



November 19, 2014 Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 2:00 PM by Chair, Julie Graves

Attendance: *Sarah VanCleve – Vice Chair, Chris Brunell – Secretary, Kirsten Jewell, Diana Gilman, Linda Kerkes, Theresa Hinds, Dave Frederick, Trudy Stacy, Carol Branscum, Monica Bernhard, Jim Baker, Walt LeCouteur, Becky Boughton, Penny Lamping, Clara Ann Ness, Manny Cruz, Mary McKee, Tom Vialpondo, Beverly Kincaid, Keith Grellner, Kate Baber, Linda Hollingsworth, Sarah Achaoui, Bernadette Luke, Schon Montague, Marta Holt, Terese Grady Moon, Jenell DeMatteo, Brenda Johnson, Sandra Paulino-Winborn, Jennifer Calvin Myers, Michael Sgobba, Cathy McKay, Hal Ferguson, Eric Adkins, Daniel Mitchell, Valerie Hawkins, Ruth Westergaard, Jackie Brown, Terry Schroeder*

Introductions were made around the table.

**Agenda Review:** The Outside Homeless report was moved up to follow the presentation by WLIHA.

**Minutes:** Tom Vialpondo moved and Walt LeCouteur seconded to approve the minutes as written. The motion passed.

**Washington Low Income Housing Alliance (WLIHA)** – Kate Baber, Homeless Policy & Advocacy Specialist with WLIHA presented information. WLIHA is gearing up for 2015, with the legislative session beginning on January 12, expected to last 105 days. However, it is a difficult budget year, with an anticipated multi billion dollar budget shortfall, due to recent legislative issues that passed. With that, they anticipate a special session.

WLIHA is an advocacy and member organization. Many organizations are also members of the WLIHA. Kate passed out her business card, the 2015 Legislative Agenda, information on how to advocate and information on using Medicaid to pay for services for persons in permanent supportive housing. Their legislative agenda is developed by their Public Policy Committee with input from WLIHA's 85 members across the state. Those items on the "Lead Agenda" page show those where WLIHA is the agency that is taking the lead on that item. Those on the "Support Agenda" pages are items where WLIHA is supportive of that issue, but another agency is taking the lead. Kate went over ways to get involved using the handout, "Ten Ways to Advocate". She also went over the five items in detail that are on their Lead Agenda page. Those items are:

- Housing Trust Fund/Capital investment in affordable housing
- Medicaid Benefit for Tenancy Support Services in Permanent Supportive Housing
- Fair Tenant Screening Act
- Housing & Essential Needs; Aged, Blind and Disabled; and SSI Facilitation Services

- Source of Income Discrimination

For more information on these and with the rest of their Legislative Agenda, go to either of the following websites for information: [Kitsap Continuum of Care Coalition](#) and click on “WLIHA Advocacy, or [State Legislative Advocacy | Washington Low Income Housing Alliance](#) Kate explained the Governor’s Budget which is done in two books, with Book 2 having everything he really want to do in the next two years included. This will probably be a defensive year. Many programs have been able to be preserved, due to the level of advocacy. It will be a challenge this year as well, but not likely impossible. Using the Ten Tips that Kate provided and are included on the KCoCC webpage, should be helpful in advocating for these and other issues.

Kate explained what most non-profits are allowed to do and not to do. They can talk to lawmakers and lobby for issues, but are not able to be partisan. They can visit with lawmakers and provide education about the issues.

**Outside Homeless – Major Jim Baker:** Schon Montague explained that he is a Kitsap County Sheriff and has been working primarily in the East Bremerton area. The City of Bremerton has passed Panhandling and Trespassing ordinances, so many of the unsheltered homeless are moving outside the Bremerton City limits so are in the East Bremerton, north of Riddell. Schon would like to have the Outside Homeless committee to revitalize the idea of a tent city. Information was passed out regarding some of the basic plans at this point. Schon also put out a flyer showing an East Bremerton site that was taken one week ago, showing the trash that was left behind and a picture of a tent city from the internet. Schon pointed out that someone owns all property, so there is no place for someone to camp for free.

The tent city is to be a temporary solution until something else can be established. It needs to be on a bus line and fairly close to other services. Schon would like to see churches/faith based organizations to provide their homeless services to those at the Tent City. The Tent City would follow any basic Health Department regulations. A site that is proposed is Illahee Preserve on the county-owned piece. It is a county park with a parking lot off Almira that could be used for the faith-based organizations to bring services and to put porta potties. The Outside Homeless Committee is seeking endorsement of the concept of a tent city from the KCoCC so they can move forward. About 60% of those living outside have mental health issues; the proposed site is across the street from KMHS. The tent city would be comprised of individual tents and a community tent. The Tent City would be self-governed, with residents approving those who want to be part of the Tent City. PANZA is the group that supports and provides oversight to was felt that it would be important to have an organization, similar to PANSA to manage the oversight of the Tent City. Schon indicated his information came from [www.nationalhomeless.org](http://www.nationalhomeless.org)

There was concern regarding community support due to opposal to Camp Calvinwood. Camp Quixote is now a tiny house community, called Quixote Village, due to support from the community. It was also felt that self-governance does not work by itself. For Camp Quixote and now Quixote Village, the support from PANZA was instrumental in their success. Quixote Village does not allow alcohol or drugs; those typically call the largest problems, especially late at night. A couple of years ago, after complaints by the land owner, porta potties and trash receptacles were provided at the site behind the East Bremerton Safeway. The porta potties were used, but trash receptacles were not. A lot of the problems that cause issues come from friends of those who live there. The consensus of the member of the Kitsap CoCC was that we need to have a group that is willing to do oversight.

