

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

Friday, April 14, 2017

8:30 to 10:30 am

New Location: Room 258, (2nd Floor in hallway past Housing Services)

Juvenile Services Building

111 NE Lincoln Street, Hillsboro, OR 97124

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. Public Comment (8:35 a.m.)

III. Approve Minutes (8:40 a.m.)

A) February 10, 2017 HSSN Workgroup Minutes [Action - Approval]

IV. Business Items (8:45 a.m.)

A) Review and approval to submit to HUD the 2017 Point-In-Time Homeless Count and Housing Inventory Chart [Action - Approval]

B) Review and approval to submit to HUD the 2016 System Performance Measurements [Action - Approval]

C) Self-Assessment of Community Connect under new HUD Notice CPD-17-01 Establishing Additional Requirements for a Continuum of Care Centralized or Coordinated Assessment System – Annette Evans and Matt Mattia

Business carried forward:

D) Update: A Road Home: The Next Phase Beyond June 2018.

E) Update: Old Business Items

1. Letter to Metro on Homeless Populations

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

VI. 2017 HSSN Workgroup Meeting Schedule, 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. (10:25 a.m.)

- Friday, June 9, 2017
- Friday, August 11, 2017
- Friday, October 13, 2017
- Friday, December 8, 2017

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

Department of Housing Services

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www.co.washington.or.us/homeless



HSSN STRATEGIC PLANNING AND DISCHARGE WORKGROUP

Administrative Board of the Continuum of Care in Washington County

Washington County Facilities Building, Large Conference Room

February 10, 2017

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

- Erickson, Dennis - Community Corrections
- Galian, Katherine - Community Action
- Hille, Marcia - Sequoia Mental Health Services
- Johnson, Ellen - Oregon Law Center
- Logan-Sanders, Andrea - Boys & Girls Aid
- Mattia, Matthew - Office of Community Development
- Pero, David - Homeless Education Network/ McKinney-Vento Homeless Student Liaison
- Ram, Sarala - CODA, Inc.
- Ritter, Jeanne-Marie – DVRC
- Rogers, Pat - Community Action
- Schnitzer, Cole - US Dept. of Veteran Affairs
- Shultz, Robin - Oregon Department of Human Services
- Schwab, Jack - Good Neighbor Center
- Turner, Denise - Denise's Spa Petite

COC BOARD MEMBER NOT PRESENT

- Evans, Annette – HSSN Chair
- Harbin, Angie - Cascade AIDS Project
- Radecki, Kara – Luke-Dorf, Inc.
- Valfre, Adolph "Val" - Housing Authority
- Voiss, Karen - Housing Independence
- Werner, Judy - Lutheran Community Svcs NW

OTHER ATTENDEES

- Linder, April - Housing Independence*
- Martinez, Omar – City of Hillsboro
- Rosales, Jacob – Washington County Housing Services

*Indicates representative attending on behalf of elected Board Member not able to attend in person.

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 8:31 a.m.

I. INTRODUCTIONS

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

III. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Motion: Approve HSSN Workgroup meeting minutes for August 12, 2016.

Action: Jack Schwab moved to approve the minutes.

Second: Dennis Erickson

Vote: Approved – Unanimous

IV. BUSINESS ITEMS

A) Emergency Solution Grant (ESG) Program Consultation Process – Matt Mattia

Matt Mattia presented the proposed Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds allocation for fiscal year beginning July 1, 2017.

For FY2017, Washington County Office of Community Development proposes to allocate an estimated total of \$152,679 to Community Action to distribute and manage Washington County's ESG program, to be distributed as follows:

- \$25,000 for Street Outreach activities
- \$50,000 for Shelter Operation activities (to be divided equally among the five shelters in the Shelter Network)
- \$31,072 for Homelessness Prevention activities
- \$12,339 (7.5 percent) additional funding for administration

The Action Plan will include the breakout of the funds, the estimated beneficiaries of the different activities, and what they anticipate in terms of accomplishments. He distributed the updated program manual and they have received positive feedback from HUD. This information will be presented before the HSSN on March 1.

Discussions regarding whether the budgeted \$50,000 for shelter operations would be divided if more shelters are added in future years. It was noted the HSSN Workgroup would discuss if the shelter funds would be divided further or add additional funds. Matt Mattia responded to a question regarding the selection of shelters receiving funding and he believed Community Action made the decision.

It was noted there are gaps for single adult homeless. Different groups are working to acquire funding for a building as well as support for ongoing maintenance. The issue of making the community aware of gaps in the homeless system was discussed to direct community energy toward filling those gaps.

