



February 20, 2013 Meeting Minutes

1. Meeting called to order at 2:00 PM by Chair Rochelle Doan.
2. Attendance: *Rochelle Doan – Chair, Darlene Cook – Vice Chair, Sarah Van Cleve – Secretary, Chris Brunell – Member at Large, Terry Schroeder, Walt LeCouteur, Penny Lamping, Jean Long, Monica Bernhard, Diana Gilman, Denise Solada, Jenell De Matteo, Ginny Duff, Linda Kerkes, Bev Kincaid, Dave Frederick, Susan Brown, Natika Shewry*
3. Introductions were made around the table.
4. **Agenda Review:** No changes made.

Minutes: There was a correction to the minutes: Under the presentation on Calvinwood, the word vocabulary should be vocational. Susan Brown moved and Darlene Cook seconded to approve the minutes as corrected. The motion was approved.

McKinney – Balance of State – Nick Mondau: Nick introduced himself; he works for the Department of Commerce in Olympia and his duties include coordinating the PIT count, the CHG (now ESG), and the McKinney grant. McKinney is now referred to as the CoC grant. He provided handouts on the HEART Act changes and on the Continuum of Care program. He provided some history of the CoC program, stating that there are a total of 7 CoCs in Washington. We are part of the Balance of State, which includes the 33 smallest counties in the state. Department of Commerce is the lead for the Balance of State CoC. They collect information from the counties and submit the application to HUD. HUD scores the applications and determines whether they receive funding. There is an increased emphasis on performance. \$41 million comes into Washington State through the CoC funding; \$5.1 million is to the Balance of State.

Each year there is a bonus competition. It is always for people who are chronically homeless and typically come out before the HUD application. The bonus funding available to Balance of State is typically about \$360,000, based on population. An application receives more points if it serves individuals. Balance of State usually receives 5 to 10 applications. If an application is chosen by the review committee, then the applicant applies to HUD, along with the renewal applications. The Bonus funding is based on the strength of the CoC application and ours is typically strong enough to receive bonus funding. The CoC is a consolidation of HUD's competitive grant programs (Supportive Housing, Shelter Plus Care and SRO). Applications receive points for good outcomes, which they get directly from the APR (Annual Performance Review). If Balance of State scores well, we may lose some renewals and may not get any bonus funding. If we score well, we are more likely to get our full renewal as well as some bonus funding. There are 5 projects that receive funding through CoC:

- Agape has three Shelter Plus Care projects – one project base, one tenant base and one sponsor base, serving about 40 persons total.
- Bremerton Housing has a rental assistance that serves 25 families. The families receive a Housing Choice Voucher if they graduate from the program.
- YWCA has 4 units of transitional housing for families.

The amount for administration was raised to 7%, but Balance of State decided to keep it at 5%, which will give us higher points. There are changes to how agencies relate to HUD. There is Collaborative Continuum Applicants and Unified Funding Agencies. Currently Balance of State is similar to the Collaborative Applicant. Balance of State is interested in applying to be a Unified Funding Agency, as there does seem to be some benefits to doing so. They have not applied to be a UFI yet, but may in 2013. Nick also provided some information about High Performing Communities based on length of time homeless, return to homelessness and first time homeless). HUD has not implemented the High Performing Communities, due to lack of funds. This would give Balance of State potential eligibility to use funds for prevention activities. In the APR, when an agency marks “Do not know” or “Refuse” on accessing mainstream resources, exiting to permanent destination and employment, it counts against them. The website, www.hudhre.info is a good place to get additional information.

Homeless Housing Plan – Kirsten Jewell: The plan is almost done. Although it is large, each section can stand alone. The committee worked for the last seven months on the plan. It will be released for public comment on March 1, will come to the CoCC for a recommendation to send on to the Kitsap Regional Coordinating Council for approval. The format is: Introduction, Progress Report, Current State of Homelessness, Action Plan including definitions, Appendix. Any suggestions for substantive changes need to be given to Kirsten by February 27. The action plan is a shift from how it was done previously. It looks at the stages of peoples’ journey from homelessness to permanent housing:

- Maximize agency and system capacity
- Prevent homelessness
- Immediate housing stabilization
- Provide appropriate tailored subsidized housing and supportive services.
- Promote economic independence
- Focus on homeless populations currently underserved

The plan does not prioritize any of these. It states that priorities will be determined with the Housing Advisory Team, Housing Funding Leadership Group and Kitsap Continuum of Care Coalition.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Outside Homeless – Walt LeCouteur: They discussed how well the removal of the homeless people who were living behind the East Bremerton Safeway. Some people were reconnected with family, some were able to get into permanent housing and some moved to another unsheltered location with permission of the owner. It was a great effort from several people in the community and is one that should be used again, should the need arise.

