

HOUSING and SUPPORTIVE SERVICES NETWORK

Strategic Planning and Discharge Workgroup (The CoC Board)

Friday, December 11, 2015

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) October 9, 2015 HSSN Workgroup Minutes

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

A) Approve the 2015 AHAR Report to HUD. (Veronica Clevidence)[Action]

B) Update: Year 8 of the 10-Year Plan - Special Initiatives to Address Prevention and Ending Homelessness. (All)

a. Legal Clinic Initiative

b. Standardize Conversion Rate for Community Service Work

c. Keep People in Housing:

i. Emergency Rent Assistance for households paying 70% or more income toward housing (or something similar) for 1 to 9 months using model of Emergency Solution Grant

ii. Create affordable housing for people at or below 50% Area Median Income through gap funding of housing projects in the pipeline.

C) HUD Release Final Rule for Chronic Homeless Definition 24 CFR Parts 91 and 578, Docket No. FR-5809-F-01; effective date 1/15/2016. (Annette Evans)

a. Outreach and Point In Time Homeless Census

b. CoC Program Projects

c. Community Connect

d. HMIS

D) FY2015 McKinney-Vento CoC Program Grant Application \$3,219,775.

Grant application submitted, pending HUD Award. (Annette Evans)

E) CoC Planning Calendar 2015/2016 – Update, as necessary. (All)

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[Action]

• Friday, February 12, 2016

• Friday, April 8, 2016

• 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

October 9, 2015

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 –HMIS Lead/Wash. Co. Housing Services
- Evans, Annette – CoC Lead/Wash. Co. Housing Services
- Galian, Katherine– Community Action Organization
- Harbin, Angie – Cascade AIDS Project
- Hille, Marcia – Sequoia Mental Health Services Inc.
- Knapp, Mona -- Luke-Dorf, Inc.
- Logan-Sanders, Andrea – Boys & Girls Aid
- Radke, Lydia – Wash. Cty. Community Corrections
- Schwab, Jack – Good Neighbor Center
- Sechrist, Lauren – Wash. Co. Office of Community Development
- Stoller, Rick – Salvation Army Veteran & Family Center
- Voiss, Karen – Housing Independence
- Werner, Judy – Lutheran Community Services NW

COC BOARD MEMBER NOT PRESENT

- Duncan-Perez, Martha– Wash. Co. Reentry Council
- Pero, David – Homeless Education Network/McKinney-Vento Homeless Student Liaison
- Rogers, Pat – Formerly Homeless/Community Action
- Valfre, Adolph "Val" – Housing Authority of Washington County
- Winnie, Lana – LifeWorks Northwest

OTHER ATTENDEES

- Burton, Valerie – Luke-Dorf, Inc.
- Johnson, Ellen – Oregon Law Center
- Mattia, Matt – Wash. Co. Office of Community Development

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 August 14, 2015.

Action: Katherine Galian

Second: Marcia Hille

Vote: Approved - Unanimous

III. BUSINESS ITEMS

A) Update: Legal Clinic Initiative– Ms. Annette Evans

The first Legal Clinic will occur October 15, 2015. The Oregon Law Center will provide services pro bono to clients referred through Community Connect. To be referred to the clinic, clients must answer yes to one of the predefined questions regarding homelessness and inability to obtain housing because of a legal issue. Issues addressed might be minor violations such as sleeping on sidewalks, eviction, and bankruptcy. Two clients have already been referred from Community Connect, and an update will be provided. Ellen Johnson said one appointment has been scheduled.

B) Update: Standardization of Conversion Rate for Community Service Work – Ms. Annette Evans

There was an initiative to change the current \$10 conversion rate for community service work in Washington County to align with the Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI) standard for Landscape Technician. While the courts decided against the change, a new subcommittee was formed including Annette Evans, Ellen Johnson, and Community Corrections, to look at options and revisit the individuals that would benefit from this change. Ellen Johnson said the Department of Corrections doesn't collect race and ethnicity data on community service participants. Lydia Radke responded that the information is collected, it's just not published publicly. Ellen believes this data would help the initiative. Lydia will take it back to the Department of Corrections and ask about this data.

