



## September 18, 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, Kirsten Jewell, Jessica Thomas, Penny Lamping, Lindsey Phillips, Becky Boughton, Julie Graves, Dave Frederick, Manny Cruz, Sheryl Piercy, Jim Baker, Alex Fastle, Denise Agee, Ruth Westergaard, Ginny Duff, Gina Lindal, Jenell DeMatteo, Jeff Bailey, Tim Thompson, Christina Magdaleno, Linda Kerkes, Ruth Westergaard, Margie Sgobba, Terry Schroeder*
3. Introductions were made around the table.
4. **Agenda Review:** No changes made.

**Minutes:** Chris Brunell moved and Darlene Cook seconded to approve the minutes from August 2013 as written. The motion passed.

**Remembrance of Sally Santana:** Major Jim Baker read to the group the prayer that he wrote for Sally's memorial service. He stated that Sally's brother had brought all of Gabe's (Sally's son) stuffed animals and said that people attending could choose one. Several people shared a memory of theirs about Sally. There was discussion about people who have offered to take over some of the things that Sally was responsible for. Sheryl Piercy and Patti Peterson have agreed to do the Community Resources Guide; Sheryl agreed to do the bi-monthly Homeless Newsletter; Major Baker agreed to chair the Outside Homeless Committee; Blessing of the Hats and Scarves during Hunger & Homeless Week is set. There are several other activities that have been done during that time; Major Baker said he would try to put together a Lunch with the Electeds. Real Change may put in a monthly column about Kitsap, titled, "Sally's Corner". It is felt that we need to have a special meeting to identify those areas where Sally was involved and identify folks to take them. The tribute that Sheryl Piercy wrote for Sally was read; it was suggested to include in this week's Thursday Journal.

**Department of Corrections – Housing Voucher Program – Jeff Bailey:** Jeff's responsibility for the DOC Housing Voucher Program has been for Kitsap, Pierce, Thurston, Grays Harbor, Clallam and Jefferson Counties. There are 8,000 persons who are released from Washington State prisons each year and about 1,000 use the Housing Voucher Program. There are three dates under which offenders can be released: maximum date, earned release date or actual prison release date. If an offender has a release address, they can get out under the Earned Release Date. They also must follow the facility rules and their custody facility plan. With an ERD Voucher, the offender can receive up to \$500 per month for 6 months. They must continue to follow the conditions of their community supervision. If Jeff becomes aware of a non-compliance issue, he can work with the offender to help them get back into compliance.

Jeff has a large network of housing providers who are willing to rent to offenders. He also does a lot of education with the public to discuss people's fears and allay them. He is able to find places for sex offenders to live in most circumstances. A sex offender who is released to the community is less likely to re-offend. Most sex offenders, especially those who are released to the community have offended with someone they know and they are not typically allowed to be around children. Those offenders who are more violent and have a high risk of re-offending are placed under civil commitment at McNeil Island.

For every \$1 that is spent in the ERD Housing Voucher Program, \$7 is saved. For those who are in the program, the Parole Officer is in and out of the home regularly and can do searches and a urinalysis. It has been shown that an offender is more vulnerable to commit a crime within the first 30 days after release. Jeff has found that 97% of offenders are typically able to find a job within a short time after release. Some of the areas that they find jobs in are: painting, landscaping and fast food. Typically, offenders are good at following directions as they have had to do so while incarcerated. Lack of motivation is one issue that he sees in some.

**Coordinated Grant Application – Kirsten Jewell:** The interviews are completed. The announcement of the recommendations by the Grant Review Committee will be on the website (KRCC and City of Bremerton) by Friday, September 20. On Tuesday September 24, the KRCC will hold a study session where the recommendations will be discussed. There will be no public comment at that time. Public comment will be open from Friday September 20 to Monday October 21. Action will be taken on Tuesday October 22. The City of Bremerton City Council will hold a study session on Wednesday October 23 with action being taken on Wednesday November 6<sup>th</sup>. All comments are accepted and feedback on ways to improve the process is important.

**Project Connect – Julie Graves:** Julie said that today's meeting was short. There is another meeting scheduled for next Wednesday, September 25, at Benedict House, from 12:30 pm to 2:00 pm. They do have the Sheridan Park Community Center reserved for Wednesday January 22.