Legislative Committee – Chris Brunell: A lot is happening in Olympia. They will be using CCS as a model for protocol for looking at and supporting legislative agendas. There were over 600 participants in the Housing and Homeless Advocacy Day last month.

Point in Time Count – Terry Schroeder: Terry is inputting the information into HMIS.

Project Connect – Terry Schroeder: The committee and executive committee will be meeting tomorrow to go over the Project Connect event. There were over 500 persons who attended the event.

AGENCY UPDATES

Bremerton Foodline – Patty Petersen: There were over 150 person served in the severe weather shelter from the first of November until now. They have been meeting with Real Change. The cost of the newspaper is going up to \$2.00. She and her board are still interested in pursuing this. However, there needs to be a group of people who are interested in helping to plan. She would like to get a committee together. If you are interested, contact Patty at the Bremerton Foodline.

Habitat for Humanity – Ginny Duff: They are opening their applications for seven homes. They will have the grand opening of their new store in East Bremerton on March 30. Approximately 2 weeks later, their administrative offices will move into another space in the same area.

Catholic Community Services – Chris Brunell: Benedict House currently has two beds open. They had three intakes this morning, so it is likely they will be filled. Their turnover is high, mostly planned and positive. The vocational services that are being done by Westsound Treatment have been invaluable. HEN is going great. They added an additional half-time person to assist. Chris will be attending a workshop on March 20 with other HEN providers to talk about what is/isn't working. They are trying to work together with HEN and ABD.

Sound Grants – Bev Kincaid: YWCA's Home Plus is doing fantastically well in housing retention, about a 90% rate. Because of the community partnerships, they were able to continue for an additional year.

StandUp for Kids – Susan Brown: They have a new Executive Director, Margaret Rodriguez. She is organizing StandUp for Kids into different focus groups and hopes to have a better presence in the community.

Housing Solutions Center – Monica Bernhard: They just finished their first year of operation. In January, they had their highest enrollment ever – 331. They are seeing the first of the pre-sequestration persons coming in. They may not meet eligibility requirements for the LIHEAP eviction prevention. They are trying to improve their process; let Monica know if you have suggestions.

Goodwill – Natika Shewry: Natika brought information on their job training programs, where the focus is to get people into the work force. The classes are free and run for 8 weeks. They are mostly the same except Silverdale has a Retail class and Bremerton has an ESL class. Terry will put class information in Thursday Journal.

Coffee Oasis – Dave Frederick: They had their first two youth in the shelter last night. One was arrested and the other is working with Coffee Oasis to reconcile with his father. They are working with Renaissance Alternative School on a Business Class. They will begin a similar coordination with Central Kitsap schools as well. Kitsap Regional Library received a grant to work with youth at Coffee Oasis. They have a technology van and will be teaching the youth various technology-related topics. They also are working on a partnership with Admiral, Sheridan Parks and Urban Life, with a focus on minority gangs.

Kitsap Recovery Center – Linda Kerkes: The Guest House stays full, although there is some flux. Typically when one person leaves there is another person to fill that bed.

Agape – Diana Gilman: They have some openings at Sisyphus and have a 3 bedroom unit coming up. They will be moving into their new building in about three weeks.

Kitsap Regional Coordinating Council – Kirsten Jewell: They are doing their Program Review and have a survey online for persons to complete. Information with the link will be sent out.

Kitsap Community Resources – Darlene Cook: LIHEAP energy assistance is open; call the Energy Line for an appointment, 479-1507. They have received the funding to build ten units of low-income Affordable Housing, which should be completed in August and available in September.

DSHS – Jean Long: The best news is that there is no change. There will be information about health care starting in May.

Bremerton Housing Authority – Sarah VanCleve: BHA is very concerned about sequestration, but they think they will be ok and that no one with Section 8 will lose housing. They believe they will be able to deal with it through attrition, but that means that there will be no movement on the wait list. Construction of 84 units of senior (age 62+) housing (Section 202 subsidized) will begin soon in Bay Vista. They anticipate it opening in April 2014.

Kitsap Mental Health Services – Rochelle Doan: They are just beginning to explore building 30 additional units.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sarah VanCleve, Secretary