

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

Friday, August 8, 2014

8:30 to 10:30 am

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: Judy Werner, Lutheran Community Services Northwest

Introductions (8:30 a.m.)

I. Approve Minutes (8:35 a.m.)[Action]
A) June 13 HSSN Workgroup Minutes

II. Business Items

A) Identify Strategies and Develop Messaging To Address Greater Access and Rights to Housing and Services. (8:40 a.m.)

B) Community Connect Data Outcomes – Briefing on who is accessing the homeless system during the first 7+ months of operation. – Pat Rogers (9:30 a.m.)

C) FY2014 McKinney-Vento CoC Program Grant Application (9:45 a.m.)

1. CoC Registration due 8/6/14 to HUD – Annette Evans

2. CoC Annual Renewal Demand is \$2,644,497 (13 projects)

3. Establish Ranking and Rating Criteria[Action]

D) Continuum of Care (CoC) Program Administrative Plan and updates to current approved HEARTH Act Policies. – Annette Evans (10:00 a.m.)

1. Update: Target for October review. Seeking HUD comment to draft CoC Administrative Plan, and will incorporate comments into final that will be available by October 10 HSSN Workgroup meeting.

E) Ongoing - Improve our ability to link homeless families and individuals to income through employment opportunities, and other state and federal resources; e.g. Oregon Department of Human Services, Social Security Administration, WorkSystems Inc. programs funded by WIA Act. (10:10 a.m.)

III. Workgroup Meeting Schedule – Save the Date (10:15 a.m.)

- Friday, October 10, 2014
- Friday, December 12, 2014

IV. Agency Announcements and Open Discussion (10:20 a.m.)

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

Thank you for attending. Questions or comments, please contact Annette Evans at 503-846-4760

HSSN STRATEGIC PLANNING AND DISCHARGE WORKGROUP

Administrative Board of the Continuum of Care in Washington County

Public Service Building Conference Room 105/115

June 13, 2014

Workgroup

Role: The Workgroup 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, make funding decisions, and approve the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance grant application to HUD.

ATTENDEES:

Burton, Valerie – Luke-Dorf, Inc.

Erickson, Dennis, Community Corrections, Wash. Co.

Evans, Annette – Housing Services, Wash. Co.

Hurley, Amanda – Cascade AIDS Project

Johnson, Ellen – Oregon Law Center

Knapp, Mona -- Luke-Dorf, Inc.

Pero, David – Homeless Education Network

Rittenhouse, Ron – Job Connection

Rogers, Pat – Community Action

Schwab, Jack – Good Neighbor Center

Sechrist, Lauren - Office of Community Development

Stoller, Rick – The Salvation Army

Voiss, Karen – Housing Independence

Werner, Judy – Lutheran Community Services NW

Valfre, Val – Housing Authority of Washington County

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

Co-Chair: Judy Werner, Nonprofit Agency Representative jwerner@lcsnw.org

Meeting called to order at 8:30 a.m.

I. INTRODUCTIONS

II. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Motion: Approve Workgroup meeting minutes for April 11, 2014.

Action: Judy Werner

Second: Mona Knapp

Vote: Approved - Unanimous

III. BUSINESS ITEMS

A) Working together to address housing rights for homeless persons.

Attorney Ellen Johnson, Oregon Law Center, reported her agency is planning a bi-annual retreat in September, and wants to establish a dialogue with leadership on ending homelessness to see if there is a way for the Oregon Law Center to leverage the community work to move closer to the goal in preventing and ending homelessness. The Oregon Law Center has seen an increase in calls from people who are not eligible for the agency's legal services as their income is slightly over the income limit - which is an indicator of more problems than just income level – which raises the concerns of housing barriers experienced by vulnerable populations.

Landlord applications are so stringent that people cannot access housing that they would otherwise afford; e.g. rental history (eviction judgment), expungement (prior criminal history) where tax credit projects do not accept people with a criminal history. Pat Rogers reported in some cases the property management company does not reflect the mission of the landlord to provide housing to low-income populations. Karen Voiss reported that landlords need to work with property management to make allowances. Rick Stoller reported that homeless veterans

are experiencing similar barriers to housing – even though the veteran acknowledges the debt amount and develops a payment plan, the landlords/property management firm will not respond or work with the veteran to provide him/her housing.

