



HOUSING and SUPPORTIVE SERVICE NETWORK

Providing a Continuum of Care for Vulnerable Populations in Washington County

Wednesday, April 3, 2013

8:30 to 10:00 a.m.

Beaverton City Hall - 1st Floor Conference Room
4755 SW Griffith Drive, Beaverton, Oregon 97075

AGENDA

- I. INTRODUCTIONS: 8:30 a.m.**
- II. GUEST SPEAKER: 8:35 a.m.**
 - Ms. Alexis Kruse and Mr. Matt Lauzon, Sequoia Mental Health Services Inc.
– Child and Family Program
 - Mark Noonan, Volunteer Engagement & Social Media Manager
- Elders in Action Program
- III. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: 9:15 a.m. Action Item**
- IV. REPORTS AND PROGRAM UPDATES: 9:20 a.m.**
 - Subcommittee Reports
 - Children
 - Youth
 - Homelessness
 - Permanent Housing
 - Income Support/Workforce Development Workgroup
 - DD Dialogue
 - Mental Health and Special Needs Community Consortium Steering Committee
 - Veterans
 - Seniors
 - Strategic Planning and Discharge Workgroup
 - Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)
- V. GENERAL BUSINESS: 9:35 a.m.**
 - 2013 Point In Time Count (PIT) and Housing Inventory Chart (HIC)
 - FY2012 McKinney-Vento CoC Program Grant Award Tier 1 Renewal funding \$2,234,798
 - Tier 2 Renewal/New Project Requests for \$231,766 Pending
 - Year 5 Work Plan Quarterly Update on 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness
- VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS: 9:50 a.m.**
 - FY2013 Action Plan Public Hearing on 4/3/13 at 10 am (following HSSN meeting)
- VII. ADJOURNMENT: 10:00 a.m.**

Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 1, 2013

Guest Speaker(s): Ms. Vanessa F. La Torre, Cascade AIDS Project CHATpdx (Youth HIV Education Program)

Department of Housing Services

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HOUSING AND SUPPORTIVE SERVICE NETWORK

Maintaining a Continuum of Care in Washington County

Beaverton City Hall

March 6, 2013 at 8:30 a.m.

Goal: Housing and supportive service agencies working to bring a broad spectrum of organizations together as partners in the community to secure funding and other resources needed in providing a continuum of care for individuals and families who are homeless or with special needs.

ATTENDEES:

Adams, Jessi-Community Action
Allison, Deb-LifeWorks NW
Atterbury, Amy-Sequoia Mental Health Services Inc.
Browning, Rose-Good Neighbor Center
Bundy, Valerie-Domestic Violence Resource Center
Burnham, Jeff-Luke-Dorf, Inc
Burton, Valerie-Luke-Dorf, Inc
Calvert, Gary- Dept. of Housing Services, Wash.Co.
Carpenter, Kristen-Family Bridge Shelter
Chavez-Hernandez, Saul-Community Action Org.
Daniel, Bridget-HomePlate
Davila, Lisa-Luke-Dorf, Inc
Demry, James-Homeless To Work/Bridges to Change
Duncan-Perez, Martha-Wash.County Reentry Council
Eichorst, Kathy- Dept. of Housing Services, Wash.Co.
Evans, Annette-Dept. of Housing Services, Wash.Co.
Feldman, William-Lufe-Dorf,Inc.
Ferry, Nancy-Bridges to Change
Finnegan, Molly-VA Homeless Outreach
Fitzpatrick, Sean-HomePlate
Fletcher, Melanie-Dept. of Housing Services, Wash. Co.
Fowler, Alisa-Luke-Dorf, Inc.
Gibson, Erin-HomePlate
Hauth, Larry-Community Action Org.
Heart, Annie-Family Bridge
Kruse, Alexis-Sequoia Mental Health Services
Lind, Stephanie-Wash.Co.Cooperative Library Services
Logan-Sanders, Andrea-Boys and Girls Aid
Loverin, Robert-Sequoia Mental Health Services, Inc.
Mullaney, Leah-The Salvation Army
Nelson, Andrea-CDBG Coordinator, City of Beaverton
Perkowski, Kaja-Open Door Counseling Center
Proctor, Jennie-Community Development, WC Office
Pump, David-Sequoia Mental Health Services Inc.
Radke, Lydia-Luke-Dorf, Inc.
Rafal, Candy-Luke-Dorf,Inc.
Reed, Rochelle-Boys and Girls Aid
Reiner, Kathryn-Project Bloom
Roberts, Dave-Luke-Dorf, Inc
Rogers, Patrick-Community Action Org.
Schaeffer-Bishop,Blair-Community Partners for Afford.Hous.
Schwab, Jack-Good Neighbor Center
Sechrist, Lauren-Community Development, Wash. Co.
Skryha, Vicki-US Department of HUD
Spencer, Laura-Project Bloom
Squeglia, Frank-Recovery Association Project
Stoller, Rick-The Salvation Army
Teifel, Gordon-Families for Independent Living/DEAR
Tong, Melanie-Wa. Co. Health & Human Services
Turk, Nicki-Cascade AIDS Project
Valfre, Val-Dept. of Housing Services, Wash. Co.
Werner, Judy-Lutheran Community Services NW
Whitney, Bill-LifeWorks NW
Williams, Theresa-Luke-Dorf, Inc.

