



January 16, 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 Brunel – Member at Large, Terry Schroeder, Ruth Westergaard, Raelenea Rodriguez, Walt LeCouteur, Penny Lamping, Shannon Bauman, Gina Lindal, Monica Bernhard, Trudy Stacy, Becky Boughton, MaryAnn Smith, Manny Cruz, Leann Weaver, Jackie Brown, Julie Graves, Sara Marez-Fields, Brianna McNamara, Denise Solada, Jenell De Matteo, Sheryl Piercy, Linda Hollingsworth, Ginny Duff, Deanne Montgomery, Nancy Martin, Robin O’Grady, Linda Kerkes, Bev Kincaid*
3. Introductions were made around the table.
4. **Agenda Review:** Moved Homeless Housing Plan information to be the first item on the agenda.

Minutes: Minutes were approved as presented.

Homeless Housing Plan – Kirsten Jewell: Kirsten described the stakeholders’ event that was held at United Way yesterday. This event will help provide information for the Homeless Housing Plan. New strategies came out of the meeting. There is another stakeholder meeting in Poulsbo at the end of the month, January 29th and is open to all. If you weren’t able to attend or want an opportunity for more input, attend the event in January. The subcommittee is also getting input from a provider survey that was sent out earlier and to gather input from elected officials. The goal is to update Kitsap County’s Homeless Housing Plan. There will also be information about the progress we’ve made since the last update in 2008. This update will take off from the 2008 update and be the creation of a new blueprint. Anyone interested in attending the next stakeholders’ meeting, please let Terry know. There were about 25 in attendance at the meeting on Tuesday.

Calvinwood – Bev Kincaid/Robin Lund: Bev presented information about the Village at Calvinwood. Calvinwood is a former Presbyterian summer camp and is a beautiful, peaceful site. It is three miles from Highway 16 on Lake Flora toward Trophy Lake. The plan is to have most services on site and to serve men, some of whom would be veterans, who are chronically homeless. The Calvinwood site is a total of 118 acres, with Westsound Treatment Center interested in use of about 50 acres. There is a large recreation hall with cooking facilities, as well as a basement. The basement is unfinished and would be dedicated to clinical services. The recreation center has a deck that overlooks the lake and there are bathrooms there. The plan is that meals would be self-prepared as well as some brought in from groups from the South Kitsap area. The plan is that chronically homeless men will develop team work, vocational skills, work skills, and will take care of the property. There is a cinder block building on the site and that will be transformed to a laundry with one shower and bathrooms. There are six cabins, which would each sleep four men. There is a need to upgrade the electrical and plumbing systems. Near the main entrance, there is a permanent residence on site, which is where an on-site manager would reside. They are looking at having organic gardening, aquaponics and similar outdoor activities. There are two goals of the program: 1) reduce the financial impact of chronic homeless men on public services (hospital, corrections, etc.) and 2) restore dignity, etc. to the men. They surveyed men throughout the county to determine if this would be the kind of project they would be interested in. The age range of

those surveyed was 17-65, with the average being 39. Some have income, but about 50% have no income. Not all answered all questions, but 100% expressed interest in the project. The reasons given for them being homeless were largely job loss; mental health and substance abuse issues were high. Several had a criminal history. There were several that indicated health issues as being a concern; vision, dental, breathing, foot sores and overall poor health were the main issues. The men indicated that they did not want a hand out but were interested in employment. They are using the following models: harm reduction, motivational interviewing, WRAP model – certified WRAP clinician provides a holistic approach to providing services.

Westsound is just starting the COMPASS vocational training program with those in treatment at Westsound, and will be offering it to other community agencies. It also will be available at Calvinwood. In COMPASS, their vocational navigator will work with the participants to assist them in building a career. A question was raised as to if they have a lease of the land, how long will that lease last? Bev responded that the county obtained the property through a land swap in the early 1990s. It was then leased to the state to be used as a state park, but never was used as a state park. There have rarely been any visitors to the park. The plan is to ask the county for site control of about 50 acres for up to 25 years. They are unable to get any committed funding without site control, but do have some pre-committed resources from private individuals and a \$50,000 challenge grant. They have received the expertise of two Housing Kitsap construction/maintenance persons and other electrical and architectural persons who have gone over elements of the site. The projected budget is \$780,000 for development and \$310,000 for operating costs. They are hoping to be in a position to apply for Balance of State Bonus Funding for Chronic Homeless projects next year. In the survey that they did, they identified 35 men who would meet the chronic homeless definition. The project would serve the entire county and they surveyed at organizations throughout the county. This will be a permanent supportive housing program. The men can live there as long as they want to. Typically, once they achieve the highest level they want to, they will move on. Anyone can stay as long as needed. The cabins are mostly open; it was stated that with mentally ill persons, that could be a big distraction to others. It is felt that this project would be an investment to people who are homeless with the outcome of lower costs to serve them. They are working on getting information on what is being spent in Kitsap County on things like hospital/emergency room visits and jail. These are the types of services that are typically lowered by permanent supportive housing programs. One challenge is that the money saved is not from the same pot as the money that is available for homeless services. How can we, as a community, try to capture that money to use toward the cost of projects like this? Cost benefit analysis has been done in other communities.

