

HOUSING and SUPPORTIVE SERVICES NETWORK Strategic Planning and Discharge Workgroup (The CoC Board)

Friday, April 8, 2016

8:30 to 10:30 am

Washington County Public Services Building - Room 105/115
155 North First Avenue, Hillsboro, OR 97123

AGENDA

Chair: Annette M. Evans, Washington County Department of Housing Services

Co-Chair: Katherine Galian, Community Action Organization

I. Introductions (8:30 a.m.)

II. Approve Minutes (8:35 a.m.)Action

A) February 12, 2016 HSSN Workgroup Minutes

III. Business Items (8:40 a.m.)

A) Approve the 2016 Point-In-Time (PIT) Homeless Census and Housing Inventory Chart (HIC) submittal to HUD -- Annette EvansAction

B) FY2015 McKinney-Vento CoC Program Grant Application \$3,219,775.
Awards to date: Tier 1 \$1,459,532 with \$1,760,243 in Tier 1 and Tier 2 awards pending -- Annette Evans

C) HSSN Workgroup (CoC Board) Position(s) with terms expiring June 30, 2016 – Annette Evans

a. Mental Illness – Marcia Hille, Sequoia Mental Health, Inc.

b. Veterans – Cole Schnitzer, U.S. Veteran Affairs

c. Homeless/Formerly Homeless Consumer – Pat Rogers, Community Action

d. Faith-based Organization – Judy Werner, Lutheran Community Services Northwest

e. Housing Authority – Adolph 'Val' Valfre, Jr., Housing Authority of Washington County

D) HSSN At-Large proposed summer meeting schedule to cancel 7/6/16 and 8/3/16 – Annette Evans

E) Discussion on CoC requesting Category 3 Homeless Definition (Youth under other federal rules) – Andrea Logan-Sanders

F) "By-Name" data base listing of all homeless people within the community
<http://www.25cities.com/#!pmcpdata/c15sk> – Pat Rogers and Valerie Burton

G) A Road Home: Long-range planning and the next phase – Annette Evans

H) Homeless Plan Advisory Committee (HPAC) – Annette Evans

IV. Agency Announcements and Open Discussion (10:15 a.m.)

V. 2016 HSSN Workgroup Meeting Schedule, 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. – Save the Date

- Friday, June 10, 2016
- Friday, August 12, 2016
- Friday, October 14, 2016
- Friday, December 9, 2016

VI. Adjournment (10:30 a.m.)

HSSN STRATEGIC PLANNING AND DISCHARGE WORKGROUP

Administrative Board of the Continuum of Care in Washington County

Public Service Building Conference Room 105/115

February 12, 2016

Role: The HSSN Workgroup (the CoC Board) is comprised of public and private representatives of the homeless subpopulations that exist within the CoC geographic region, a formerly homeless consumer representative, and the Emergency Solutions Grant recipient agency. The Workgroup is the jurisdictional CoC Administrative Board, as established by the HSSN Mission and Governance Policy.

Responsibilities: Perform CoC strategic planning, coordinate with and/or assist in State and local discharge planning, review performance outcomes of HMIS and HUD-funded programs, develop housing and service systems alignment, seek out and prioritize funding, and approve the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance grant application to HUD.

COC BOARD MEMBER PRESENT

- Bundy, Valerie - Monika's House
- Clevidence, Veronica - Housing Services
- Erickson, Dennis - Community Corrections
- Evans, Annette - Housing Services
- Hille, Marcia - Sequoia Mental Health Services Inc.
- Mattia, Matt - Office of Community Development
- Rogers, Pat - Community Action
- Schwab, Jack - Good Neighbor Center
- Valfre, Adolph "Val" - Housing Authority

COC BOARD MEMBER NOT PRESENT

- Duncan-Perez, Martha - Wash. Co. Reentry Council
- Galian, Katherine - Community Action Organization
- Harbin, Angie - Cascade AIDS Project
- Pero, David - Homeless Education Network/McKinney-Vento Homeless Student Liaison
- Voiss, Karen - Housing Independence
- Werner, Judy - Lutheran Community Services NW

OTHER ATTENDEES

- Aggarwal, Juhi - Oregon Law Center
- Burton, Valerie - Luke-Dorf, Inc.
- Johnson, Ellen - Oregon Law Center
- Linder, April - Housing Independence
- Logan-Sanders, Andrea - Boys & Girls Aid

Chair: Annette Evans, Public Agency Representative Annette_Evans@co.washington.or.us

Co-Chair: Katherine Galian, Nonprofit Agency Representative kgalian@caowash.org

Meeting called to order at 8:35 a.m.