Once there is a compelling case as to why \$10 may not be the most appropriate conversion rate, four members of the Homeless Plan Advisory Committee (HPAC), and HSSN Workgroup will take it to the courts and present the case.

C) Accept Resignation from the HSSN Workgroup submitted by Ms. Lauren Sechrist effective 11/1/2015; open election for ESG/CDBG/HOME Representative – Ms. Annette Evans

Annette read the letter of resignation received from Lauren Sechrist, as she is relocating to New York. This resignation creates a vacancy in the HSSN Workgroup for a representative that manages ESG (Emergency Solutions Grant), CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) and HOME funds. The vacancy and potential replacement will be announced at the next HSSN meeting. Valerie Burton recommended Matt Mattia to replace Lauren, as Matt is now administering ESG funds for Washington County. Lauren said Matt is a Rehab Housing Coordinator with experience in administering Vancouver, Washington's CDBG grants and will now be administering ESG.

D) FY2015-2016 McKinney-Vento CoC Program Grant Application \$2,728,665 Annual Renewal Demand– Annette Evans

a. Discussion on HUD requirement to respond to new renewal application questions

Annette Evans explained that the application for the HUD grant asked many new questions this year, and requires that continuums put 15% of the annual funding below the funding line. This translates to \$409,300. HUD is requiring that continuums across the country address: ending veteran homelessness by 2015, ending chronic homelessness by 2017, ending youth and family and all other homelessness by 2020. There are a few things in the application that will require discussion by this group.

The application asks if the CoC reduced veteran homelessness by at least 75% since 2010. Per the Point In Time (PIT) count this year, there were 77 homeless veterans, with 94 in 2010. This means we only reduced 71%, though the number of unsheltered veterans has been dramatically reduced. Then the question becomes whether the CoC (Continuum of Care) will end veteran homelessness by 2015. The application looks at referrals to HUD-VASH (Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing) and SSVF (Support Services for

Veterans and Families), and how the CoC programs prioritize to serve veterans. As this is a narrative, Annette will be able to explain it. Annette has the data regarding vacancy rates that also shows that rents have gone up 50% in the past three years. Katherine Galian said it seems more people are securing housing, and Rick Stoller said SSVF has helped. Annette asked what the reason would be for not housing all the veterans if she has an opportunity to explain. Rick said there are not enough beds, there are multiple barriers including mental illness and criminal history, and rent is too high. Valerie Burton said there are always some people that don't wish to be housed. Consensus that the CoC will not reach the goal by the end of 2015. Annette asked how continuums that are claiming functional zero are achieving the goal. Rick said New Orleans has claimed to be at functional zero because they have beds set aside for veterans should they be in need, but he added that they also have many veterans that are unidentified. Ellen Johnson asked if the multiple barriers are due to lack of resources. Rick confirmed, and Ellen stressed that this needs to be mentioned in the application. Annette asked if the Veterans Administration (VA) is serving more people now, and Rick said that they are, except the veterans on the street that are suffering from severe mental issues and not seeking treatment. Annette asked if there is outreach to those people. Rick said there is, and Valerie Burton asked for VA outreach contact information. Rick referred her to the Centralized Veterans Resource Center (CVRC) in Portland.

Discussion on ending chronic homelessness by 2017. The CoC was on track using 90 project-based Section 8 vouchers, of which 41 units were project-based and the Housing Authority is not in a position to complete the project-based commitment. In addition, chronic homelessness has increased in the community. The application asks the CoC to demonstrate how chronic homelessness is priority. Annette reviewed in 2014 the CoC prioritized all chronic individuals coming through Community Connect be referred immediately to permanent supportive housing beds as the CoC prioritized 100% of non-dedicated beds that turn-over for chronic. Annette brought up the issue that chronic homeless that are counted in Washington County during the PIT may be accessing services from other jurisdictions, and be difficult to engage with throughout the year. A question is asked during the PIT to determine "residency" as homeless in Washington County; however, homeless are served in Washington County Severe Weather Shelters during the winter as they need resources, and may not be willing to state they reside in other jurisdictions for fear of having to leave the shelter. Annette said there was a discussion three years ago on this with other CoC leads, but the question was who claims which people, and nothing was decided. There is a need to revisit the question of deduplication at the state level.

