



HOUSING and SUPPORTIVE SERVICES NETWORK

Providing a Continuum of Care for Vulnerable Populations in Washington County

Wednesday, March 4, 2015 ~ 8:30 to 10:00 a.m.

>>> The Beaverton Building at “The Beaverton Round” <<<

Third Floor Training Room

12725 SW Millikan Way, Beaverton, OR 97005-1641

AGENDA

I. INTRODUCTIONS: 8:30 a.m.

II. GUEST SPEAKER: 8:35 a.m.

- Mr. Walt Peck and Mr. Philip Bransford, Washington County Administration
- Public Safety Levy
- Mr. Nick Knudsen, WorkSystems Inc.
- “Reboot Northwest”, a 4-year federal grant to train long-term unemployed residents and career-seeking veterans for jobs in the Manufacturing and IT sectors.

III. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: 9:25 a.m. Action Item

IV. GENERAL BUSINESS: 9:30 a.m.

- Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) consultation with the CoC by Lauren Sechrist, Washington County Office of Community Development
- Approve Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Allocation methodology and proposed policy changes. Action Item
- Election of “Outreach/Citizen At-Large” position for HSSN Strategic Planning and Discharge Workgroup (the CoC Board) Action Item
- FY2015 CoC Program Homeless Assistance Grant Inventory Worksheet (GIW) submitted 2/13/2015.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS: 9:50 a.m.

VI. ADJOURNMENT: 10:00 a.m.

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, April 1, 2015

Guest Speakers:

Kim Armstrong, Housing Authority Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program

Department of Housing Services

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Equal Housing Opportunity

HOUSING AND SUPPORTIVE SERVICES NETWORK

Maintaining a Continuum of Care in Washington County

Beaverton Building

February 4, 2015 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:

Blaker, Ann—Bienestar	McVey, Jaycanna—Boys and Girls Aid
Browning, Rose—Good Neighbor Center	Nelson, Barbara—Community Volunteers/Vet. Advocate
Burleson, David—Wash. Co. ReEntry Council	Perkowski, Kaja—Open Door Counseling Center
Burnham, Jeff—Luke-Dorf, Inc.	Ram, Sarla—CODA, Inc.
Burton, Valerie—Luke-Dorf, Inc.	Rogers, Pat—Community Action Organization
Calfee, Bridget—HomePlate	Salvon, Jeff—City of Beaverton
Carlsen, Kurt—Worksource Oregon	Sechrist, Lauren—Wash. Co. Community Development
Clevidence, Veronica—Wash. Co. Housing Services	Seward, Michelle—Lifeworks Northwest
Duncan-Perez, Martha—Wash. Co. ReEntry Council	Stoller, Rick—Salvation Army Veterans & Family Center
Earp, Eric—Homeless to Work Prog./Bridges2Change	Stoullil, Vera—Boys and Girls Aid
Eslinger, Liz—Write Around Portland	Taylor, Molly—Washington County DHS
Evans, Annette—Wash. Co. Housing Services	Teifel, Gordon—Families for Independent Living & DEAR
Finnegan, Molly—United States Veterans Affairs	Turk, Nicki—Cascade AIDS Project
Freeman, Katie—Beaverton CDBG	Valfre, Val—Housing Authority of Washington County
Huggins, Sarah—Family Promise of Washington County	Watson, Scott—Luke-Dorf, Inc.
Kalevor, Komi—Housing Authority of Washington County	Werner, Judy—Lutheran Community Services, NW
Matthews, Molly—Salvation Army Veterans & Family Center	Yagle, Dixie—Bridges to Change

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

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

I. INTRODUCTIONS

II. GUEST SPEAKERS

Changing Lives Through the Power of Writing

Ms. Elizabeth Eslinger (Liz), Write Around Portland

Liz opened by engaging the group in one of the writing exercises employed by Write Around Portland, and having everyone share their observations. Liz shared the origins, mission, and participant stories from Write Around Portland. The program offers three cycles of programs each year, and has partnered with agencies from around the Portland metro area to provide workshops since 1999, when the organization was founded by Liza Halley and Ben Moorad. At the end of each season, books are professionally published containing the work of the participants, and readings are given. The focus is on the positive, and helps build community.

