



July 15, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 2:03 PM by Chair Julie Graves

Attendance: *Julie Graves – Chair, Sarah Van Cleve – Vice Chair, Chris Brunell ~ Secretary, ClaraAnn Ness, Manny Cruz, Kirsten Jewell, Monica Bernhard, Walt LeCouteur, Nancy Martin, Jackie Brown, Doug Washburn, Angie Zimmerman, Sandra Paulino-Winborn, Ginny Duff, Sheryl Piercy, Trudy Stacy, Sabina Wagner-Lewis, Janet Simonson, Lena Takeuchi, Katie Eilers, Terry Schroeder*

Introductions were made around the table.

Agenda Review: There were no additions made to the agenda.

Minutes from June: The minutes were approved as submitted.

Veterans Housing Outreach Group (VHOG) – Sabina Wagner-Lewis: Sabina wanted to announce that this group will be available once per week. They can help to learn about options available. VHOG has been going on in King, Pierce, Snohomish and Thurston counties and they wanted to bring it to Kitsap. Agencies can invite veterans to learn about housing that is available. It is hoped to be able to start doing this group in August, once a location is identified. It is hoped that 3-5 providers would be available on a weekly basis. They can start the screening for programs that may be available. Tony Sparber has been spearheading this project.

Parent-Child Assistance Program – Lena Takeuchi: Lena introduced herself and stated that PCAP has been a pilot project for the last seven years. The program is to work with women who have used substances frequently during their most recent pregnancy. The women they serve are at highest risk to use. The University of Washington Fetal Alcohol and Drug Use wrote and received funding for the project to be done in 11 counties in Washington. Kitsap currently could use some additional referrals.

Sometimes Child Protective Services (CPS) mandates a client participate in PCAP. They have found, however, that those who are mandated are more reluctant and often drop out. PCAP encourages CPS to strongly suggest/encourage clients to participate in the program, but to not mandate. Clients that come of their own accord typically do better in the program. The goal of PCAP is to get the women back as active members of their community and to not have another substance-affected pregnancy. Most women do not have their GED, so will get them into a program to obtain their GED. They connect many of the women to housing opportunities. The PCAP Advocates are excellent liaisons for the women they work with. The advocates will link the clients to any service in the county that is appropriate for them. There is no type of service that the advocates don't want to know about. The advocates curtail their clients from doing or beginning manipulative behavior; they are astute in noticing when that starts to happen. If

appropriate, they will do a collaborative meeting with other providers that are involved with their client. They use an Addiction Severity Index. PCAP has been in existence for 24 years and in Kitsap since 2008 and is one of the leading sites. They have no money to offset debts or assist clients to get into housing, unless there is a program the client is eligible for.

About 70-80% of the people they serve have mental illness, mood or personality disorder or psychosis. 90% come from a rough family of origin. In Kitsap, there are few clients that don't succeed. Advocates spend 55-60% of their time meeting with clients, with a caseload of 15-18. The advocates work to build the client's confidence and trust in the first meeting with them, using harm-reduction model; i.e. reduction of the harmful consequences associated with their behaviors. If the client is pregnant, they work toward getting them to abstain from drugs during their pregnancy. They work with the clients to prevent future affected births. The advocates receive an incredible amount of training.

Tent City – Joe Summers: The South Kitsap Community Alliance was formed with the purpose of supporting a tent city. They have been working with the Outside Homeless committee to define and put together a plan. It is illegal to live homeless outdoors as that is “Criminal Trespass”. Their hope is to work with different agencies that would come to Willow's Place (the name that has been chosen for a tent city in Kitsap). They would be introduced to the homeless service system and required to register with the Housing Solutions Center. SK Community Alliance is looking at 25-30 tent sites. They feel this number is manageable. They will have one full time case manager. At this time they are working on getting the county to adopt an ordinance that would allow a tent city in Kitsap County. Joe has put together a fund raising project, “Your Hometown Mission Project” to get both financial support and volunteers. He will present this program to churches in Kitsap County. He will start the fund raising as soon as there is an ordinance in place. He is asking the Kitsap CoCC to support the ordinance. It would be basically the same as one done a few years ago with three significant changes:

- Length of stay – asking to have the location be the same for a year, with a possible year extension.
- Use of public, private and faith-based property
- They (the group running the tent city; in this case, SK Community Alliance) will provide power and hot, potable water.

It was moved and seconded to approve going forward to get an ordinance for a tent city in Kitsap County.

Nomination Committee– Julie Graves: Julie stated that in July she needs to appoint a nominating committee to nominate Officers. Jackie Brown, Jackie Fojtik and Mary McKee were appointed to the Nomination Committee. Julie announced that due to her new job duties, this will be her last year as Chair; she will continue on the Executive Committee as Past Chair. The positions that need to be filled are Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Member At Large. Julie is automatic as Past Chair. The slate of Officers will be announced in August with the election taking place in September.