I. INTRODUCTIONS

Meeting commenced at 8:30 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Motion: Approve meeting minutes for February 6, 2013

Action: Gordon Teifel

Second: Annie Heart

Vote: Approved - Unanimous

III. SUPPORTIVE HOUSING PROGRAM PRESENTATIONS

Annette Evans announced that HUD is moving away from project performance and focusing on CoC performance. Programs must support the system and outcomes they are looking for. There is a risk of losing program funds if outcomes are not being achieved by moving people to permanent housing.

Judy Werner asked if the money that's currently tied up is affected.

Annette Evans stated that whatever is currently in the 2013 budget is what we will compete for in 2014. We should score well enough to get all the Tier 1 programs funded. Funding for the 3 Tier 2 programs depends upon how the application is rated.

HopeSpring - Judy Werner

The program has existed for 18-19 years and continues with funding as its biggest problem. We struggle with being sure we do everything correctly to comply with HUD documentation requirements. Another challenge is that we're known in the community. As a result we get many referrals, and we have to turn down about 80% of them due to lack of funding. We deal with the challenges by linking with partners such as Community Action Organization, LifeWorks NW, WorkSource, and others.

One of the positive things with our program is that women in the program get a lease in their own name so they can go into permanent housing. September 1, 2013, HopeSpring will no longer be considered transitional housing. By changing program types, we will receive more money for housing. Next year's challenge will be that the funds will go through Washington County Department of Housing Services, and we cannot be as flexible. We anticipate that we can increase our family count by 4, but will not have child care funds.

Youth Transitional Living Program - Andrea Logan-Sanders

Effective July 1, this program will be under HEARTH. Currently in the 4th year of operating with the HUD grant providing half of the program funding. The program serves ages 18-23.

There is a huge need in Washington County for transitional and independent living for parenting youth. We have 2 spots for parenting youth and very little turnover in those spots. We hope to amend next year's budget to increase those beds by 1 or 2. Typically parenting youth are successful since they are vested in working, saving, and finishing school.

Last year ended with 7 of our youth moving out; 5 to permanent housing and 2 to temporary housing. Youth by nature are transitional and not necessarily going to settle into a permanent residence when they are 19 - 21 years old. Our skills trainer is certified as a Rent Well trainer and has started the first curriculum.

We are working on different engagement techniques. Those who transition to temporary situations tend to stay in the program for less time. We are struggling with helping youth find jobs with a living wage.

We started a savings account program for clients. They pay 30% of their income into savings as practice for paying rent. For 6 clients the total balance is \$23,000! That leads to stability for them and helps them get set up in a new place. It is exciting for them to see that amount and understand what savings means. They get it all back when they leave.

Transitional Housing Program - Gary Calvert

The biggest challenge is that it starts as a year, potentially goes into 2 years. We are trying to shorten that time so we can cycle more people through the program. Education is a focal point for a lot of these families since it takes a couple of years to get an associates degree.

We continue to tighten the interview process. Families who are accepted need to have a strong potential for success measured by moving into mainstream housing and have a job.