There was a question as to whether there is another possible location for a similar project, if they are unable to get over the political hurdles. There may be other locations, but it is felt that placing these men in more urban areas, closer to the vices that contributed to some of the issues, may not be as good a match. Bev is in favor of a more rural setting. The Calvinwood location offers an opportunity for holistic work with the participants. They may try to schedule a separate study session with the commissioners to look at this project specifically.

1/10 of 1% - Kurt Wiest: Kurt was asked to explain this proposal by the Executive Committee. In 2005 a bill was passed to allow counties to set aside money for specific services. Twenty out of thirty-nine counties in Washington State have passed similar initiatives. The money that would come from this sales/use tax would need to be used for mental health and chemical dependency services and could include some housing. There is an action plan that describes how these funds would be used. The largest amount would be for capital (buildings) to house those with mental health and/or chemical dependency needs. A behavioral health screening would be a part. There would be a citizen advisory committee for the control and limitations on the use of the money. There is a request to various agencies to ask their board to support this tax via a resolution. Look at the resolution and evaluate whether this is important to your organization and ask your board to approve the resolution. There are two things to think about, 1) do I personally support this and 2) would I ask my agency/organization to support this?

The resolution for Calvinwood and the one for the 1/10 of 1% will be sent electronically to each member agency, with an opportunity to vote for or against. We need to votes before the meeting with the commissioner on January 23, 2013, when we have an opportunity to discuss homeless issues.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Outside Homeless – Walt LeCouteur: They discussed the 1/10 of 1% proposal as many of those people who are unsheltered have chemical dependency and/or mental health issues. For the past three months, they have been dealing with the people who are living in the woods behind the East Bremerton Safeway. The owner has stated that as of February 1, 2013, they will not allow people to live there and anyone on the property can be arrested for trespassing. Many of them have already relocated. There is a group of people who will be going out to meet with those still living there to determine if there is any additional ways that we can help. There is a talking paper that will be used in the discussion with the Commissioners that talks about the issues involved with the unsheltered homeless population. One issue that is in that talking paper talks about the 1/10 of 1%. If we do not get a positive response from members, then we will not include that information.

Legislative Committee – Chris Brunell: They are meeting on Monday to discuss issues. They have not met since November when they put together the piece on sequestration. They will also be looking at Housing and Homelessness Advocacy Day, which will be February 11, 2013.

CoCC Coordinator Report – Terry Schroeder: Terry reported that she has been working primarily on Project Connect and the PIT count. She has also been working with the HHP committee and assisting with both stakeholders' meetings.

AGENCY UPDATES

Parent Child Assistance Program – Clara Ann Ness: The program has grown and they have some opening to serve women who are pregnant or post partum (6 months or less) and have had substance abuse issues.

Habitat for Humanity – Ginny Duff: They will be opening applications so that they can fill their Harrison project in Poulsbo. Their store is moving to East Bremerton, in the old Stupid Prices store, which is next to Value Village. Their administration will be moving to the area next to the old Pat's Restaurant.

Catholic Community Services – Chris Brunell: Benedict House currently has three beds open. The HEN pilot project with DSHS is going well.

Sound Grants – Bev Kincaid: Kitsap Community Foundation grant cycle is open online, www.kitsapfoundation.org The requests can be up to \$5,000. There will be a celebration of philanthropy in May.

Helpline House – Brianna McNamara: They have 30 families that were able to sign up for energy assistance thanks to KCR!

Housing Solutions Center – Monica Bernhard: If anyone needs brochures and/or referral cards, let Monica know and she will get them to you.

WorkSource – Linda Hollingsworth: Linda is the Veterans Specialist and works primarily with veterans who really want to go back to work. They usually are able to work with them.

Kitsap Legal Services – Becky Boughton: The Housing Justice project is up and running; it is done every Friday. In 2012, the landlord/tenant issues doubled.

Kitsap Recovery Center – Linda Kerkes: Their Director retired; currently there is an Acting Director. The Guest House is full.

Westsound Treatment Center – Robin O’Grady: They have a new office open in Bremerton at the Gateway Center. Their Vocational Navigation specialist is in Bremerton on Mondays and Wednesdays.

Kitsap Regional Coordinating Council – Kirsten Jewell: Agencies with grants from them need to get their reimbursement requests in by the end of January or they will lose it. They are doing program review for homeless housing and affordable housing programs. They are looking for feedback on how to improve the grant programs. It can be from agencies that received funding, that did not receive funding and/or did not apply for funding.

The meeting adjourned at 4:10 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sarah VanCleve, Secretary