Housing First model determination for projects. Annette shared the low-barrier and Housing First questions in the project applications. The specificity of this criteria is very helpful to CoCs as they work to align with HUDs vision/description on what "housing first" means. Low-barrier includes not screen out for: substance abuse, minor criminal records with some exceptions, requirement to participate in services, restrictions on drug and alcohol use, or because they have a history of domestic violence but lack resources to leave the abuser. Ellen Johnson said the Department of Justice has determined that the criminalization of homelessness such as camping is unconstitutional. Many communities do not adhere to this decision, and Angie Harbin said changing laws doesn't change behavior. Ellen said once industry standards change, it becomes more common for people to follow those standards. Annette asked Lydia to look up state-mandated restrictions for Housing First criminal records. Group consensus that the Legacy Shelter Plus Care adheres to the housing first model as defined by HUD in the CoC application.

Strategies on increased employment and non-employment-related income was discussed. Marcia Hille said Sequoia started an employment program last fall. Annette will follow up with her for details.

b. OR-506CoC Tier 1 and Tier 2 Ranking and Rating

There were two projects presented at the HSSN meeting: RISE (Rehousing In Support of Employment), a rapid rehousing for families project sponsored by Community Action, and Clover Court, a permanent supportive housing for chronic individuals sponsored by Luke-Dorf. The potential funding is not enough to support both, and the votes were close, with Clover Court receiving 702 points and RISE receiving 694 points.

The Workgroup reviewed the need for housing units given the low-vacancy rate and felt that Clover Court would create new housing capacity. The Workgroup acknowledged the work of Community Action in addressing the needs of homeless families with children.

Motion: Approve Clover Court as the Permanent Housing Bonus project in the FY2015 CoC Collaborative Applicant.

Action: Katherine Galian

Second: Jack Schwab

Vote: Approved - Unanimous

The Workgroup reviewed the Measuring Performance of CoC Programs matrix provided by Annette that includes APR outcomes for each project that has submitted an APR in the last year. The Washington County Transitional Housing Program has lower performance and was selected for Tier 1 with the understanding that these funds will be reallocated in the next grant application process. The Workgroup acknowledged the benefit of having 3 units committed and available to serve homeless families with criminal history – especially given the current low vacancy rate and high cost of housing.

HUD's application requires that the CoC place \$409,300 in Tier 2. The Workgroup discusses several options for placing programs in Tier 2, and concluded that the new HUD "straddle of Tier 1 and Tier 2" option was the best using one Legacy Shelter Plus Care (SPC) project. If not funded, this could potentially impact 45 households currently receiving rent assistance under the program. The Workgroup address options to address transitioning or exiting people with the lowest vulnerability or severity to other housing options should this occur. Annette supplied each service provider with a list of their current SPC participant. Various options were discussed with no determination at this time on how to reduce the number of persons on this program should the funding be lost. When asked about timeline for HUD announcement, Annette reported we do not know and there is a concern that the government could shut-down on December 12. This means that federal funds set aside for CoC Programs will not be able to be dispersed, and could delay the scoring of the applications. Annette and Val Valfre will keep the Workgroup informed. Marcia Hille said Oregon should have new mental health awards announced by the end of November, and there might be rent assistance opportunities coming.

Motion: Approve the Tier 1 and Tier 2 ranking as developed by the Workgroup.

Action: Judy Werner

Second: Angie Harbin

Vote: Approved - Unanimous

The CoC Collaborative Application will be submitted to the Board of County Commissioners and submitted to HUD by November 18.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OPEN DISCUSSION

- Judy Werner announced the Barcelona Apartments are getting close to opening, and that Lutheran Services NW is almost ready to announce their new Executive Director.
- Valerie Bundy announced the Mary Mac House beds have been purchased and people will be moving in next week. The Mary Mac House is funded by county general funds.
- Someone announced that the Hawthorne Villa Apartments are being sold.

V. WORKGROUP MEETING SCHEDULE – SAVE THE DATE

- Friday, December 11, 2015

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:24 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.