



April 15, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 2:02 PM by Chair Julie Graves

Attendance: *Julie Graves – Chair, Sarah Van Cleve – Vice Chair, Chris Brunell – Secretary, Sabina Wagner-Lewis, Jackie Fojtik, Kurt Wiest, Rae Rodriguez, ClaraAnn Ness, Manny Cruz, Marta Holt, Brenda Johnson, Sheryl Piercy, Jenell DeMatteo, Murray Prins, Bev Kincaid, Angie Zimmerman, Sara Marez-Fields, Andrea Roper, Trudy Stacy, Shelly Johnson Choong, Ginny Duff, Kirsten Jewell, Linda Hollingsworth, Jackie Brown, Doug Washburn, Terry Schroeder*

Introductions were made around the table.

Agenda Review: No changes were made to the agenda.

Minutes from December: Sarah VanCleve moved and Sara Marez-Fields seconded to approve the minutes as written. The motion passed.

Homelessness and ACES – Kody Russell: Kody introduced himself. He is the newly hired Project Manager for the Intergenerational Poverty project. They are not sure what they will name the project but are thinking about Kitsap Strong. His presentation today was about the Intersection between ACES and Homelessness.

Kody talked about how we teach each other about homelessness in our everyday conversations. Do we refer to someone as someone being a homeless person or a person experiencing homelessness? There are ten categories in ACES: mental health, drug addiction, emotional abuse, physical abuse, witness domestic violence, sexual abuse, incarceration, alcohol addiction, neglect and divorce/separation. Most of us have at least one ACE. 59% have four or more; 30% have six or more. Only 2% of those with zero or one ACEs will experience homelessness. Of Kitsap's homeless population, about 35-40% have experienced three or more ACEs. Why does this matter? These experiences shape our brains; the brain's job is to survive. Our brain adapts and learns based on our experiences.

Kitsap's averages are slightly higher than other counties in Washington State. Kody believes that we need to change the language used about homelessness. Recognize that they are people first who happen to be experiencing homelessness. He feels it is important to promote prevention of ACEs and develop childhood resiliency. Kody will be reaching out to community partners to make a plan, develop goals and strategies to move forward with a collective impact project.

HSC Funding 2016 and Beyond – Julie Graves: Julie provided a history of how the HSC came about:

The design of the existing coordinated entry program was developed through a several-year process that included a consultant report, extensive work with the Kitsap Continuum of Care Coalition stakeholders, and development of an RFP with a stakeholders group and the Kitsap Regional Coordinating Council (KRCC). Kitsap Community Resources was the only agency that responded to the RFP. The State of Washington requires communities to have a coordinated entry system in order to receive federal and state funds for homeless programs and services. The HSC allows Kitsap County the opportunity to leverage up to \$3 to \$4 million.

Julie shared that during the April CoCC Executive Committee meeting, members of the Executive Committee agreed to support the following recommendation regarding the HSC to the Board of County Commissioners,

“Continue funding for the HSC program in 2016 at the same level as 2015 (\$313,300), using Homeless Housing Grant Program funds. The 2016 contract will be for the same level of homeless coordinated entry services as in 2015. During 2016, develop and issue an RFP for a multi-year contract for homeless coordinated entry services starting in 2017.”

The Executive Committee also agreed to bring this recommendation to the April CoCC meeting to request the membership to vote on supporting the recommendation. Julie then asked for the membership to share their thoughts on this recommendation. The discussion included the following concerns:

HSC reporting doesn't include outcomes, that HSC reporting may count individuals more than once, thereby inflating the actual number served each month, HSC isn't working as closely as they could with the Kitsap Crisis Clinic and that HSC should be required to apply for funds through the competitive process instead of receiving the funding through a set-aside. *

Additional comments included:

The HSC is a Kitsap County program that is administered by KCR on behalf of Kitsap County government, due to recent changes in the administration of the HHGP, an RFP process would have been rushed, issuing an RFP that includes a multi-year contract is more in line with how the County Human Services Department issues contracts for other funds they administer.

Kirsten stated that the County may be moving away from accepting applications from agencies for HHGP and AFHA funds towards a system in which the County issues RFP's for specific services.

There was a concern about the process of asking members to vote on an issue without adequate time or information. There was also a suggestion to start a sub-committee to work on outcome measures and other suggestions for the RFP.