I. INTRODUCTIONS

II. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Motion: Approve Workgroup meeting minutes for December 11, 2015.

Action: Ellen Johnson

Second: Andrea Logan-Sanders

Vote: Approved – Unanimous

III. BUSINESS ITEMS

A) Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Program Consultation Process

Matt Mattia provided a handout detailing proposals for ESG activities and the distribution between those projects for FY 2016-17. The main change from last year will be moving from a 50/50 split between rapid re-housing and prevention back to a 60/40 split, with 60% for rapid re-housing serving the literally homeless. Matt pointed out that the number of households served last year was 12 each for both prevention and rapid re-housing. This year prevention will drop to 5, and rapid re-housing will drop to 10. Pat said this is largely due to higher Fair Market Rents (FMR) and move-in costs. Annette asked how long people can get prevention

assistance, and Pat responded 6 months. Local standards for rapid re-housing allow 9 months of assistance. That time can be extended to the federal standard of 12 months if an extension is warranted.

Annette said Washington County Thrives has embraced the HSSN's strategy for prevention rent assistance funds serving extremely rent-burdened. Jack Schwab asked whether the reduction in State Homeless Assistance Program (SHAP) prevention money will affect Good Neighbor Center (GNC). Pat said Katherine Galian would know the answer to this question.. Annette said the Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP) awards have not yet been announced, and this program provides on average \$100,000 in rent assistance funds. Matt said the new chronic homeless definition will be included in the manual's recordkeeping section. He said outreach funding will increase to \$25,000 from \$20,000 last year.

At the State legislative level, Val Valfre provided an update on increases to Emergency Housing Account (EHA) funding and other policy topics. Discussion followed on how to address the shortfall in prevention assistance and prioritizing any increase in EHA and ESG funds locally. Ellen Johnson said she felt a targeted approach would be warranted, since across the board decisions often cause those programs with the least amount of funding to suffer, such as ESG. Jack Schwab said GNC has another grant based on bed nights that helps.

Annette said the need for outreach is increasing, but funding for it is very tight. With the new chronic homeless definition, outreach workers are in the field less as they deal with administrative requirements in providing third party documentation and verification of homeless service needs. Matt said perhaps it would be best to allocate 25% for outreach, 50% for shelters, keep administrative costs at a percentage of the total, and allocate the remaining money to rapid re-housing and prevention at the discussed 60/40 split. Jack said as long as outreach and the shelters have their set amounts, this allocation works.

Motion: Approve ESG Consultation as submitted, with the understanding that if the funds are not what is expected, the programs affected will be homeless prevention and rapid re-housing.

Action: Jack Schwab

Second: Matt Mattia

Vote: Approved - Unanimous

B) Review 2016 Point In Time (PIT) Homeless Census and Housing Inventory Chart (HIC)

Pat Rogers said for the PIT unsheltered count, the county was divided into geographic areas and stressed that if there was a dedicated team to work within these areas year-round, there would be a better opportunity to learn about the people who stay there. He cited a situation a few years ago when people were staying at a certain location and later vacated the area, noting this year they appear to be back in that location. Pat recommends compiling a list of the homeless persons in the county and tracking those individuals, addressing each situation on a one-by-one basis, and noting whether people self-correct or require assistance. Ellen Johnson said the legal clinics could support that work, perhaps meeting with individuals as they are identified. Pat said if data was available regarding the household situation prior to screening, it would be possible to evaluate actions taken between becoming homeless and calling Community Connect, and which crises have grown due to not receiving services immediately. Dennis Erickson asked if the story reflects migration or semi-permanency at certain locations, or for certain people. Valerie Burton said there are several camps that remain static in the same basic location with the same general group of people, and other locations that become no longer suitable as a camping location, causing people move to other areas.

Annette Evans referred the group to a draft of the PIT report generated by HMIS showing bed and unit capacities as well as sheltered stays for the PIT for each of the projects. Pat said the school districts were asked to only submit forms for unaccompanied homeless youth. The

districts have a different definition of homeless, and when data is collected for a family the actual data is only captured for the child. People were identified using either their whole name or a portion of their name. Valerie Burton said those in the severe weather shelters were included in the unsheltered count. Marcia Hille said Sequoia runs the ACT Team in Washington County, and asked if those people had been counted. Valerie Burton said she would process forms for those that were homeless on the night of the count. Valerie will provide Marcia with the necessary forms. Andrea Logan-Sanders asked if forms should be sent in for drop-in youth on the day of the PIT. Valerie and Pat responded they should, and suggested that in the future, it would be helpful to align outreach with Community Connect.

