



November 20, 2013 Meeting Minutes

1. Meeting called to order at 2:03 PM by Chair Julie Graves
2. Attendance: *Julie Graves – Chair, Sarah VanCleve – Secretary, Chris Brunell – Member at Large, Kirsten Jewell, Penny Lamping, Lindsey Phillips, Becky Boughton, Manny Cruz, Major Jim Baker, Gina Lindal, Linda Kerkes, Beverly Kincaid, Walt LeCouteur, Kati Eckenrode, Trudy Stacy, Shannon Prash, Kurt Wiest, Diana Gilman, Eileen Brown, Ginny Duff, Cheri Olsen, Catherine Summers, Sheryl Piercy, Patrick Steele, Alisa Erhardt, Jeff Flood, Theresa Hinds, Nita Hock, Terry Schroeder*
3. Introductions were made around the table.
4. **Agenda Review:** No changes made.

**Minutes:** The minutes from the October 2013 meeting were approved with the following corrections: The Secretary, Sarah Van Cleve opened the meeting as no other Officers were available, the Project Connect report was made by Terry Schroeder; in the Public Health District report the sentence about Spanish interpreters should read, “For help in Spanish, interpreters are available at the Health District clinic in the Norm Dicks Government Center.”; United Way reported “Starting November 1, the Immigration Assistance Center will be housed at the United Way building in Bremerton” not the Public Health District.

**Homeless Veteran Reintegration Projects – Christina Magdaleno:** This program is to assist veterans who need assistance to overcome barriers in order to become employed. It is a structured, individually designed case management plan to assist veterans in removing the barriers. The assistance provided depends on the individual and what their specific needs are. It is only offered in some counties in Washington; Christina handles Kitsap, Pierce and Thurston counties. Any veteran who has an “other than dishonorable discharge” is eligible to participate in the program. Services include: outreach services to communities, employers and providers; support services to assist participants with work readiness, obtaining employment and ensuring retention; training services to increase life skills, develop or upgrade skills, obtain certifications/licenses and follow up services to determine job retention. They work with homeless veterans, including those literally homeless as well as those in a transitional or emergency shelter, couch surfing or at risk of homeless (being evicted in the next 14 days). Even if a veteran comes in who is homeless, but has permanent housing set up, they can still help them, as they were homeless when they applied. They have found that the best way to find out if someone is a veteran is by asking if they have served in the military, as opposed to asking if they are a veteran. Many think they aren’t a veteran if they didn’t retire from the military. Each person enrolled in the program receives an Individual Employment Plan and nine months of follow up. Christina also passed out a packet of information providing information on the services, veteran’s responsibilities, application packet and poster.

## AGENCY UPDATES

**Kitsap Recovery Center – Linda Kerkes:** They continue to be full. There was a question about holiday items. The alumni group is the one who works on getting items for the holidays. Linda will contact them and get information about what is needed and send to Terry.

**Bremerton Housing – Kurt Wiest:** Bremerton Housing has put out a press release about their relocation to Park Avenue; a copy was distributed. They will have an open house in January. The staff at BHA has started to adopt a non-profit agency each year and then they contribute their time and talents to that non-profit agency through the year. They are looking for nominations for 2014; let Sarah know if you or an agency you know would like to be nominated.

**Catholic Community Services – Chris Brunell:** Benedict is currently full after having plummeted to having 9 beds open at one point. They will be remodeling the upper floor of Benedict House, so the men will need to sleep on mattresses on the floor in the common room downstairs. It will be about 10 days, so not too bad.

**Kitsap Transit – Trudy Stacy –** Trudy will be presenting to the board a proposal to continue the free ticket program for nine months. She would like them to make the program permanent and they need this time to do public meetings, etc. She will then go back to the board, asking to make the program permanent.

**Kitsap Regional Coordinating Council – Kirsten Jewell:** Kirsten has been busy working on the contracts for the Homeless Housing, Affordable Housing and Consolidated Homeless Performance grants. She is serving on the Governor's State Advisory Committee on Homelessness. In 2014, the state is initiating an Affordable Housing Needs Study. This will be a statewide analysis of projects that are eligible to convert to market rate. They will continue to do a mini version of this analysis every couple of years. The Governor's Initiative to End Family Homelessness is rolling out to all counties. SAMHSA has received a federal grant to look at what we can do to reduce chronic homelessness. The DSHS Research and Analysis website has statistical information on the percentages of persons leaving prisons who are homeless, working, what type of housing they have/need. The document recording fees will be an important issue for the legislature again this year. The sunset is due to be removed in 2015, which would greatly reduce the amount of funding that is available each year. The Homeless and Housing Advocacy Day, sponsored by WLIHA, is at the end of January 2014. Terry will put the date and a link in the Thursday Journal.