Discussion included housing barriers as a result of the stipulated dismissal process that adds to the debt when the lawyer adds landlord attorney fees during the eviction process. Question raised regarding the policy - can the State stipulate when they issue a tax credit that housing developers must provide housing to low-income populations who have debts or other housing barriers. Ellen reported the tax credit is competitive, and the State establishes priorities for the tax credit funding. The State makes the decision how many points for applications that includes or excludes specific requirements under the Qualified Allocation Program (QAP) that includes a comment period once per year. To provide input to the QAP, this workgroup should identify the housing barrier(s), the impacts to vulnerable populations we serve because of the policy, and then make a recommendation. Judy Werner asked for the agency contact for providing a comment. Ellen reported that individual comments are good, and recommends that a collaborative message also be developed.

Val Valfre reported the QAP has been completed for this next cycle and that he is a member of the Oregon Housing Council and would accept input from people to take to the Council. It was proposed that weighted points to housing providers that acknowledges working with populations who have barriers to housing; e.g. criminal history, mental health needs, etc. Ellen would like to include the Bond Credits as well as Tax Credits to create affordable housing to serve the populations that have housing barriers. There may be a fair housing issue here, and raising this to the attention of the State Treasurer and Oregon Housing and Community Services is appropriate.

The Gain Share funds are primarily focused on capital projects, e.g. roads, public safety; however, it does not need to be 100% allocated to capital projects. These are discretionary funds where some funds could be identified to support the 10-Year Plan goals to end homelessness and address gaps in the homeless system.

Mona Knapp reported a costly barrier to access housing is the policy that each landlord charges a Background Check fee, between \$35 and \$50 per housing application. It would be helpful if all landlords would implement a standard or policy for one Background Check that can be shared with landlords.

Dennis Erickson asked if judges would be open to revisiting the policy that adds attorney fees through the stipulated dismissal process to the person being evicted. Ellen commented that bringing the parties together to discuss the implications might address this; however, the law provides for the attorney fee award to the landlord as part of the negotiated settlement.

Consensus of the group to continue this discussion and work to identify ways to address these challenges and ultimate barriers to housing. Lauren Sechrist would like Community Alliance for Tenants (CAT) to participate in this discussion to develop strategies to address housing barriers.

At the next HSSN Workgroup meeting a list of barriers in accessing housing will be identified, the workgroup will prioritize the items for action and begin developing strategies/action steps to problem-solve these barriers.

B) Community Connect Data Outcomes

Pat Rogers reported 502 households have been screened by Community Connect, with 181 of these households assessed for housing and service needs.

29% owe previous landlord debt (average \$2,500)

34% treatment for mental health issues
21% hospitalized for health issues in last 12 months
25% criminal history
30% homeless recidivism (in Washington County homeless program during past 24 months)

Community Connect receives on average five calls for assessment daily. Due to limited Housing Specialist staff for assessments at the initial implementation in January, there is currently a 4-week backlog in assessment appointments. Community Action has added staff to perform a blitz of performing assessments to bring the current schedule within a week of the individual calling Community Connect. The workgroup proposed AARP volunteers, college graduate interns, or other agency staff who could be trained to perform assessments.

C) 2014-15 CoC Planning Calendar

The draft OR-506CoC Planning Calendar was reviewed for August 2014 through July 2015. The calendar includes HSSN meeting dates, HSSN Workgroup meeting dates, HUD reporting deadlines, and other community events.

Revisions include:

- Adding the date in January 2015 for Project Homeless Connect – Annette will follow-up with Kim Marshall, event coordinator.
- Changing the 1/7/2014 HSSN meeting to 1/7/2015.
- Add Ron Rittenhouse as guest speaker on the 8/6/2014 HSSN agenda.

Motion: Recommend the revised CoC Planning Calendar to the HSSN for final approval at the August 6 meeting.

Action: Jack Schwab

Second: Lauren Sechrist

Vote: Approved - Unanimous

D) Continuum of Care (CoC) Program Administrative Plan and updates to current approved HEARTH Act Policies

Annette Evans reviewed the purpose of the Administrative Plan for CoC Programs. This item has been moved to the August agenda. The Plan will address how Housing Services will manage CoC Program funds.

E) HUD Policy Priorities

Annette Evans provided handout to reviewed CoC Program policy priorities from the May 23 presentation by Ms. Ann Olivia, Director for Special Needs Assistance Program (SNAP) with the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Group discussion and action includes the following:

Chronic Homeless. Discussion on need to prioritize non-dedicated beds for chronic homeless, which will support the federal priority outlined in Opening Doors, our local 10-Year Plan, and the anticipated findings of the Homeless Cost Study report that chronic homeless populations are more costly to the community as they frequently use institutions like hospitals, jail/corrections, etc. Annette proposed the CoC Board adopt policy to begin prioritizing chronic homeless by providing Legacy Shelter Plus Care permanent supportive housing (PSH) upon referral by Community Connect to the Service Provider and Washington County. Questions raised on how long the Shelter Plus Care waitlist is. Annette reported at this time there is zero waitlist, so everyone referred is getting a Legacy Shelter Plus Care letter of rent assistance commitment right away; however, if we begin to lease-up and funds are tight, will we prioritize non-dedicated beds to serve chronically homeless while non-chronic homeless are placed on a waitlist. Consensus of the group that this is a local and national priority that the HSSN supports.