Julie requested a motion to approve supporting the recommendation listed above. Chris Brunell moved and Sarah VanCleve seconded the motion. There were 13 voting yes, 3 abstentions and 1 opposed.

Sarah Van Cleve agreed to take the lead on the sub-committee to work on the RFP; other members who agreed to participate are Rae Rodriguez, Trudy Stacy, Chris Brunell, Marta Holt and Jackie Brown.

**Per Monica Bernhard, the HSC does prepare monthly reporting on all outcomes that are specified in the contract with KRCC. Additionally, to clarify, all HSC metrics reporting data is unduplicated. While the HSC does track duplicated numbers, all household numbers reported are only counted once in a calendar year.”*

HUD National Initiative – Mayor’s Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness – Kirsten Jewell: The goal of this initiative is to end veteran homelessness by the end of 2015. Kirsten organized a meeting with explicitly veteran service providers and is having another meeting on May 26th at 1 pm, place to be determined at this time. Anyone interested in this Challenge is invited to attend. It is felt that the count is low in Kitsap, compared to the calls being received about the need for housing from veterans. It is hoped to try to improve our veteran count next year.

Coordinator Report – Terry Schroeder: Terry provided some statistics from the final PIT count that took place in January of this year. There was a total of 501 homeless persons counted: Of these there were 276 males, 22 females, 74 in emergency shelter, 120 in transitional housing, 105 were unsheltered, 154 with family or friends, 58 were veterans, and 7 were in either a hospital, jail or detox. Not counting transitional, there were 114 with mental health issues, 91 with physical disabilities, 34 with developmental disabilities, 64 with substance abuse issues, 120 with chronic health problems and 3 with HIV/AIDS. There were 124 persons under the age of 18. Terry also provided some statistics for the Severe Weather Shelter this year. In Bremerton, they served a total of 434 persons and were open on 23 different nights with an average of 19 persons each night. There was also a Kingston shelter that was open for 5 nights this year, and served 3 unduplicated persons. There is discussion about a severe weather shelter opening in Silverdale next winter.

Agency Updates

Peninsula Community Health Services – Terry Schroeder: Terry reported that Barb Malich had asked her to report that they had just signed a lease for a small dental clinic in Port Orchard. They hope to be ready to serve clients by July/August of this year. It is at 1950 Pottery Avenue on the main floor. They have hired dentists, but are still looking for support staff.

Agape – Angie Zimmerman: Angie stated they have a tenant based unit open in their Sisyphus program and two more will be coming open in July. It requires a minimum of \$1000/month income. Their women’s house may have an opening coming up for someone with need for treatment.

Kitsap County Human Services – Kirsten Jewell: Public comment for the Coordinated Grant and Policy is currently open. Public comment for the Coordinated Entry set aside will be open next week. Both will be open through April 30. There is a CDBG Consolidated Plan Community Conversation to provide input for the 2016-2020 Comprehensive Plan, along with input for the 2015 Update to the Kitsap Homeless Housing Plan. The meeting location will be on Thursday April 16 from 4 pm to 6 pm at the Norm Dicks Government Building, 1st Floor Meeting Chambers. All are welcome to attend. The Comprehensive Plan for Kitsap County is also being updated; Kirsten passed around cards with information on how to provide input, www.compplan.kitsapgov.com. There also is a Kitsap County Volunteer Reception for anyone who was a volunteer for the county over the past year. HMIS training will be offered all day on Wednesday April 29.

Habitat for Humanity – Ginny Duff: Ginny passed out new Habitat brochures.

Bremerton Housing Authority – Sarah VanCleve/Kurt Wiest: Sarah said that anyone who applied for Section 8 visit their website to see if they are on the waiting list. She believes that letters were emailed to all applicants. BHA will have their 75th Anniversary Celebration on Friday July 17 from 4 to 7 pm.

Veterans Administration – Sabina Wagner-Lewis: Sabina reported she is putting together a Veterans Housing Group to learn about housing resources.

Representative Kilmer – Andrea Roper: Andrea reported she is the new lead for Congressman Kilmer. She hopes to attend meetings as often as possible. If anyone has a concern or question, they can contact her. She passed out her business cards.

YWCA – Jackie Brown: Jackie announced the Women of Achievement lunch is next Tuesday and is sold out.

Sheryl Piercy announced that Bremerton Foodline is having their Empty Bowl event on Saturday April 18 at Olympic College.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Chris Brunell, Secretary