Annette said last year there was an increase in the amount of homeless unaccompanied youth, and this year there are only two so far. Does this mean youth are being connected to services or something may be missing. Valerie said Hillsboro School District said there were no unaccompanied homeless youth in the district, although Amber Layton said she knows of several. Pat said if Beaverton School District's numbers are similar to last year's numbers, it may indicate that Hillsboro School District is doing something different this year.

Valerie asked how outreach works with different agencies involved. For example, she works for Luke-Dorf, so knows the Luke-Dorf clients, but may not be as familiar with clients of the other agencies. Annette responded the CoC is at a turning point for outreach, and it would be beneficial to review the best way to utilize how outreach should partner with involved agencies. Valerie would like to be able to pull data from records already existing in HMIS rather than walking the streets for the PIT count. Annette took the action item to schedule a meeting of the outreach workers and Oregon Law Center to discuss how we might get to function zero or a list of all homeless, and also discuss outreach for the legal clinics.

Annette contacted HUD regarding the PIT and HIC due dates and received notice that it will be in April. The Workgroup will be asked to review and approve at the April 8, 2016 meeting.

C) Update: Special Initiatives to Address Prevention and Ending Homelessness

a. Legal Clinic Initiative

Ellen Johnson said there have been four legal clinics in Beaverton and Hillsboro. The feeling is that people have legal barriers, but aren't making use of the clinics. A possible reason could be cognitive overload in the form of despair or hopelessness. The plan is to continue to run the clinics for a year and fine-tune the process.

On January 19, Annette Evans hosted a meeting of the Community Resource Advocates and Oregon Law Center Staff to discuss how and who makes a good referral to the legal clinic. Ideas include an annual site visit to the shelters to get to know the case managers, and/or show signage at the libraries when the clinics are taking place. There is a desire to let the public know the resource is being provided, along with providing contact information and the partner agencies. Juhi Aggarwal said the last clinic included two people from Portland, though none of the four scheduled kept their appointments. Pat said there have been fewer calls to Community Connect, and Annette Evans said the word is out that Washington County is out of rent assistance funding for this fiscal year. Ellen talked to Mellani Calvin, who said the Assertive SSI Service Team (ASSIST) would love to take referrals from Washington County to help people obtain SSI and SSDI.

b. Standardize Conversion Rate for Community Service Work

Dennis Erickson said HB 4123 has been proposed by Representative Lew Frederick to direct the Oregon State Board of Parole and Post-Prison Supervision to establish a community service exchange program in which participants could enter into an agreement with a community-based organization to perform community service work in lieu of payment for delinquent fees and fines. The bill was moved forward by Oregon Voices, a

Portland non-profit that promotes advocacy for the sex offender population. The bill doesn't define what the conversion rate should be, whereas this CoC has worked toward aligning the conversion rate with the Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industry (BOLI) rate for Landscape Technician. Sue Hagmeier, Representative Frederick's Chief of Staff, provided Dennis with information that additional language is added regarding the conversion rate and how it would apply, and the hope is to work on the bill for the next legislative session in February 2017. Annette Evans asked if it would be possible to submit the BOLI rate to the group working on the bill, and Dennis reported Steven Berger plans to share the BOLI idea as well as other viable options for the rate.

Ellen Johnson said she talked to the Oregon Law Center legal aid lobbyist regarding helping with this bill. The lobbyist won't be able to work on it this session, but may be able to assist in the next session. Ellen stressed that having a standard rate would solve some issues on a local level in regards to fair housing, particularly with the race and equity disparity in the criminal justice system. Jack Schwab asked whether the eligible population would be restricted to those coming out of prison, or if those sentenced to community service or exiting jail would also be eligible. Dennis said these are all points to be clarified, though it appears that parole and post-prison supervision are the focus as that is the highest-barrier population. Ellen stressed the need to standardize all applicable conversion rates for the entire state.

c. Keep People in Housing

The Washington County Thrives initiatives include Prevention Rent Assistance for severely cost burdened renters, gap funding for preservation/development of affordable housing for people at or below 50% area median income, a review of System Development Charges (SDCs) for housing developers that provide low-income or affordable housing, and transfers of publicly-owned land for low-income and affordable housing developments. Val Valfre said the work on housing in the legislature is changing daily to include renter protections, Emergency Housing Assistance (EHA) and State Homeless Assistance Program (SHAP). For the first time, it's looking like removing the Inclusionary Zoning preemption is a possibility. Some money for preservation of existing homes and the Local Innovative and Fast Tract Housing Program (LIFT) are also looking good.

