



August 21, 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, Darlene Cook – Vice-Chair, Monica Bernhard, Kirsten Jewell, Jessica Thomas, Clara Ann Ness, Penny Lamping, Lindsey Phillips, Becky Boughton, Julie Graves, Sara Marez-Fields, Ginny Duff, Robin O’Grady, Gina Lindal, Jenell DeMatteo, Jeff Bailey, Christina Magdaleno, Terry Schroeder*
3. Introductions were made around the table.
4. **Agenda Review:** No changes made.

Minutes: It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes from July 2013 as written. The motion passed.

Housing Solutions Center (HSC), Monica Bernhard, HSC Manager, provided a brief history of the HSC and a copy of some quick year-to-date facts. She stated that the partner agencies are vital to HSC’s success. The intake process is typically walk-in, with appointments lasting 15-20 minutes. The Navigators will then make referrals in the community to meet the housing need of the individual/family. All housing referrals are confirmed. This year, to date, the HSC has served 1,754 unduplicated persons. Of those, 491 were literally homeless, 716 are families with children, 553 were disabled, 1,661 were victims of domestic violence and 343 had some type of mental illness. The average income for those seen is \$688 per month, which presents a challenge in getting them into permanent housing. The HSC does have a great network of landlords, but income is often the barrier.

In 2013, the HSC has seen 310 households where they were unable to serve them. The primary reasons were: under income for rent/deposit assistance, over income for rent/deposit assistance, rent/deposit funds were not available or client was on section 8. The HSC does have some Landlord Mitigation funds, which are used very sparingly. Monica represents HSC at the Puget Rental Owners Association and encourages them to participate in Housing Search Northwest, a free listing service coordinated by the Department of Commerce. She also partners with landlords to provide permanent housing, especially for those with high housing barriers. The HSC is working on creating a tool to print a customized landlord list for individual households, showing listings for which they may be qualified.

The HSC has historically been funded through a set aside of the document recording fees. They did receive that for 2014, but with some conditions. They need to determine the agency impact and have done a survey to determine that. They need to identify how various budget reductions would have an impact. They need to seek alternative funding and have identified some possible sources.

There are several areas that work well, including collaboration with housing partners, the Advisory Council, expanding street outreach and extensive HMIS reporting capabilities. There are also some challenges, including that available resources drive where they are able to refer clients, determining a long-term funding strategy, outcomes not easily measured in HMIS, and a lack of an overnight shelter. Monica ended by telling a couple of stories about how HSC made a difference in someone being able to get into permanent housing due to assistance received.

Project Connect – Julie Graves: Julie has agreed to be the Overall Chair for Project Connect. There is still a need for a Vendor Coordinator and a Donation Coordinator. The challenges with donations are getting the items that are most needed as well as a good place to store them until the event. Julie will contact the City Parks and Recreation and reserve the Sheridan Park Community Center for the Wednesday of the week of the PIT count. Terry will determine what that date is and let Julie know.

Nomination Committee – Terry Schroeder: Terry sent out the slate of Officers to the CoCC members: Julie Graves – Chair, Darlene Cook – Vice-Chair, Sarah VanCleve – Secretary, Chris Brunell – Member at Large. Voting will be done at the September meeting.

Coordinated Grant Application – Kirsten Jewell: There were 51 applications received. The Grant Recommendation Committee is currently scoring the applications. The interview schedule was distributed to all agencies that applied and will be held in early September. The GRC recommendations will be released on September 20th and will be presented at the September 24 KRCC board meeting.

AGENCY UPDATES

Benedict House/HEN – Chris Brunell: The HEN program’s funding remains stable for this year. Through the Veterans Assistance Programs, veterans housed at Benedict House have received some assistance with employment search.

DSHS – Bremerton CSO – Gina Lindal: There is nothing new happening, but Gina passed out Customer Connections cards for people to share with their clients. It provides information on contacting their Customer Service Center either by phone or internet.

Kitsap Legal Services – Becky Boughton: Another Continuing Legal Education (CLE) course is being held, “Unlawful Detainer Defense Training” on September 11. This is a Landlord Tenant program. They will be training additional people to help with Housing Justice.

Washington Department of Veterans Assistance – Christina Magdaleno: They are doing outreach for homeless veterans. Flyers and cards were distributed.

PCAP = Clara Ann Ness: They have openings to work with pregnant or post-partum women who have used drugs/alcohol during their pregnancy.

Bremerton Housing Authority – Sarah VanCleve: Friday marks the end of their HOPE VI grant, which is most of Sarah’s staff. They have Community Connections, out of The Summit in Bay Vista with a Computer Lab, which is open to anyone; Barista Training and computer rebuild assistance.

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

Housing Resources Board – Penny Lamping: Penny thanked Jeff, from Department of Corrections in being a great resource for them.

Westsound Treatment Center – Robin O’Grady: They are gearing up to officially launch COMPASS, a career skill building program. It will be offered at West Sound and partner agencies.

Kitsap Community Resources – Darlene Cook: Energy Assistance money is still available; contact 479-1507 or www.kcr.org to apply. There is Veteran’s Assistance funding available; veterans must go through the VFW or American Legion for referral. Kinship Care funding for a household who has taken in a relative’s minor child is available. This money is available to assist the family with the transition.

Habitat for Humanity – Ginny Duff: They just broke ground on a 32 house project in Port Orchard. They continue to accept applications.

Coordinator Report – Terry Schroeder: Terry reported that she has attended Outside Homeless committee meeting discussing Kitsap Rescue Mission’s efforts toward an overnight shelter and the South Kitsap Regional Park, where there have been issues with some homeless people living there. Terry assisted Marta Holt, KRCC intern, with a housing inventory chart that she put together as part of her project. Information was received regarding HEN and WLIHA’s letter to Department of Commerce regarding concerns about the HEN changes (inspections and rolling HEN into the CHG). Terry also attended the United Way Vision Council meeting on Hunger.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sarah VanCleve, Secretary