**Department of Corrections – Teresa Hinds:** Teresa is the new person working with offenders being released through the Earned Release Date Housing Voucher program. She is working with Kitsap, Thurston and Mason counties. Her contact information is: 253-680-2620, [Trhnds@doc1.wa.gov](mailto:Trhnds@doc1.wa.gov)

**The Salvation Army – Sheryl Piercy:** The most current Homeless Newsletter is out; copies were passed out. They have a grant for a nutrition program that will allow them to serve fresh fruits and vegetables.

**Agape Unlimited – Diana Gilman:** They have two openings at their Koinonia Inn transitional housing for women with children. She also will soon have two openings in their single men's home.

**Kitsap Rescue Mission – Walt LeCouteur:** Walt stated that they have a professional photographer who will be taking photos of individuals and families for Christmas. They will be setting up a studio at the Rescue Mission. He distributed posters regarding the portraits. Real Change is growing. There are two new vendors this week and the vendors are coming back to get papers. Many are already setting goals for themselves; one person who sells in Silverdale set a goal to sell 50 papers. Their Day Room is up and running. They are now open 6 days/week, Monday

through Saturday from 9 am to 5 pm. In two weeks, they had 64 unduplicated persons coming in to the Day Room; the average stay is two hours and they are averaging about 9 persons/day.

**House of Hope – Kati Eckenrode:** They work in the Kitsap County jail, providing a class for women who are within 5 weeks of their release date. They provide them information to help them be successful when they are released.

**DSHS – Bremerton CSO – Gina Lindal:** As of October 1, the CSO does not process all medical applications. Everyone must apply through the Health Benefit Exchange at [www.wahealthplanfinder.org](http://www.wahealthplanfinder.org), 1-855-923-4633; complete a paper application which the CSO will then send to HBE or with an in-person assister. She passed out a flyer with information on this.

**Employment Security – Jeff Flood:** Jeff works with veterans to help them become job ready. He has a group of veterans that meets from 10 am to 12 pm on Tuesdays at WorkSource Kitsap on Sylvan Way in Bremerton.

**Sound Grants – Bev Kincaid:** Bev informed all that the Community Foundation will be starting their application process soon and there will be about one month to complete it. The Great Give is set for May 6<sup>th</sup>; non-profit organizations need to sign up ahead of time to participate. This is a day when the public will be encouraged to give to their favorite non-profit organization, with all contributions matched. They are also working on planning on the Intergenerational Poverty grant that they received with United Way and the Suquamish Tribe. Bev attended a Grant Professionals Workshop recently and received lots of good information, which she hopes to be able to share in some mini workshops.

**Housing Kitsap – Julie Graves:** Julie is concerned about the need to preserve the existing affordable housing in Kitsap County. There are a couple of projects in the north end that are at risk of being changed from affordable to market-rate housing ~ Robinswood, Woodcreek and Winton Woods 1. There is a list of affordable housing properties available and when their affordable use will run out. The question is whether there is any incentive for the owners to continue to provide affordable housing. Due to the way the Housing Trust Fund funding works, it is difficult to get the funding lined up to purchase these properties once they come up for sale.

**Underserved Populations – Julie Graves:** At the last CoCC meeting there was discussion of the Underserved Populations report done by the KRCC Intern, Marta Holt. There was some interest in starting subcommittees to work on some of these issues. The issues identified, with those who are interested in being on one of the subcommittees are:

- Exiting from jail/prison: Kati Eckenrode, Teresa Hinds
- Exiting from hospitals:
- Chemically Dependent population: Bev Kincaid, Robin O’Grady
- Shelter for Couples:
- Pets that belong to persons entering shelters: Monica Bernhard

**Project Connect – Julie Graves:** Julie announced that they received a grant to pay for meals from Olympic College and they will be partnering with Coffee Oasis to provide coffee at a reduced rate. Amy Olson, Goodwill Industries, has agreed to coordinate donations. Major Baker agreed to let the donations be stored at Cary Place, which is where The Salvation Army will be storing their Christmas items, since there is plenty of space there. Terry will send out a list of dates and times that donations can be dropped off. We also are checking with Kitsap Community Foundation regarding accepting donations

**Coordinator Report – Terry Schroeder:** Terry reported the SK Regional Park has been evacuated, with small groups posting Sheriff Notices with Resource information at each campsite.

To date, there have not been any reports of any further instances of homeless camping at the SK Regional Park. The Balance of State Steering committee met to discuss how to deal with possible reductions in the Continuum of Care/McKinney funding for the 2013 grant, which should be released soon. The Vision Council is looking at hunger and poverty issues and is looking at some films that deal with those issues and determining if they would be good to show to a larger group.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sarah VanCleve, Secretary