D) Resignation of HSSN Workgroup Members

Vacancies on the HSSN Workgroup (the CoC Board) include Veterans, Business, and Youth. At the February 3 meeting of the HSSN, these vacancies were announced and a call for nominations opened. Election will occur at the March 2 HSSN meeting.

Annette announced new vacancies to include the resignation of Mona Knapp representing the Chronic Homeless population and nomination for Valerie Burton, and Lana Winnie representing the Substance Addiction population, as Lana left her position with LifeWorks. A call for nominations will be announced with elections scheduled at the April 6 meeting.

E) A Road Home: Long-range planning and the next phase

Annette Evans said it's time to start thinking about long-range planning, specifically the next generation of A Road Home, the county's 10-Year Plan that ends on June 30, 2018. If A Road Home is extended, will it be a 5-year plan or a 10-year plan? The CoC needs to look at what's been done and which resources should be integrated into the system to make the plan more effective. During the recession, A Road Home was a key tool to quickly respond to American Recovery Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds, because those dollars were connected with strategies that were aligned with the 10-Year Plan and Consolidated Plan. Ellen Johnson said extending the plan would provide a focused analysis for dealing with homelessness and strategizing ways to integrate long-term plans, while taking into consideration the expected

economic growth of the state and the lower-income jobs projected. Annette will research how other counties have addressed the ending of their plans.

F) FY2016 McKinney-Vento CoC Program Grant Application \$3,219,775

No HUD award has been announced yet, and funding for the Safe Haven ends February 2016.

Andrea Logan-Sanders asked about the new homeless definitions for youth, and the need for the CoC to approve use of HUD Homeless Category 3. Category 1 is literally homeless, including chronically homeless; Category 2 is at imminent risk of homelessness within 14 days, which is only used for transitional housing; and Category 4 includes persons who are homeless due to fleeing domestic violence. CoC must apply to HUD requesting the use of Category 3, which is youth homeless by any other federal definitions. Annette said there will be a discussion that will form the letter to HUD applying for use of Category 3.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OPEN DISCUSSION

- Ellen Johnson introduced Juhi Aggarwal, a lawyer with Oregon Law Center interested in homelessness.
- Jack Schwab announced GNC's story-telling fundraiser will be taking place on Friday, March 11. There will be a long story about the history of Vanport and Irish fairy tales.
- Marcia Hille announced Sequoia Mental Health Services, Inc. was successful in receiving rent assistance funds for mental illness from the Oregon Health Authority. The contract effectively began February 1, 2016, but Sequoia needs to hire staff to provide the services included. They will be able to house about 35 people, without the requirement of receiving services, for a period of 18 months. Marcia said the rental assistance funding doesn't necessarily stop after 18 months, that's just the time-frame given Sequoia to house the 35 individuals. It will be a challenge, as the grant is based on the Fair Market Rent (FMR) in place in December 2015. The project will focus on those with severe and persistent mental illness and those exiting the state hospital. Ellen Johnson asked if it would be helpful if she or Juhi Aggarwal came out to talk with Case Managers in regards to fair housing. Marcia thought that would be helpful.
- Val Valfre reported on the revised HUD FMR released following a regional FMR study. There is a new housing project in Forest Grove, and there is a push to include affordable housing. Val has been talking with the developers. The new Worksystems project, Reboot NW, has launched, and he and Annette Evans are collaborating on an article regarding homelessness with Sig Unander.
- Valerie Bundy announced that Monika's House needs a new roof. They are hoping to mend it until the next Community Development Block Grant application process.
- Dennis Erickson announced Washington County was chosen along with 4 other counties to be funded for the Families Sentencing Alternative Program. The program is geared toward parents, particularly mothers, at a higher risk of returning to prison. The program will provide housing, treatment, and support services. There is funding for this through June 30, 2017. The focus is small; about 25 people, mostly women. The funding comes from the Oregon legislature. It was allocated last session, but there wasn't enough money, so it's now being implemented in the higher-populated counties only. They will be using the House of Hope in Cedar Hills for the housing. Dennis will provide updates as the program progresses.
- Veronica Clevidence announced she has been working with HMIS users to ensure the accuracy of data for the PIT, and has appreciated users working on data integrity issues as they arise. .

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:13 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Veronica Clevidence, Washington County Department of Housing Services

To be added to HSSN Workgroup email list, or the HSSN Coordinated and Centralized Assessment System, contact Annette Evans at Annette_Evans@co.washington.or.us.