Centralized or Coordinated Assessment. A priority is the implementation by August 2014 of a centralized system within each jurisdiction. In Washington County, Community Connect was implemented in January 2014 but housing resources are limited - we need to encourage and invite program resources to align with the front-door to Community Connect; e.g. Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) Program funded by Impact NW. Annette Evans will contact Claudia Coke to see if SSVF would align with Community Connect. Ellen Johnson reported Daniel Crow is working with Transitional Projects to expand services in Washington County, and offered to facilitate the bringing together of Daniel with Rick Stoller, Pat Rogers, and other veteran providers.

In addition, a handout on the length of homelessness for Emergency Shelter, Transitional, Rapid Re-Housing, and Safe Haven housing programs was reviewed. The data reflects an increase in the length of homelessness in these programs, with discussion on causes being low vacancy rate in housing units that restricts the ability of people to exit from shelter and transitional housing into market rate housing units.

IV. WORKGROUP MEETING SCHEDULE – SAVE THE DATE

- Friday, August 8, 2014
- Friday, October 10, 2014
- Friday, December 12, 2014

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OPEN DISCUSSION

- Amanda Hurley reported Mr. Tyler TerMeer is the new Executive Director for Cascade AIDS Project effective July 16.
- Val Valfre reported Melanie Fletcher has been promoted to the Rental Assistance Program Manager, and a new HMIS Administrator will be hired.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:28 a.m.

*Minutes prepared by Annette Evans, Homeless Program Coordinator
Annette_Evans@co.washington.or.us.*

Daniel Crow
Transition Projects
Where are we to improve
Ellen send

HUD's FY2013-2014 CoC Program Policy Priorities

1. Strategic Resource Allocation

- What changes can the CoC make to be most effective?
 - a) Is PSH being used in a strategic manner that prioritizes those most in need?
 - b) Is PSH being implemented using Housing First?
 - c) Is RRH being used as effectively as possible?
 - d) Does the CoC have a Centralized Assessment?
 - e) Does the CoC use funding sources as efficiently as possible?
- Review all projects for effectiveness in meeting performance goals
- Reallocate funds from underperforming or ineffective projects

30 day limit
length of stay
in the house

Consensus to prioritize PSH
SAC
ES

2. Ending Chronic Homelessness (moved from 2015 to 2016)

- Increase the # of beds dedicated to chronic homeless households
- Bed turnover dedicated to chronic homeless
- Use Housing First approach when designing PSH

Claudia
Coker
Impact NW

3. Other Priority Populations: Veterans by 2015

- Make investments in Veteran-centric housing and health programs
- Adopt evidence-based practices such as housing first
- Prioritize VA eligible chronic homeless veterans for HUD-VASH
- To the extent possible, prioritize veterans who are ineligible for VA services and their families

4. Ending Family Homelessness (by 2020)

- Most families need short- or medium-term rental assistance and/or affordable housing and connection to mainstream resources and community-based supports
- Rapid Re-Housing Funding targeted to households with children living on the streets or in emergency shelters

5. Other Priority Populations: Youth (by 2020)

- Need to identify and describe the needs of homeless youth
- Partner with schools, the child welfare system, and Runaway/Homeless Youth providers to implement a youth-informed system of care

6. Remove barriers to CoC resources

- Use coordinated/centralized assessment
- Review system- and project-level eligibility criteria to identify barriers and remove them
- Review transitional housing models for cost-effectiveness, performance and for criteria used to determine eligibility, and determine if RRH may be better

7. Maximizing the use of mainstream resources; e.g. TANF, SNAP, SSI/SSD, etc.

- Is the service being funded by HUD eligible under a mainstream program?
- Is the service essential to helping people obtain or maintain permanent housing?
- Form partnerships with health care entities that are credentialed to provide Medicaid services. Determine how ACA funds may be used to serve the homeless

review budget
project
applicability

8. Building Partnerships

- Assess the extent that philanthropy plays a role within the community and ending homelessness
- Proactively seek to engage in partnerships with the Public Housing Authority

HPAC