



July 20, 2016 - Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 2:03 PM by Chair Sarah VanCleve

Attendance: *Sarah VanCleve – Chair, Chris Brunell - Secretary, Julie Graves, Sara Harvey, ClaraAnn Ness, Elaine Miller, Jackie Fojtik, Eileen Brown, Sue Battin, Jolene Kron, Penny Lamping, Rae Rodriguez, Alina Keele, Joe Summers, Sabina Wagner, Sandra Paulino-Winborn, Mary McKee, Andrea Talmadge, Lynda Reese, Ginny Duff, Angie Zimmerman, Brenda Johnson, Jenell DeMatteo, Renee Kimball, Mary Gleysteen, Manny Cruz, Naomi Rees, Rae Lamp, Terry Schroeder*

Introductions were made around the table.

Agenda Review: Sarah VanCleve has an addition after the SOAR presentation

Minutes: **Chris Brunell moved and Jenell DeMatteo seconded to approve the minutes from June 2016 as presented. The motion passed.**

Soar – Lynda Reese & Andrea Talmadge: SOAR was developed in Boston 20 years ago to help improve the approval of initial SSI and SSDI applications. There is now online training for SOAR, so it is much easier to become SOAR certified. Lynda Reese and Andrea Talmadge are the SOAR Leads for this area. Ray Switzer, Director of Building 9, is the Co-Chair State Lead along with Sue Chance. Lynda and Andrea hope to have a small group of SOAR certified persons involved in a steering committee to help others learn about the SOAR program and the online course. Both Lynda and Andrea can assist with questions regarding SOAR and the online training course. It takes about 40 hours from sitting down with a client to completing the application and submitting it to the Social Security Administration. If a person follows the SOAR guidelines, there is about a 95% approval rate, so even though it takes time, it is less than having to appeal a denial. Lynda and Andrea have done a lot of SOAR applications with the clients at Building 9; it is helpful in getting them into permanent housing. All applications must have a diagnosis of a disability that has lasted at least 12 months, is going to last 12 months or more or will end in death. SOAR can be used for anyone who needs to apply for Social Security Disability or SSI. HEN and VA currently uses SOAR. Agape and Peninsula Community Health Services also have someone who has received the SOAR training. According to those who have used it, the most difficult part is getting the medical information. If necessary, Social Security can arrange for a medical exam. Lynda and Andrea are hoping to get more people in Kitsap who are able to use SOAR and get more SOAR applications submitted. Ray Switzer would like to have the Kitsap Continuum of Care Coalition sign a letter of support for SOAR. It does fall in line with the Homeless Housing Plan Strategy 1.1d. **Mary McKee moved and Julie Graves seconded to have the Kitsap Continuum of Care Coalition write a letter of support for SOAR. Motion passed.**

Bylaws – Sarah VanCleve: The revised bylaws were sent out to members and has been on the website for the past month. **Chris Brunell moved and Elaine Miller seconded to approve the bylaws as amended. The motion passed.**

Nominating Committee – Sarah VanCleve: Sarah asked for volunteers to be on the nominating committee to determine whether current officers are interested in continuing and to determine if there are other members interested in running for an office. The Officers are: Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, and three Members-at-Large. It was noted that once the Coordinator position is gone, the Secretary would be totally responsible for taking and writing up the minutes. Mary McKee, Jackie Fojtik and Elaine Miller agreed to be on the nominating committee. Terry will provide them with the information.

Emerging Advocates – Renee Kimball: The Emerging Advocates program is through Washington Low Income Housing Alliance. Renee was able to attend the Conference on Ending Homelessness and participate in the Emerging Advocates Program there. They are offering a fall session in Seattle. Those who take the course learn how to be advocates for their program or issues they feel strongly about. The Emerging Advocates Program is beneficial for all programs. The one thing Renee learned was that stories told by clients are often the most beneficial to break the stereotypes.

Committee Reports:

Outside Homeless – Joe Summers: Joe continues to work on getting a tent city project up and running. He is in the process of dissolving South Kitsap Community Alliance and is now working for Kitsap Rescue Mission as their Outreach Coordinator. He has been meeting with city and county officials regarding the possibility of land owned by them. He has a possibility of a site within the city and is still working with the county as well.