The Community Corrections Probation Officer is their primary contact. Currently, we are just the landlord. We are increasing our contact with clients and survey them to see where they are. Surveys ask basic questions such as have you finished Rent Well and how is employment doing. The goal is to get more self-reporting.

At least 1 adult member in each of the 3 families is enrolled in school full time and at least 1 adult in each family has a permanent source of income. The downside is that we had to deobligate \$1,432.78 last year. This was a timing issue since the budget is based on turnover of these houses.

Housing Stabilization Program – Rose Browning

Good Neighbor Center had the same challenges as last year. The main challenge is that most of our families do not qualify for Housing Stabilization Program (HSP). Finding qualified families who have income at least 2 times the amount of rent is a challenge. If someone misses a few days of work or their hours are reduced, it impacts their ability to pay rent and incur late fees. We encourage them to contact Community Action or St. Vincent dePaul for help. A housing advocate helps as best she can by remaining in touch with the family in crisis and with the landlord. We can offer very limited rental assistance. Last year we helped someone with \$40. Other challenges include transportation and child care. We have had families that choose to fix their car instead of paying their rent.

All of our families have stayed in permanent housing after leaving the program, but stay in the cycle where they are struggling to pay on time. We take families from other shelters and shelter waitlists.

We have a student advocate who helps families with resumes and job searches. We post information about jobs and job fairs. UNITUS Credit Union is a partner. They come to the shelter to help families learn about and clean up credit.

Any capable adult who is not working must show that they have applied for at least 3 jobs per week. Currently, we have 5 really hard working families.

Gordon Teifel asked if there a faith-based child care nearby that could help. Rose was not sure but can check. They have a child care provider in Tigard who has offered to provide service when parents are on job interviews. However, it is not the extended child care needed.

Gordon suggested the families form natural supports. One family in the program could provide the child care for one or two others. Rose responded that once they are in the program, it's not usually an issue. Most of them work the same schedules. If you have a couple of 2 parent families, it's more likely to work.

SAFAH - Pat Rogers

Main challenge is attempting to rehouse families and provide services to support that effort. Families are struggling with lack of employment and lack of ability to enter a housing situation. Jobs for our households are not coming back as quickly as the rest of the economy. Many of the households have landlord debt in the \$3,000-\$6,000 range. Housing specialists and family advocates are working with households earlier than they did previously by providing Rent Well and devising ways to pay down that debt. Child care is a huge thing. We have a paper, "Issues on Poverty," that demonstrates that the cost of child care is often higher than the family income.

SAFAH has developed a partnership with WorkSource which provides employment services and case management. This serves 20 participants helping them navigate WorkSource. 160 services are provided including workshops, career counseling, internships, occupational and on the job trainings. SAFAH Advocates are substitute employment specialists and have full access to WorkSource.

We also have a partnership with Community And Shelter Assistance Corporation (CASA of Oregon) to provide asset building and financial education. Families can save using an Individual Development Account (IDA) and participate in ongoing financial education meetings. IDA includes matching savings. We can serve 20 participants with this program. They can save for a maximum of 36 months with a 3-to-1 match. Maximum is \$12,000. Monthly classes are held to support the program which requires 10 hours of financial education and 6-8 hours of asset-specific training. Larry Hauth commented that IDA program is also open to parents with head start children. Contact Larry for details.

We are constantly improving relationships throughout the shelter network by reducing duplication of intake process and adjusting when families have contact with a worker. All shelters are working on the same type of plan by improving relationships with landlords. All case managers are Rent Well instructors so they know what is needed to rehouse the families. We have reduced our shelter waitlist from 35-40 households to 16. 7 of those are doubled up. We will start working with these households earlier

in the process. 5 families are in shelters. 4 families are in original housing in anticipation of becoming homeless. None of the families currently on the list are homeless.

We are collaborating with Luke-Dorf to provide mental health services freeing us to provide services where we have more skills. In the past, we were trying to manage things that were beyond our skill set.

Mental Health Outreach - Kaja Perkowski

Our space is a garage and have a diverse population including people with children, mental illness, and depression. We have a staff of 2.