Katherine Galian felt the group needs to start looking at doing business differently to start moving forward. She explained prior to the emergency solutions grant, continuum of care (CoC) funds, ESG, and state funds were separate groups working independently. She stated Washington County has always worked together with these different pieces of funding but now the new requirements mandate focusing all the resources toward ending homelessness in Washington County. She explained ESG is not the only funding toward homelessness and the breakdown is: \$150,000 (ESG), \$3 million (CoC), and \$2 million (state funds).

It was discussed the county needs to institutionalize the additional funding outside of federal funds as part of the infrastructure of the community and there are areas in the county moving in that direction. It was stated some of the church run shelters are discussing being available year around. The need is for a full continuum to prevent homelessness from happening and it begins with the community to steer someone toward a shelter and begin a process right away.

Motion: Approve the ESG funding proposal to be presented at the March 1, 2017 HSSN meeting.

Action: Dennis Erickson moved the recommendation as outlined in the February 10, 2017 memo as presented at this meeting.

Second: Ellen Johnson

Vote: Approved – Unanimous

B) 2017 Point-In-Time Homeless Count and Master List (By-Name) – Pat Rogers and Cole Schnitzer

The street outreach portion of the 2017 homeless count has been conducted. The data from the interview forms are currently being entered into HMIS (Homeless Management Information

System) and will be completed by late February or early March. HMIS will then look at the data quality and duplication. This year full names were submitted for about 95% of the interviews which helps reduce duplication. The Department of Housing Services is responsible for generating reports and sending it to HUD and the State Board following the HSSN Workgroup review and approval that will occur at the April 14 meeting. The goal is to reach all subgroups starting with homeless veterans. The approach is not reactive but proactive with the community addressing each individual situation until "functional zero" is achieved. Management of this approach calls for a case conferencing approach. This is a shift from working with individuals at a system level rather than at an agency level.

This is the year HUD set's each CoC benchmark on youth homelessness. The continuum's success in addressing youth homelessness will be measured against whether or not the number of homeless youth rises or falls compared to what was counted this year.

Currently there are about 60-70 homeless veterans in Washington County. About two-thirds of these veterans are in a program that offers support to obtain housing so those numbers will be reduced significantly. Considerations will need to be made to assess who will be served first (vulnerability index, length of homelessness) but want to make sure the list doesn't turn into another waitlist. Services available to homeless veterans were discussed and it was noted the federal priority is to end veteran homelessness first and then address other subpopulations as processes and systems are improved. It was stated that lifetime sex offenders cannot access HUD programs in the State of Oregon or the transitional shelter in Washington County, but there are two shelters in Portland that can accommodate them.

C) Year 9 of the 10-Year Plan – How do we move the dial in preventing and ending homelessness using our 3-prong approach: Housing First, Wrap-around Services, and Increased Income/Economic Supports? – All

The need to change from hourglass to checkmark and applications for the Section 811 program was discussed. It was noted that no applications for the Section 811 program have been submitted from Washington County agencies. The thought is because of the way it is structured requiring the housing provider to partner with a service provider which works for programs where the housing provider is the service provider but there are few of these programs in Washington County.

Action Item: How do we move the dial in preventing and ending homelessness using the three prong approach which is housing first, wrap around services, and increased economic income and economic supports.

A checklist was distributed and discussed showing requirements for meet the Housing First model. This discussion was addressed because of low scoring in some areas including increased income and economic supports. People who are participating in the continuum of care programs are not getting to earned income. It was stated there is confusion between addressing HUD's definition of homelessness and addressing poverty and housing crisis issues. It was noted continuum of care funds are intended to address those individuals who are literally homeless and living in places not meant for human habitation or in shelter/transitional housing.

It was stated prior to the mandates they would assist those easiest to serve but now they are required to help those hardest to serve in hopes that those at a higher functioning level would self resolve their situations.

A request was made to look at the Housing First model and see if anything can be done differently to help the continuum. They are also looking at the return of people to homelessness after being housed as well as the actual number of homeless. It was noted the target is for 20 percent of all continuum program participants to obtain earned income as well as reducing the number of first time homeless. Discussions were made regarding measures used for the continuum scoring and

future funding. The workgroup was asked to think over how well the continuum functions in addressing these goals.

