

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

Friday, June 10, 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) April 8, 2016 HSSN Workgroup Minutes

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

- A) Year 9 Work Plan for 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness: Review and recommend for adoption by the HSSN on August 3, 2016 - All
- B) Discussion on prioritizing program activities with one-time increase of state-funded Emergency Housing Assistance (EHA) and State homeless Assistance Program (SHAP) – Katherine Galian
- C) Shelters and Landlord Tenant Law¹ – Ellen Johnson
- D) Update on “By-Name” master listing for veterans and chronic homeless persons – Pat Rogers and Cole Schnitzer
- E) FY2016 CoC Program Grant Competition – Annette Evans
 - 1. Submittal of registration to apply for \$2,937,427
 - 2. Ranking and Rating policy review and amendment, as necessary
- F) A Road Home: Long-range planning and the next phase – All
- G) Action items for 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, August 12, 2016
- Friday, October 14, 2016
- Friday, December 9, 2016

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

¹ Fair Housing Council of Oregon publication on this topic <http://www.fhco.org/pdfs/ShelterGuide.pdf>

HSSN STRATEGIC PLANNING AND DISCHARGE WORKGROUP

Administrative Board of the Continuum of Care in Washington County

Public Service Building Conference Room 105/115

April 8, 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
- Burton, Valerie - Luke-Dorf, Inc.
- Clevidence, Veronica - Housing Services
- Cockeram, Tami – City of Hillsboro
- Erickson, Dennis - Community Corrections
- Evans, Annette - Housing Services
- Galian, Katherine - Community Action Organization
- Harbin, Angie - Cascade AIDS Project
- Hille, Marcia - Sequoia Mental Health Services Inc.
- Mattia, Matt - Office of Community Development
- Pero, David - Homeless Education Network/
McKinney-Vento Homeless Student Liaison
- Ram, Sarala - CODA, Inc.
- Rogers, Pat - Community Action
- Schnitzer, Cole - US Dept. of Veteran Affairs
- Schwab, Jack - Good Neighbor Center
- Trunnell, Alan - City of Beaverton

COC BOARD MEMBER NOT PRESENT

- Johnson, Ellen - Oregon Law Center
- Logan-Sanders, Andrea - Boys & Girls Aid
- Valfre, Adolph "Val" - Housing Authority
- Voiss, Karen - Housing Independence
- Werner, Judy - Lutheran Community Services NW

OTHER ATTENDEES

- Linder, April - Housing Independence
- Williamson, Drew - 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 8:32 a.m.

I. INTRODUCTIONS

II. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Matt Mattia requested corrections to the funding described on the second page.

Motion: Approve Workgroup meeting minutes for February 12, 2016, as amended to correct Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) allocations in the last paragraph on page two to read \$25,000 for outreach and \$50,000 for shelters, and the outreach funding will remain \$25,000 and not increase from last year.

Action: Dennis Erickson

Second: Jack Schwab

Vote: Approved – Unanimous

III. BUSINESS ITEMS

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

Annette Evans summarized the draft 2016 HIC and PIT. This year, 193 sheltered and 378 unsheltered homeless persons were counted in Washington County. This is down slightly from last year, as is the number of homeless households. There is a reduction in the number of homeless children and youth, but an increase in adults over the age of 24. While there are fewer homeless females, there is an increase in homeless males. Race and ethnicity numbers both decreased slightly. Trends suggest that the average family is decreasing in size.

There were 63 homeless veterans counted this year, with a decrease in those that were unsheltered. This is likely attributable to the increase in HUD-VASH (Veteran Affairs Supportive Housing) vouchers, outreach, and funding for veterans. Pat Rogers requested the list of 16 unsheltered veterans to assist in identifying each homeless veteran. Annette will look into this for review at the Community Connect Oversight Committee meeting.

The number of chronically homeless people in the Continuum is 142, which is an increase of 14 despite the more stringent HUD chronically homeless definition used this year, and prioritization of permanent support housing resources to serve this population. Of the 16 unsheltered veterans, 5 are chronically homeless. The count of adults with serious mental illness increased by 29, and those with substance abuse disorder increased by 67 from last year. Valerie Burton suggested those who collected data are mostly outreach workers familiar to the population. The comfort level between the homeless and the outreach workers might have contributed to more honesty regarding disclosure of mental health and substance abuse. Dennis Erickson said those involved in probation/parole were counted for the first time, and that could have impacted the disability count. [Update: Upon review of the 2015 PIT, this population and the incarcerated population were counted in 2015 with an overall increase of only 2 people this year.]

Homeless youth households and parenting youth households are down. The total number of persons in homeless youth households is 46, compared to 75 last year. Drew Williamson suggested many youth could have aged out of this category, and Pat Rogers said it's possible that some homeless were not located this year.