Money is very limited to fulfill clients' needs. We have no money for hygiene items. Very often we drive clients to appointments and negotiate with the pharmacy for lower medication prices. We do have achievements like getting a client's medication reduced from \$300 to \$19. We were finally able to motivate an alcoholic client to go to rehab. We negotiated with the rehab facility to take him for \$500.

Another challenge is that we work with clients then they disappear. After 3 months, we exit them from the program. Then they show up again. We enter them again, and it happens again. Sometimes we get a thank you many months later that we were the first step in their recovery, but we cannot include them in our statistics.

Another problem is our rules and regulations. We have to lead the clients through this jungle. I have to tell them I'm sorry, you are deeply depressed, but not psychotic. You have been outside for 8 months, but that is not long enough.

A question was asked about internships.

Kaja responded that they do not have sufficient space for an intern to work.

Judy Werner asked about the size of soap and shampoo needed.

Kaja responded that they prefer small sizes since larger ones disappear.

Safe Haven – Lydia Radke

The biggest challenge is the nature of the program. Safe Haven works with people who are chronically homeless and severely mentally ill. They are an isolated population who have a hard time with any type of relationship. It is most challenging when they first move in trying to set up a system where they can feel safe and comfortable.

Other challenge is moving people to permanent housing. Some people get really comfortable and become ensconced. By working with clients through Shelter Plus Care vouchers and Rent Well (on a one-on-one basis) we have been helping people move to permanent situations.

We have a few staff additions. We now have an intern from Pacific, and Theresa Williams is the program manager. We also have a Housing Specialist to help with move-in/move-out and train staff to help with that critical entry point.

Hillsboro Graduated Independent Living Program - Lydia Radke

Hartner House beds traditionally have been under-utilized. We serve chronically homeless and mentally ill with substance abuse. It is chaotic getting people to stay. The program is moving away from residential treatment to permanent supportive housing.

Currently we have 2, possibly 3, beds available. We have people in the pipeline and should have just 1 bed left at the end of this month. Our goal is to move people from Safe Haven to Hartner House. We have been working with the intake process to ensure that people are housing-ready and can maintain sobriety and work with landlord/tenant law so we can remove people who cannot function in that environment. Next year we hope to be able to state that our beds are all utilized, and people are staying longer.

We brought in an external property management firm. We can now focus on being mental health providers. We have also implemented Dual Diagnosis Anonymous onsite (similar to Alcoholics Anonymous/Narcotics Anonymous) and inviting others from Luke-Dorf programs to attend. A peer specialist also attends. We are also offering Rent Well. The goal is for people to stay longer so they will attend school, become employed, and move forward to self-actualization.

Gordon Teifel asked about how an A-133 audit is different from the other types of audits?

Annette responded that if your agency receives over \$500,000 in Federal funds, you have to do an A-133 audit.

Judy Werner commented that many times whether it says independent or external, it really is an A-133.

Tom Brewer - Deb Allison

LifeWorks NW has operated this house for about 3 years. It takes considerable time to screen people, and many on the waitlist do not meet the basic requirements. We have an onsite manager now, but landlord/tenant law sometimes prevents us from being able to go in and support people. We have a low barrier approach resulting in people moving in and pulling away from services. We have had a number of people who have not stayed long because of that. We are trying to improve connection with tenants.

We currently have 1 vacancy. We haven't had a time when we have been consistently filled. We need to determine how to provide the services, connect with tenants, and partner for service delivery.

Tri-Haven – Alexis Kruse, Amy Atterbury, Bob Loverin

This is a 15 unit permanent supportive housing program for homeless adults with mental illness. We work with a population who are severely mentally ill and meet the homeless criteria. Sometimes this can be a barrier as they may not be sufficiently mentally ill. We are a resource and take referrals not only from our internal programs, but other agencies as well. If you've have referrals, contact Bob Loverin at 503-619-1902. Currently, we have 2 vacancies; 1 with Shelter Plus Care and 1 without. Amy Atterbury is the Housing Liaison.

The people we serve have probably been in higher level of care and are ready to step into more independent living. We do have the challenge that people interpret this as a treatment facility. We offer meals including one hot meal. To help people address the ability to make the service payment, we work with the Department of Human Services to review the program and help residents meet the eligibility for food stamps.