There was discussion about getting the Kitsap CoCC to approve the concept of the need for a tent city and then to discuss the details and work them out. There was a sense that the Kitsap CoCC

values the proposition of a tent city. Another thought was to use unused road right of ways. It was felt that we need to bring together the churches. Schon indicated that he has a meeting scheduled with Taking It to the Streets Ministry.

Kitsap CoCC members did vote in favor of supporting the idea of a tent city.

### **Agency Updates**

**HUD – Sarah Achoui:** Sarah reported HUD-Seattle Regional Office has been working with the City of Bremerton as a community for a targeted community needs assessment (CNA). This CNA process began with a roundtable last April. The intent is to work with the community to solve locally identified issues, and provide a venue for collaboration across HUD programs, as well as other Federal Agencies. We are now continuing into the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of this process and hope to begin producing some deliverables this year. Sarah wanted to participate in the KCOC meetings to connect with the local service providers and get a sense of any unmet needs, or areas where HUD can provide additional assistance.

**Westsound Treatment Center – Marta Holt:** They are starting up their New Start program at the Kitsap County jail.

**StandUp for Kids – Terese Grady Moon:** Terese reported StandUp for Kids provides food for 600 homeless youth each month in 15 schools and 5 libraries.

**Kitsap Health District – Ruth Westergaard:** Ruth distributed information on the Health Plan Finder, which is available until February 15, 2015. The Apple Health Finder is ongoing for those who meet the income eligibility. Peninsula Community Health Services has In-Person Assisters that are available in their offices and in libraries on specific days. Terry has put the information in the Thursday Journal and is on the website.

**Kitsap Community Foundation – Bev Kincaid:** The Community Foundation 2015 grant cycle is coming up in January. On January 5, the application will be available online. The total request for an agency is up to \$5,000 and is competitive. They do have a special foster care program, with requests up to a maximum of \$8,000/year for a 2 years. There is a Youth Mentoring Program that can receive \$1,300. They will also host the Kitsap Great Give in May 2015 as well.

**CCS/ HEN/Benedict House – Chris Brunell:** Chris reported the HEN program has moved into Benedict House. They are not able to serve the clients there yet, as they need a conditional use permit, so are seeing clients at the Summit Avenue Methodist Church.

**Kitsap County Veteran’s Program – Tom Vialpondo:** Tom reported they are looking at the possibility of look at providing services to those with bad or dishonorable discharge, if they are related to PTSD.

**Georgia’s House – Carol Branscum:** Carol reported they had a good Auction Dinner last Saturday.

**Department of Corrections – Theresa Hinds:** Theresa had a housing meeting of providers who work with her program and had about 50% of the providers attend. She plans to hold these meetings regularly with the next one in January. They would be open to anyone who can provide housing to felons; let Theresa know if you know of a landlord who can/will provide housing to someone who is a felon. In January, they are moving their administrative offices to a new building.

**Coffee Oasis – Dave Frederick:** This Friday they are holding their Night of Thankfulness. They are working on a Christmas party for the youth they serve on Christmas Eve and anticipate serving 250 youth.

**House of Hope – Michael Sgobba:** Michael reported he is the Volunteer Religious Coordinator at Kitsap County Jail as well as the Director of House of Hope Ministry. He has been working in Kitsap since 2008. He began with Department of Corrections, providing housing for persons released from prison. He operated House of Faith in Olalla as well as placing them in long-term facilities outside Kitsap County. He is working on opening a Women's Home. House of Hope uses a lot of volunteers, providing eyeglasses, literature, books, bibles to persons housed at the Kitsap County jail. He has been doing this full time for two years, with someone at the jail five to six days per week. Last year they assisted at least 100 persons in the facility. Michael introduced Cathy McKay who will be the representative for the CoCC now.

**Kingston CARES – Jane Mack:** Jane reported they are a new organization operating a severe weather shelter in Kingston. They are currently working out the final details so they can open when the temperatures drop. They will be using the same criteria as the Bremerton shelter, as far as when they are open.

**YWCA – Jackie Brown:** Jackie reported Linda Joyce, long time YWCA Executive Director, retired in April. They have had a Board Member, Harriette Bryant, step up as Interim Executive Director. They received over 30 applications for the Executive Director position and have had the first round of interviews. They anticipate having the new ED in place in January.

**Kitsap Transit - Trudy Stacy:** Kitsap Transit is again doing a coat, sock, hat and glove drive with items going to Kitsap Recovery Center for Christmas and leftover items to Project Connect.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chris Brunell, Secretary