Pat said each year, with differing methodologies, the results have been similar. The goal is to collect data year-round and simply pull the data from HMIS that reflects the PIT count annually. Valerie Burton plans to coordinate with other agencies to compile an accurate representation of mental illness for next year's count. Alan Trunnell suggested collecting data from several agencies providing goods or services to homeless persons such as food pantries and similar providers. Annette stated there were difficulties with implementing this in years past, but it's something to consider.

Annette shared the HIC detailing bed availability year-round for each project offering housing, as well as bed utilization during the PIT, with discussion regarding low bed utilization. Boys and Girls Aid (BGA) Safe Place was at 50% utilization, and Drew Williamson felt this might be because Safe Place no longer has a contract with the Oregon Department of Human Services, and isn't receiving youth from law enforcement as often. Both these factors kept Safe Place near capacity in years past. BGA is working closely with HomePlate and other agencies to increase utilization. The Transitional Living Program offered by BGA had low utilization due to being short a case manager to perform intake into the program.

Valerie Bundy said the Domestic Violence Resource Center's (DVRC) Mary Mac House has 3 units containing 8 beds for families with children, for a total of 10 beds. Of the 3 families receiving shelter in the beginning of the week of the PIT, 2 moved out immediately prior to the

count, explaining the low utilization for the project. DVRC's Monika's House always experiences several turn-overs in January due to people entering over the holidays meeting their maximum stay length. Monika's House is serving smaller families, decreasing utilization. A family of 5 unexpectedly exited Good Neighbor Center's (GNC) emergency shelter the day before the count, and a pregnant woman was housed in a unit with 4 beds. Both of these events contributed to low bed utilization.

Luke-Dorf's Hillsboro Graduated Independent Living Program has become more restrictive in expectations of residents, causing difficulty in finding the right people for the program.

Cole Schnitzer asked why Salvation Army's Veteran and Family Center was only at 85%, because he believed them to be full. Annette explained in March, Salvation Army exited individuals effective early January, reducing the PIT count. She suggested a meeting with Salvation Army to determine accuracy in their HIC and PIT counts.

All other projects attained bed utilization of 80% or above, with a CoC-wide utilization of 93%. Continuum bed availability decreased by 30 beds in 2016 due to loss of two projects that ended; e.g. Bridges To Housing and HopeSpring.

Motion: Authorize submittal of 2016 PIT Homeless Census and Housing Inventory to HUD.

Action: Jack Schwab

Second: Valerie Burton

Vote: Approved – Unanimous

B) FY2015 McKinney-Vento CoC Program Grant Application \$3,219,775 – Annette Evans

Annette Evans shared the CoC's Tier 1 requests were renewed with the exception of \$1.4 million in legacy Shelter Plus Care (SPC) funds that straddled Tier 1 and Tier 2. SPC and the new proposed Tier 2 project Clover Court are awaiting announcement by HUD. HUD's failure to announce the funding of Tiers at the same time creates budgeting and planning difficulties. Another concern is the management of tenant-based rent assistance for 140 SPC households that may be in jeopardy of losing subsidy effective September 1 if the project is not funded. There needs to be adequate time to notify participants and landlords of this potential issue. Annette advised Senator Merkley's office regarding these concerns, and was assured that they would be taken into consideration. Annette was later told by a local HUD representative that the awards are expected to be announced by the end of April.

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

Annette Evans shared the five HSSN Workgroup positions expiring on June 30, 2016. She will consult with these individuals and ascertain whether they would like to continue in the Workgroup, and candidates will be brought to the HSSN for a vote. Annette further explained she added the cities of Beaverton, Tigard, and Hillsboro to the Workgroup as non-voting members, and the position of Business Representative remains unfilled. Positions include:

- 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, Housing Authority of Washington County

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

The HSSN already approved a schedule that didn't include a July 2016 meeting, and Annette Evans proposed canceling the August HSSN meeting as well unless there is a new CoC grant application or other pertinent business to discuss. The consensus was to bring the question to a vote at the next HSSN meeting.

E) Discussion on CoC Requesting Category 3 Homeless Definition (Youth under other federal rules) – Annette Evans

Annette Evans said there was an understanding that under the Runaway Homeless Youth Act (RHY), youth exiting foster care would not qualify for homeless programs. Upon further research, it was noted if youth meet the HUD definition of being at imminent risk at the time they leave foster care, and qualify via Community Connect, they can be served in transitional housing. This eliminates the need to add Category 3 to the CoC's homeless definitions.

F) “By-Name” database listing of all homeless people within the community – Pat Rogers and Valerie Burton

Annette Evans shared a link that was given to her at a recent HUD training that provides resources regarding compilation and administration of a local “by-name” list with the goal of ending veteran homelessness; <http://www.25cities.com/#!/pmcpdata/c15sk>. Pat Rogers said the Veterans Administration (VA) developed a standard of knowing all homeless veterans by name in order to house them, and 25 cities and mayors entered into a mayoral challenge to adopt the VA's organized and methodical approach; the website is associated with that challenge. The approach developed by the VA can also be applied to other homeless populations.

