del Sol and Wright Court. Sarah thinks units at these properties are all 2 bedrooms; she is sharing this to make sure people on the waiting list who don't qualify for a 2 bedroom unit don't get upset and think they have been skipped over. BHA hasn't issued new housing choice vouchers since November 2016.

Kirsten Jewell,

A Point in Time count was held in July, 2017. Information from participants has been entered and will be published soon. Jail count summary available now – includes comparison between summer and winter data. 43% of those surveyed in jail were homeless before or would be homeless upon release.

Jackie commented that HSC staff goes to the jail every week to meet with people who are about to be released to help with housing issues.

Meeting adjourned.