Homeless Housing Plan Update – Kirsten Jewell: Kirsten reported she has been working with a dedicated committee to put together a brief plan, hopefully around 20 pages plus appendix. They have developed specific action plans and strategies. There are two stakeholder meetings scheduled to get community input on the action plans and strategies. The first will be Tuesday evening, August 4 from 6:30 pm to 9 pm in Poulsbo City Hall. The second will be Wednesday morning, August 5, from 9:30 to 12 pm in Norm Dicks Government Center, Meeting Chambers. There is no need to attend both meetings. They have also done a couple surveys: provider and

those experiencing homelessness. That information and data from HMIS will be used as well. The strategies are to make homelessness rare, brief, and one-time, continuously improve our response system and expand community engagement.

Kirsten asked all to spread the word about the stakeholder meetings. She has met with mayors and is meeting with the city councils. Anyone interested can join the planning committee. After the stakeholder meetings, the committee will take that input and put together with the current strategies for the updated plan. In October, Kirsten hopes to have a draft by October for the full Kitsap CoCC to look at and will present the final to the Board of County Commissioners for their approval/support.

Vet Homelessness – Kirsten Jewell: This group is focusing on ending veteran homelessness by the end of 2015. One group is working on a Master List project. They will do an informal survey of those living out doors, using those volunteers who are currently doing outreach. They also will be collecting information at various meal sites throughout the county, using community volunteers. There is hope that the master list will help us to identify those who are living unsheltered and tailor services to what they need. The surveys will be collected for one month, from August 24 to September 24. The volunteers will also hand out resource cards and information about the Veteran Stand Down on September 25 to any veterans. We may use a similar model for the Point in Time count in January. Sheryl has been collecting information on the location of encampments; if you are aware of any, let Sheryl know. The committee is also collecting information on who is doing any outreach, so if you know of someone working with unsheltered, let Terry or Kirsten know.

The other piece that is being worked on is to develop a specific plan to get to functional zero with veteran homelessness. Let Kirsten know if you are interested in participating in either way.

Coordinator Report – Terry Schroeder: Has been inputting data into a spreadsheet from the local PIT count survey, working with the veterans homelessness group to help provide contact information on Outreach organizations and getting a meeting together to talk about leverage letters for CoC funding and ways to improve them.

Agency Updates

Crime Victim Assistance Center – Nancy Martin: Nancy passed around her card. She can help support persons through the justice process for victims of crimes. Call Nancy if you know of anyone needing assistance with crime victim assistance.

Kitsap Community Resources – Monica Bernhard: Monica reported there is PSE Energy Assistance money available and needs to be spent by the end of September. Homeless child care funds are available to help any family experiencing homelessness to get child care while looking for employment or addressing any other barriers identified in their case management plan.

YWCA – Jackie Brown: They are looking for volunteers in their shelter, to work with youth and support groups. Anyone interested should ask for Jackie. An application, background check, and a 30 hour training are required.

Agape – Angie Zimmerman: Angie is now the Housing Case Manager. They have 4 open slots in their women's shelter, which requires 30 days of sobriety and being in need of treatment.

Goodwill – Shaylynn Houston: Silverdale and Bremerton are now Team Kitsap. They are looking at ways to improve the class schedule and how to offer more workshops in the community. They now have some access to child care through Basic Food. They have an Employment Specialist – weekly workshop. They have workshops going on constantly; everything is free once you are a student with Goodwill.

DSHS – Bremerton CSO – Sandra Paulino Winborn: Sandra reported that Margaret Swigert retired at the end of June. They had a nice retirement party with several community members attending.

Habitat for Humanity – Ginny Duff: They will be finishing three more solar homes by the end of August.

The Salvation Army – Sheryl Piercy: The building is under construction. Majors Marcia and Jim Baker have retired. They are happy to have Majors Ramsey here,

Housing and Essential Needs –Mary McKee: They are working with many high-barrier clients in the HEN program. They are moving to a paperless system.

Kitsap Public Health District – Katie Eilers: KCHP chose health priorities and homelessness/housing was one of them. One priority will be persons released from Harrison. They will be meeting with the Director of Case Management on August 27th. Katie also wanted to invite everyone to a free screening of “Wounded Places”, which chronicles children shaken by violence and adversity, at 6 pm at House of Awakened Culture, Suquamish.

Kitsap Rescue Mission – Walt LeCouteur: Walt reported that an ACES case manager is coming to Kitsap Rescue Mission.

Benedict House – Chris Brunell: Chris reported that on September 12 there will be a Homeless Awareness Bike Ride with proceeds going to Project Connect. The ride will go from Bremerton and around the Hood Canal. Diana Gilman was hired on as a new case manager.

Consolidated Homeless Grant

Kirsten provided some history. The Homeless Housing Grant Program and Affordable Housing Grant Programs are funded with a surcharge on recording fees. Approximately 40% goes to the state, which is then given back to the counties through the CHG. Approximately 60% of the funding stays with the county. Department of Commerce has issued a notice regarding CHB and public comment can be made through next Thursday, July 23rd. They are looking more toward using CHG for unsheltered persons. The proposal states the 35% of local and state funds must be spent on unsheltered homeless. They will limit rental assistance to below 30% and have more flexible funding for those who are unsheltered. This would begin in January 2016. KCR and the Washington State Community Action Agency will be submitting a letter and Kirsten will be preparing public comment. There are some consequences if you don't use the money appropriately and some implication on how we could spend the county's 60% of the document recording fees. The letter from Commerce will be in tomorrow's Thursday Journal.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Chris Brunell, Secretary