While this CoC essentially has a by-name list of all the homeless in the county, it's important to check back with those who haven't yet been served to determine their current situation. Pat recommends incorporating a strategic method for housing each person on the by-name list into the 10-Year Plan. Valerie Burton added there is a planning meeting coming up to discuss combining existing lists and develop strategy. There must be an intentional relationship with each person and there must be housing available to offer to those on the list. As the CoC currently has two outreach workers and a lack of housing, these are the main challenges.

Pat said he and Alex Glover, Veterans Services Director for Transitions Project, have worked together on the VA Community Plan Summary, which is specific to veteran homelessness. Multnomah County created a by-name tool they've been using, but it needs to be revamped. Some concerns include releases of information and ensuring all processes align with this county's system. Valerie Bundy raised a concern with having those with domestic violence on a by-name list, and suggested people have the ability to opt-out of the list. Angie Harbin with Cascade AIDS Project said their client data is locked down in HMIS, so while their housing status can be checked, their protected information is hidden from other agencies. This is also true of the CoC RHY providers. Pat said the list would be secure, and available to a very small group as a tool to determine the next client to house. Annette suggested the By Name List development would be folded into the work of the Community Connect Oversight Committee. Sarala Ram brought up a concern regarding disabilities as entered into HMIS, and Katherine Galian clarified each disability is a line item for which information is entered.

Annette shared Multi-Family Northwest has had success contacting landlords and obtaining a commitment to assist in the VA's initiative to house homeless veterans; she suggested a similar partnership with Multi-Family Northwest. Pat said elected officials have also made phone calls requesting landlords set aside housing for the homeless population. Valerie Burton brought up a potential problem with this in regards to the contrast in public perception between helping veterans and helping the homeless in general. Pat said in Portland and Multnomah County, there is constant news coverage regarding the housing crisis, and perhaps Washington County could utilize similar strategies. Getting participation from elected officials could go a long way.

Annette asked if the Workgroup is comfortable with the Oversight Committee identifying strategies and creating a focused plan to address homelessness using a by-name list approach; all agreed. There will be an update at the June 10, 2016 HSSN Workgroup meeting.

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

Annette Evans said the Washington County 10–Year Plan, which was created by several partners including different jurisdictions in the county, ends June 2018. It doesn't look like the CoC will meet the original goal of ending homelessness by 2018, so the next steps need to be identified and implemented. Commissioner Dick Schouten was appointed chair of the Homeless Plan Advisory Committee (HPAC), which provides oversight for the implementation of the 10-Year Plan. The HPAC members are apprised of the efforts and strategies in the county, and provide advocacy at the state level. The Washington County Land Use and Transportation Work Plan includes housing strategies. Annette offered points of consideration for the Plan, such as time frame, name or theme, and elements within the plan. Alan Trunnell said the name "A Road Home – A 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness" left only two outcomes; ending homelessness or not, which has led some to believe that Washington County didn't do what it should have to end homelessness. Annette agreed, and has been pondering ideas for media and marketing- Also, if people aren't ready to be housed, or don't make enough to contribute their portion of the rent, they will end up homeless again. Recidivism is often caused by not providing assistance for the amount of money or time needed by the client; but we aren't here to fix poverty. Jack Schwab recommended the article "Sometimes You Can Just Throw Money at a Problem." Annette will send a link to the listserv. Cole Schnitzer asked what message should be sent to the media, and whether social media would be a useful option. Marcia Hille said in Washington County, the homeless issue doesn't necessarily affect every person, whereas in Multnomah County, it can't be avoided. Sarala Ram shared there is a perception that those in Washington County are wealthy, and can't be bothered. Annette will look through some different concerns and strategies and bring them back to the group at the next meeting.

H) Homeless Plan Advisory Committee – Annette Evans

Annette Evans asked the Workgroup to think about initiatives that would benefit from HPAC leadership – what do we need the HPAC to support on behalf of our continuum?

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OPEN DISCUSSION

- Sarala Ram announced CODA hired a new Program Manager, and has opened a Suboxone program at Tigard outreach.
- Marcia Hille announced the statewide Medicaid Advisory Group's new waiver will include housing as a specific portion of the plan.
- Cole Schnitzer announced the Salvation Army is hiring a Case Manager. He also asked how to contact Ellen Johnson directly. Annette will get that information to him. Pat Rogers and Valerie Burton would like a list of all appropriate reasons to refer to the Legal Clinic.
- Valerie Burton announced Employment Connect will occur April 22nd from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. at Sonrise in Hillsboro.

V. WORKGROUP MEETING SCHEDULE – SAVE THE DATE

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

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:34 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.