**Nomination Committee – Ruth Westergaard:** Ruth passed out ballots for election of officers and then announced the new Officers to the CoCC for 2014: Julie Graves – Chair, Darlene Cook – Vice-Chair, Sarah VanCleve – Secretary, Chris Brunell – Member at Large.

## **AGENCY UPDATES**

**Kitsap Public Health District – Ruth Westergaard:** Ruth distributed wallet medication cards. If anyone wants more, contact Ruth and she will get them to you. On October 1, they will begin to enroll people through the Affordable Care Act. The In-person Assistants are getting ready. KCR will assist as they can, but will not have Assistants. PCHS will help people to enroll through Navigators. For information contact Pat or Shelly at 337-5235. Washington State's Health Plan Marketplace is the Washington Healthplanfinder, [www.wahealthplanfinder.org](http://www.wahealthplanfinder.org)

**St. Vincent de Paul – Denise Agee:** They are having a coat give-away on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday in October. Their 17 bed shelter is full. There have been some real challenges with the women placed, but all is well. They are looking for an Assistant Manager for the shelter.

**Kitsap Legal Services – Becky Boughton:** Their Continuing Legal Education (CLE) course held last week went very well and they got some new volunteer attorneys. Becky distributed two handouts, "Attorney and Volunteer Advocates" and "Justice for All", a collaborative presentation with Dispute Resolution Center.

**VA Housing - Jessica Thomas -** Their applications for homeless have changed.

**Kitsap Regional Coordinating Council – Kirsten Jewell:** Their intern, Mara, has done an analysis of the data she collected on the underserved populations in Kitsap. She will be doing a

presentation of the data and her analysis on Wednesday October 2 at 9 am at Bremerton Housing Authority, upstairs meeting room. Following her presentation, there will be a discussion of what to do with this information. HMIS training will be done on October 1, at KCR, 845 – 8<sup>th</sup> Street in their computer lab upstairs. Basic training will be held in the morning and Reports training will be done in the afternoon. Please RSVP to Kirsten as there is limited space.

**Department of Corrections – Jeff Bailey:** There are 30 housing vendors in Kitsap. Due to Jeff's large coverage area, there will be a new staff person to assist with his caseload. Once that person is on board, he will bring him to a meeting so he can get to know everyone.

**The Salvation Army – Sheryl Piercy:** Bell Ringer applications will start on September 30, with hiring starting at the end of October. They have energy assistance, new haircutters, shower vouchers, and some emergency student backpacks.

**Senator Patty Murray's Office – Alex Fastile:** Senator Murray continues to push for a budget to pass. They will assist with the roll out of the Affordable Care Act.

**The Salvation Army – Major James Baker:** They hope to actually break ground and start building in the next month or so.

**Kitsap Community Resources – Darlene Cook:** They still have Energy Assistance money available; contact 479-1507 or [www.kcr.org](http://www.kcr.org) to apply. KCR is hosting a community meeting to discuss Kitsap's plan to utilize the funds for Washington State Department of Commerce's Consolidated Homeless Grant Application that is due on September 30.

**Habitat for Humanity – Ginny Duff:** They will be participating in the Home Show this year. They will be putting solar panels on the homes they are in the process of building in Port Orchard.

**Washington Department of Veterans Assistance – Jessica Thomas:** There is a Veterans Standdown at Sheridan Park Community Center in Bremerton on October 5.

**Housing Solutions Center – Monica Bernhard:** Rent assistance funds are available now through Rapid Rehousing and Prevention. The Advisory Council meeting was changed this month and will be this Friday, September 20 from 2 to 4 pm at KCR, 845-8<sup>th</sup> Street.

**Coordinator Report – Terry Schroeder:** Terry reported that she attended the South Kitsap Regional Park meeting to discuss homeless living in the park. The group also identified a concern under the Blackjack Creek Bridge where it appears a lot of homeless are living. Ekklesia, which does Outreach work in South Kitsap, will try to make contact and determine the scope of the problem. She attended the Washington Low Income Housing Alliance retreat, which included the Balance of State Continuum of Care Steering Committee and the Washington State Homeless Coordinating Committee. There was a lot of information provided in all areas. A follow-up to the Life on the Edge event is being planned for early to mid 2014 and Terry is on the planning committee for that.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sarah VanCleve, Secretary