Another challenge is that there are many individuals who don't have a lot of income support. We work with them to get benefits in place; to get them stabilized and work on independent living. Melanie Tong from Washington County Mental Health helps us get respite funds.

Shelter Plus Care - Melanie Fletcher

The challenge is to make referrals to the waiting list. We don't always have a waitlist when we have availability or the reverse.

HMIS - Melanie Fletcher

Not all beds are in HMIS which is a challenge we are working on.

IV. General Business

Emergency Solutions Grant

Lauren Sechrist, Office of Community Development

We met with the HSSN Workgroup on March 8, 2013, and no changes were made to the plan as presented. It was determined how we would allocate funds that are expected in 2013. If we experience budget cuts, we will maintain the amount for emergency shelter. There is a high need for homeless prevention dollars so will maintain the 40/60 percent split of funds between homeless prevention and rehousing. Administration funding will be retained by Office of Community Development.

Motion: Approve ESG funding proposal

Action: Judy Werner

Second: Gordon Teifel

Judy Werner asked if there are cuts, will you come back to us?

Lauren responded that shelter funds will be maintained and will take from other categories.

State Emergency Solutions Grant

Ann Brown, Oregon Housing and Community Services

Ann was not able to attend today. Annette does not know how the state is going to proceed with their consultation with the CoC. Annette will let HSSN know if they will do an email survey like last year or if Ann will come to the April meeting.

V. Announcements

- Annette Evans announced that the FY2013 Action Plan Public Hearing will be held on April 3 at 10 a.m. following the HSSN meeting.
- Vicki Skryha from HUD thanked everyone for their efforts. Data is really important.
- Rochelle Reed announced that Boys and Girls Aid has 1 opening in the Traditional Living Program for a single female.
- Gordon Teifel reminded everyone of the April 11 is the resource fair for students and families in transition from development disabilities services in public schools into community housing and jobs. It will be at Edwards Center.
- Lisa Davila from Luke-Dorf passed out brochures for their program. The program is doing really well and have found more housing.
- Andrea Nelson announced that Beaverton Senior Citizens is hosting a Senior Housing Forum at Beaverton City Library March 30 10 a.m. - 12 noon. Topics will include aging in place, affordable housing, shared housing, and fair housing. If you offer services and want to be represented, contact Andrea. Garlic Jim's is doing Boys and Girls Aid fundraiser tonight. Be sure to mention BGA when ordering.
- Blair Schaffer-Bishop announced that Community Partners for Affordable Housing is marketing office space for lease as well as meeting and event space. She passed out a flyer with rates for non-profits.
- Jack Schwab from Good Neighbor Center talked about their upcoming fundraiser, March 9, "In Other Words," story telling for grownups at Broadway Rose Theater in Tigard.
- Molly Finnagan introduced herself. She started with Veterans Administration 2 months ago on the Homeless Outreach Team. Molly's goal is to find homeless veterans in Clark and Washington counties. If you know people or places she should contact, please let her know.
- Bridget Daniel from HomePlate announced that their drop-in program 3 nights a week served nearly 1,000 youth in 2012. There are 2 fundraisers scheduled; Kickball Tournament June 1 and Farm Plate dinner August 11.
- Martha Duncan from Re-Entry Council announced that they are having a meeting today from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. at Community Corrections Center. The meeting will focus on growth and development of the council. They are looking for people who want to join a committee and currently don't have a mental health presence.
- Andrea Logan-Sanders from Boys and Girls Aid announced that their 4 plex for transitional living program is now open in downtown Beaverton. This is for non-HUD funded youth. Open and full! They no longer have the duplex in Hillsboro and have increased the number they can serve by 1. There was a news story on KGW last night.
- Annette Evans announced that the SOS Shelter has closed for the season. They are now working to put together funding to open again in December 2013. Some church shelters have stayed open and will send out an update.

- Annie Heart announced that Vision Action Network is holding a summit on aging. VAN will have 4 forums this year. The first is in May - luncheon with mayors. She will provide info to Annette for distribution.

VI. **Adjournment:** 10:13 am

Minutes prepared by
Kathy Eichorst
Washington County Department of Housing Services

To be added to the HSSN email list, contact Annette Evans at Annette_Evans@co.washington.or.us