



March 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, Terry Schroeder, Penny Lamping, Monica Bernhard, Jenell DeMatteo, Ginny Duff, Bev Kincaid, Dave Frederick, Susan Brown, Kirsten Jewell, Ruth Westergaard, Julie Graves, Jackie Brown, Sherryl Hawes, Clara Ann Ness, Alexandra Fastle, Becky Boughton, Cathy Brorson*
3. Introductions were made around the table.
4. **Agenda Review:** No changes made.

Minutes: Darlene Cook moved and Dave Frederick seconded to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was approved.

Life on the Edge – Cathy Brorson: Cathy introduced herself as a CUDE, Credit Union Development Educator. As part of her credit union development educator project, she chose to do a project titled, “Life on the Edge”. This project had four components:

1. Education – awareness of the state of poverty
2. Experiential Learning
3. Resources
4. Celebration of Successes

There were 172 participants from King, Pierce, Mason and Kitsap counties. Speakers included Senator Christine Rolfes, Commissioner Charlotte Garrido, Mayor Patty Lent, Kitsap Credit Union CEO Elliott Gregg and Dr. Donna Beegle as the Keynote Speaker. The next component of the event was a “Simulation City” where each person was either a member of a family or an employee at a social service agency. This simulation provided participants with a perspective of how difficult it is to go to various agencies to obtain services and to experience poverty. It also showed that persons may have income well over the poverty level, but still struggle meeting their needs. Each role had a different response as no two poverty situations are alike.

Throughout the day, the participants could peruse the resource tables with information from various local agencies about the services they provide.

After the simulation, there was a section on “Success in Action” where several local persons talked about how they overcame challenges with assistance from various agencies. Rocky, from Coffee Oasis, talked about the one thing that made a difference to him when he was a homeless youth was that “If he didn’t show up, they [Coffee Oasis] would come out and look for me.” Katherine, a single mom had her children removed by CPS. She got into treatment with Westsound Treatment and was able to get her

children returned. Carly was a single mom who was having a difficult time keeping a job. Through Washington CASH and using her grandma's old mustard recipe, opened a small business, "Fat Cat Mustard". Jeff had worked in construction, had a home and wife and lost them all. He became homeless and was in "survivor mode" living on the streets. He got into Benedict House, went to school and is on a new career path.

At the end of the day there was some discussion on outcomes and next steps. The outcomes centered on how the participants felt during the simulation. Stress and panic, sense of distrust, variables unseen, no sense of community, no time, tough decisions, bad choices made in moments of desperation were some of the comments made. There were also some action steps identified. More flexible policies, provide more accessible services, have open-ended dialogue, be more compassionate were some of the steps identified.

The next step is to have a follow up event and talk about what differences have come out of this event. Have any of the action steps been implemented. If you are interested in helping with this follow up event, let Terry know.

Life on the Edge was a project that was part of Cathy's Development Educator Program. She took first place in the Northwest Credit Union Social Response Program and then went on in the National and took second place.

Homeless Housing Plan – Kirsten Jewell: The subcommittee have worked the past six to eight months updating the Homeless Housing Plan. Last month, Kirsten presented information on the plan and asked for comments and had it reviewed by Building Changes. There are five main objectives, agency/system capacity, prevent homelessness, immediate housing stabilization, provide appropriate housing services, promote economic independence, focus on underserved populations. It opened for public comment on March 1. The final opportunity for public comment will be oral comment at the KRCC Board meeting at 10 am on March 26. Bev Kincaid moved and Darlene Cook seconded for the CoCC to endorse the plan and recommend approval through the KRCC. The motion passed.

Coordinator Report – Terry Schroeder: Terry reported that she has been continuing to input the information for the PIT count, which is going to be a bit lower than last year. There was discussion about the fact that DSHS numbers report 2500-2600 homeless persons in a year and that works out to be about 400-600 homeless persons on a single day, which is what our point-in-time count shows.

AGENCY UPDATES

Housing Resources Board – Penny Lamping: They have met with North Kitsap Fishline and are partnering with them to offer a Home Share Program in the North Kitsap area. This program should be ready to start in that area soon.

Habitat for Humanity – Ginny Duff: They are just about ready to move into their new store and will have a grand opening on May 4. At the end of April, they will be dedicating three homes.

YWCA – Jackie Brown: There are a couple of openings at the Alive Shelter for persons who have had domestic violence issues and are homeless. They are in need of a new roof. There is an opening in their Home Plus program. Again, the person must have had domestic violence issues and have income of at least \$800/month.

Sound Grants – Bev Kincaid: She is reviewing Kitsap Community Foundation applications. Kitsap Community Foundation is having a Celebration of Philanthropy on May 17 at 5:30 pm at the Kitsap Conference Center. They will be honoring three local philanthropists.

StandUp for Kids – Susan Brown: They participated in the Bremerton St. Patrick's Day event. They are working on getting their information out into the community.

Housing Solutions Center – Monica Bernhard: February was the first month with year to year data. They serviced 551 household in the first 2 months of 2013. The average income for the people coming in is \$662/month, with 50% of them being literally homeless. They currently have rental assistance and homeless child care funding available.

KCR Housing – Jenell DeMatteo: They have some openings in their Family Place and are hiring staff at Family Place. The announcement should be going out soon.

Kitsap Regional Coordinating Council – Kirsten Jewel: The Coordinated Grant Program is coming up soon. The technical assistance will be May 30 at 9 am, with applications due on July 10. The full schedule will be on their site soon. Prior to that, priority setting needs to be done for the homeless housing grant program and Kirsten anticipates some changes. She will be scheduling a brainstorm session for the CoCC to start the priority setting process.

Bremerton Housing Authority – Sherryl Hawes: BHA is working with another agency in Mason County and opening eight project-based units. They are also working with DSHS to provide some public housing to youth exiting foster care.

Kitsap Mental Health Services – Rochelle Doan: In May, they will be doing the first Youth Mental Health First Aid program.

Kitsap Legal Services – Becky Boughton: KLS has a new brochure, which Becky passed out. Columbia Legal Services is doing a Legal Financial Obligations clinic. All of the clinics are held in Seattle, but Columbia will assist persons to get there, if necessary.

Kitsap Community Resources – Darlene Cook: They run a Kinship Care program for any person who has taken on the care of minor relatives. This program can help with transition costs in having those minor relatives in their care.

Parent-Child Assistance Program – Clara Ann Ness: They continue to have openings for women who are pregnant or have given birth in the last six months and were involved with alcohol/drugs during their pregnancy. They can work with the women for three years to help them stabilize.

Housing Kitsap – Julie Graves: With furlough days coming, there was a thought to have a way for them to connect with organization to volunteer on their furlough days.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sarah VanCleve, Secretary