There have been some complaints to the County Commissioners regarding people living on or near the Clear Creek Trail. Joe was asked to meet with the people living there and to help with a cleanup of debris. The Sheriff will go out and evict the people living there. Concerns were brought up that not all of the area around the Clear Creek Trail is owned solely by the County. If the property owners are not complaining about people living on their property, we should not be involved. Joe would like to go out on August 10th to interview folks to see if there are services that could be of assistance to them. There was much discussion about making sure that we are treating people respectfully and not just “moving them along” and that we are not harassing people living outdoors. Joe stated they were working with law enforcement and dealing with persons on county property and that his goal was to try to find resources before they are evicted or arrested for trespassing.

Project Connect – Sue Battin: Sue reported they are working on soliciting money and/or items for outdoor gear. There will be a “Save the Date” email that will be sent to agencies who participated over the last couple years. An application has been made to Suquamish Tribe for the food costs and to Silverdale Rotary for Duck Bucks for outdoor gear and other items.

Homes for All Who Served: They continue to work on locating as many veterans living unsheltered in July and will add to their master list created last fall. A survey form has been developed to be given out to gather the information they need. Anyone working with clients who may be unsheltered veterans is asked to use this form to help in gathering this information. The summer Stand Down for Veterans was held July 16th. There is a Landlord Fair scheduled for July 22 to recruit more landlords willing to rent to veterans.

Housing First – Sarah VanCleve: They are moving forward with developing a Housing First Project.

Coordinator Report – Terry Schroeder: In June, Terry has worked on getting information Survey information into an Excel database. She has sent that to Siri Kushner who has agreed to put it into a report for us.

Agency Updates

Viewcrest Village – Naomi Rees: Viewcrest Village has some tax credit properties available.

VASH – Sabina Wagner: Sabina stated they can serve most veterans, but cannot serve a lifetime sex offender. They will be participating in the Landlord Fair on Friday. She has seen an increase in the number of landlords willing to rent to veterans.

Habitat for Humanity, Kitsap – Ginny Duff: Ginny reported they are taking new applications. They are now taking applications one day per month. On July 29, they will have a dedication for two families.

Kitsap Rescue Mission, Outreach – Joe Summers: Joe said that South Kitsap Community Alliance has dissolved and he is working as the Outreach Manager at Kitsap Rescue Mission.

Kitsap Rescue Mission, Veterans – Alina Keele: Alina stated she works with veterans within the Rescue Mission, helping to connect them with the appropriate members of the Kitsap CoCC.

Peninsula Community Health Services – Renee Kimball: Renee reported PCHS will be opening a clinic in Belfair, next to McClendon's. Hopefully, this will relieve some of the overcrowding in Port Orchard.

Agape – Angie Zimmerman: They need landlords for their tenant based housing. They are having a difficult time finding landlords willing to rent to their clients.

Max Hale Center – Elaine Miller: Elaine reported the Max Hale Center is a beneficiary of the Admiral Theatre's concert with Spike and the Impalers, which is happening this Friday, July 22. Anyone interested can purchase tickets online through the Admiral Theatre.

Behavioral Health Organization – Jolene Kron: Jolene reported they are having 3-person outreach teams. They have some short-term rental subsidy available.

Housing Solutions Center – Jackie Fojtik: Jackie reported they have a half-time navigator position open in South Kitsap. Energy Assistance is available; they are booking online, phone or in the office for July, August and September.

Housing Resources Bainbridge – Penny Lamping: Penny announced that Whitney Rearick is their new executive director. They are pleased to have her on board.

Brain Injury Alliance of Washington – Rae Lamp: Rae said she is stationed in Olympia but serves Kitsap, Pierce and Thurston counties. The Brain Injury Alliance serves anyone 4 and older with any brain injury. In the fall she will be able to provide training. They do have information on resources on the Resource Line.

YWCA – Sarah Harvey: Sarah reported they are hiring for an advocate in North Kitsap. It will be half time housing and half time legal.

Gimme Shelter – Chris Brunell: Chris reported the Gimme Shelter Ride is August 13, with a motorcycle ride around Hood Canal in the morning and an afternoon family picnic and information fair in the afternoon at Bremerton's Evergreen Park. As part of the afternoon activities, they will have a Human Library, where individuals talk to people about what their job is like as a mayor, police officer, etc. It should be a large event; there are about 80 motorcycles signed up.

Benedict House – Chris Brunell: They have had a significant issue with bed bugs, so are getting metal bunk beds to replace the wooden ones; hopefully this will help that issue.

It was announced that the new Coffee Oasis on Naval Avenue, in the former Kentucky Fried Chicken building, is now open. It looks great and is awesome!

Meeting adjourned at 3:55 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Chris Brunell, Secretary