D) Update: \$3,367,261 HUD grant award FY2016 McKinney-Vento CoC Program. Original application valued at \$3,166,876. – Katherine Galian

All programs were renewed with a total of 3.4 million awarded. The expansion was not awarded because of scoring and the shortage of HUD funds to award new projects.

Business carried to April 14 meeting:

E) Update: A Road Home: The Next Phase Beyond June 2018.

F) Update: Old Business Items

1. Letter to Metro on Homeless Populations

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OPEN DISCUSSION

- Ellen Johnson announced the Oregon Law Center was awarded a grant from Meyer Memorial to do an expungement clinic starting at the end of February. The grant covers anyone within Oregon but does not give them representation in court. She referred workgroup members to call their office for guidelines on who would qualify for this workshop. The question was raised if the grant covered expungements in other counties. Ellen Johnson will find out and will send out a clarifying statement to the workgroup.
- Jeanne-Marie Ritter reported Domestic Violence Resource Center (DVRC) is applying for a grant to continue the Mary Mac House (transitional housing program). If awarded it will allow them to keep Mary Mac House and possibly some program changes such as adding an additional staff member to provide more services and continue serving clients.
- Jack Schwab announced the groundbreaking of the expansion of the Good Neighbor Center will be held on Wednesday, February 15, 2017 at 11:00 a.m. which will provide an additional 375 square feet for their children's program.
- Ellen Johnson shared the Metropolitan Public Defenders Office is launching a campaign to raise \$250,000 to hire two lawyers to do immigration work around people who are indigent and in jail. She believes Portland and Multnomah County will be contributing funds and they need assistance and support to make a request of Washington County. Lane Borg is the director and he can be contacted at 503-225-9100.

VI. WORKGROUP MEETING SCHEDULE – SAVE THE DATE

Friday, April 14, 2017
Friday, June 9, 2017
Friday, August 11, 2017
Friday, October 13, 2017
Friday, December 8, 2017

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:12 a.m.

HANDOUT: Housing First Checklist: Assessing Projects and Systems for a Housing First Orientation.

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.



Housing First Checklist: Assessing Projects and Systems for a Housing First Orientation

Housing First is a proven approach, applicable across all elements of systems for ending homelessness, in which people experiencing homelessness are connected to permanent housing swiftly and with few to no treatment preconditions, behavioral contingencies, or other barriers. It is based on overwhelming evidence that people experiencing homelessness can achieve stability in permanent housing if provided with the appropriate level of services. Study after study has shown that Housing First yields higher housing retention rates, drives significant reductions in the use of costly crisis services and institutions, and helps people achieve better health and social outcomes.¹

This checklist was designed to help you make a quick assessment of whether and to what degree housing programs — and entire systems — are employing a Housing First approach. Robust tools and instruments are available elsewhere to quantitatively measure program quality and fidelity to Housing First. This tool is not meant to take the place of those more rigorous assessments, but is intended to help Continuums of Care, individual housing and services providers, funders, and other stakeholders to communicate about, and quickly assess, alignment with key Housing First approaches.

Core Elements of Housing First at the Program/Project Level

For your homelessness service system to work the most efficiently and effectively, individual programs must embrace a Housing First approach. This portion of the checklist can help you assess the extent to which your local programs are implementing Housing First. You can use this tool for trainings or planning sessions, during a site visit or program audit, as a guide when reviewing funding applications, or for many other uses.

- Access to programs is not contingent on sobriety, minimum income requirements, lack of a criminal record, completion of treatment, participation in services, or other unnecessary conditions.
- Programs or projects do everything possible not to reject an individual or family on the basis of poor credit or financial history, poor or lack of rental history, minor criminal convictions, or behaviors that are interpreted as indicating a lack of “housing readiness.”
- People with disabilities are offered clear opportunities to request reasonable accommodations within applications and screening processes and during tenancy, and building and apartment units include special physical features that accommodate disabilities.

Quick Screen: Does Your Project Use Housing First Principles?

- 1) Are applicants allowed to enter the program without income?
- 2) Are applicants allowed to enter the program even if they aren’t “clean and sober” or “treatment compliant”?
- 3) Are applicants allowed to enter the program even if they have criminal justice system involvement?
- 4) Are service and treatment plans voluntary, such that tenants cannot be evicted for not following through?

- Programs or projects that cannot serve someone work through the coordinated entry process to ensure that those individuals or families have access to housing and services elsewhere.
- Housing and service goals and plans are highly tenant-driven.
- Supportive services emphasize engagement and problem-solving over therapeutic goals.
- Participation in services or compliance with service plans are not conditions of tenancy, but are reviewed with tenants and regularly offered as a resource to tenants.
- Services are informed by a harm-reduction philosophy that recognizes that drug and alcohol use and addiction are a part of some tenants' lives. Tenants are engaged in non-judgmental communication regarding drug and alcohol use and are offered education regarding how to avoid risky behaviors and engage in safer practices.
- Substance use in and of itself, without other lease violations, is not considered a reason for eviction.
- Tenants in supportive housing are given reasonable flexibility in paying their share of rent on time and offered special payment arrangements for rent arrears and/or assistance with financial management, including representative payee arrangements.
- Every effort is made to provide a tenant the opportunity to transfer from one housing situation, program, or project to another if a tenancy is in jeopardy. Whenever possible, eviction back into homelessness is avoided.

Core Elements of Housing First at the Community Level

Housing First should be adopted across your community's entire homelessness response system, including outreach and emergency shelter, short-term interventions like [rapid re-housing](#), and longer-term interventions like [supportive housing](#). You can use this part of the checklist to assess the extent to which your community has adopted a system-wide Housing First orientation, as well as guide further dialogue and progress.

- Your community has a coordinated system that offers a unified, streamlined, and user-friendly community-wide coordinated entry process to quickly assess and match people experiencing homelessness to the most appropriate housing and services, including rapid re-housing, supportive housing, and/or other housing interventions.
- Emergency shelter, street outreach, and other parts of your crisis response system implement and promote low barriers to entry or service and quickly identify people experiencing homelessness, provide access to safety, make service connections, and partner directly with housing providers to rapidly connect individuals and families to permanent housing.
- Outreach and other crisis response teams are coordinated, trained, and have the ability to engage and quickly connect people experiencing homelessness to the local coordinated entry process in order to apply for and obtain permanent housing.
- Your community has a data-driven approach to [prioritizing housing assistance](#), whether through analysis of the shared community assessment and vulnerability indices, [system performance measures](#) from the Homeless Management Information System, data on utilization of crisis services, and/or data from other

systems that work with people experiencing homelessness or housing instability, such as hospitals and the criminal justice system.

- ❑ Housing providers and owners accept referrals directly from the coordinated entry processes and work to house people as quickly as possible, using standardized application and screening processes and removing restrictive criteria as much as possible.
- ❑ Policymakers, funders, and providers conduct joint planning to develop and align resources to increase the availability of affordable and supportive housing and to ensure that a range of options and mainstream services are available to maximize housing choice among people experiencing homelessness.
- ❑ Mainstream systems, including social, health, and behavioral health services, benefit and entitlement programs, and other essential services have policies in place that do not inhibit implementation of a Housing First approach. For instance, eligibility and screening policies for benefit and entitlement programs or housing do not require treatment completion or sobriety.
- ❑ Staff in positions across the entire housing and services system are trained in and actively employ evidence-based practices for client/tenant engagement, such as motivational interviewing, client-centered counseling, critical time interventions, and trauma-informed care.

Additional Resources

- [Implementing Housing First in Supportive Housing](#) (USICH, 2014) – discusses supportive housing and Housing First as tools for ending chronic homelessness and helping people with disabilities live independently in the community.
- [Webinar: Core Principles of Housing First and Rapid Re-Housing](#) (USICH, 2014) – describes the core components of the Housing First approach and the rapid re-housing model and how both work together to help end homelessness.
- [Four Clarifications about Housing First](#) (USICH, 2014) – clarifies some common misperceptions about Housing First.
- [It's Time We Talked the Walk on Housing First](#) (USICH, 2015) – advances our thinking on Housing First.
- [Housing First in Permanent Supportive Housing](#) (HUD, 2014) – provides an overview of the principles and core components of the Housing First model.
- [Permanent Supportive Housing Evidence-Based Practices KIT](#) (SAMHSA, 2010) – outlines the essential components of supportive housing, along with fidelity scales and scoresheets.

ⁱ Lipton, F.R. et. al. (2000). "Tenure in supportive housing for homeless persons with severe mental illness," *Psychiatric Services* 51(4): 479-486. M. Larimer, D. Malone, M. Garner, et al. "Health Care and Public Service Use and Costs Before and After Provision of Housing for Chronically Homeless Persons with Severe Alcohol Problems." *Journal of the American Medical Association*, April 1, 2009, pp. 1349-1357. Massachusetts Housing and Shelter Alliance. (2007). "Home and Healthy for Good: A Statewide Pilot Housing First Program." Boston.