The model is very accommodating, and works well with many different types of groups. Some groups partnered with include Coffee Creek Correctional, Sexual Abuse Resource Center, Home Forward, Albertina Kerr, and Self Determination Resources, Inc. Partners are asked to pay a sliding scale fee to cover costs and actively recruit participants, and Write Around Portland provides the workshop itself. During a workshop, Write Around Portland provides skilled volunteer writing workshop facilitators, all materials (personal journal, bus tickets, personalized postcards sent weekly to each participant, snacks), and

accommodations when needed (someone to write for those that can't write, child care). Write Around Portland also publishes the book and ensures that each participant and partner receives a copy.

While participants come with different needs and expectations, most come away with increased mental and physical health benefits, improved written and oral communication skills, improved confidence and self-esteem, increased sense of community, reduced feelings of isolation, and greater ability to complete the General Equivalency Diploma (GED) or other college programs.

Write Around Portland is expanding in Washington County, and Liz shared a short movie regarding participant Susan Steves, and her experience with the program.

The ideal group size is 10 to 18 participants, and the cost of conducting a workshop varies, but is approximately \$6500. Partner agencies are asked to pay up to half of the total costs, with Write Around Portland paying the remainder. Liz provided business cards and contact information, and asked that interested agencies contact her.

Draft Consolidated Plan 2015-2020 Comments and Timeline for Public Hearing

Ms. Lauren Sechrist, Washington County Office of Community Development

Ms. Katie Freeman, City of Beaverton

The "draft of the draft" of the consolidated plan will be available for feedback until February 20th. Suggestions will be taken into consideration and then the draft will open again from March 10th to April 9th for public commentary before it goes to the board of county commissioners on May 5th. The Consolidated Plan will then be submitted to HUD by May 15th at the latest.

- Volume I is the official HUD version, and is more scaled down.
- Volume II has more supplementary data including results of the citizen survey and the non-housing needs survey.
- Volume III is the action plan, and is not yet available. Actions will be determined once it is known what is funded.
- Volume IV is the more reader-friendly version from which the Office of Community Development wants feedback from the group.

A handout was provided to the group detailing the information above and highlights from Volume IV, which Lauren Sechrist explained is basically a roadmap for where to find things in the Consolidated Plan.

- Chapter One includes demographic data for Washington County, and provides an overview.
- Chapter Two talks about the plan for public involvement in the process of developing the consolidated plan, and explains the minimum standards under which the plan is required to operate.
- Chapter Three is the Housing Market Analysis and Needs Assessment which discuss the housing, homeless, and non-housing community development needs in Washington County.
- Chapter Four is the Community Development Plan. This highlights how funds under the CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) Program will be allocated.
- Chapter Five is the Consolidated Plan Maps. These have changed from the opportunity maps used last time, and are now driven by needs identified by the applicants themselves.

- Chapter Six is the Strategic Plan, which is the heart of the Consolidated Plan. This illustrates how funds and other resources will be deployed, and actions which will be taken to address the community development and affordable housing needs.

There will be an open hearing on April 1 in this room (First Floor Council Chambers) for the consolidated plan. This group is encouraged to review the Consolidated Plan and provide feedback, particularly the portion detailing proposed CDBG allocations, which have shifted slightly.

Katie Freeman spoke regarding the City of Beaverton's CDBG grant. The city takes up to 20% for administration and 15% for public service agencies, and prioritizes allocations with the Washington County Ten-year Plan to End Homelessness. The city's application process ended last week and the applications are currently in the process of review.

A difference from the county's allocation is that while the county separates remaining funds between Public Infrastructure (30%), Affordable Housing (40%), and Public Facilities (30%), the city of Beaverton allocates their remaining funds mainly to Home Ownership and Economic Development. Public Facilities and Infrastructure are also included in the Consolidated Plan, but in the past five years, the city has not received any projects or applications for infrastructure. The city is looking more toward home ownership opportunities, low-income housing, home rehabilitation through either loans or grants, and economic development, including micro-enterprises.

The portion of Beaverton's plan that this group might be most interested in reviewing is a short portion at the end of Chapter Four.

Lauren will send a link to the Consolidated Plan to the HSSN to review online.

Jeff Salvon asked how eligible area is determined for the purpose of infrastructure. Lauren responded that the American Community Survey data provides that information. For Washington County, the standard is that 50.44% of the people in the area are 80% or below low-moderate income.

III. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Motion: Approve the January 7, 2015 HSSN meeting minutes.
Action: Pat Rogers
Second: Lauren Sechrist
Vote: Approved, unanimous.

IV. GENERAL BUSINESS

Announcement of Vacant Outreach/Citizen At-large position on the HSSN Strategic Planning and Discharge Workgroup

Annette Evans announced that nominations are open for this position and next month the HSSN will hold elections. Email Annette if you would like to nominate yourself or someone else, but if you nominate another person, please be sure they are interested in serving. The group will be meeting on Friday, February 13.

2015 Point-in-Time Homeless Count Debrief of Activities

Pat Rogers reported that the last day of collecting data was last Friday, January 30. Data is still being entered, so there are not finalized numbers yet. Anecdotally, the volunteers seem to have come into contact with fewer people in each geographic area this year. The most productive areas were libraries and the severe weather shelters. One of the reasons there were fewer people might be because some jurisdictions have taken a stand against panhandling, making it more difficult to find people there in those jurisdictions. No

panhandlers were seen in Beaverton, Tigard or King City. Data is still coming in from some partners, but Project Homeless Connect numbers have been completely entered.

Valerie Burton said many contacts were made at meals and shelters, and the volunteers already working at these places collected a lot of data. Three HUD employees were encouraged by their supervisors to volunteer, and did. Valerie shared that a woman she met in a shelter, who had gone through Community Connect a few weeks ago, had received housing prior to the count and came back to volunteer, because now that she was housed, she could help.

FY2014 McKinney-Vento CoC Program Grant Award Tier 1 and Tier 2 Renewal Funding \$2,720,993

Annette Evans said that HUD is moving forward with the new competitive grant application, and she needs to complete and submit the CoC Grant Inventory Worksheet by Friday, February 13th. The HSSN Workgroup will review the worksheet before submitting.

The FY2014 award just received was for 2.7 million dollars. The application requested 2.6 million, but about \$44,000 more was awarded due to fair market rent adjustments (FMR). The county is currently underfunding it's HUD-supported programs by \$47,000/month due to a lack of affordable housing available for people with barriers. The HSSN Workgroup is working on several initiatives to address these barriers. Community Corrections is trying to figure out how to implement a program to allow people with court fees to work them off using community service. Dedicated revenue tools for building affordable housing in Washington County are being looked at.

The Homeless Plan Advisory Committee (HPAC) met last month. Jes Larson and Jennie Proctor each provided presentations on revenue tools to develop affordable housing, and then each member of the HPAC shared what they thought about the options presented to them, and which they felt they could support.

Jeff Salvon asked if there is an update on the homeless cost study. Annette said that initiatives include looking at program models around permanent supportive housing and affordable housing. The cost to house one person in a shelter for a day is about \$61 average, versus the cost of \$17 per day for a household after two years in rent subsidy. Those with criminal history barriers were inadvertently excluded from the study because they are usually unable to receive any housing. Val Valfre added that though both were represented, the study focused more on families than singles. The end game was get people into housing and stability. When there is no end to sheltering, there is no stability. The question remains how to provide more housing in Washington County with less barriers. The initial and longitudinal studies are on Vision Action Network's website.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Annette Evans announced that there are documents regarding careers on the back table, and urged everyone to take them for their clients.
- Annette also reminded everyone that Nick Knudsen from WorkSystems, Inc. will be speaking about the Reboot NW Grant at the next meeting.
- Faith Advocacy Day is on February 28th in Salem. Annette will email information to the HSSN.
- Martha Duncan-Perez announced that The Washington County Re-Entry Council meets every other month at the Community Corrections Center, and the next meeting will be held on March 11th from 1 to 3.
- Val Valfre introduced Komi Kalevor, Washington County Housing Services' new Assistant Director. He also asked that the group applaud itself for the 2.7 million dollar award.

- Lauren Sechrist announced that the proposed Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) allocations for 2015 would be reviewed at the February Strategic Workgroup meeting to get a recommendation for how ESG funds should be allocated amongst the different eligible activities. The recommendation will then be brought to the HSSN at large for approval on March 4th. She also reminded the group that there would be a public hearing for the Consolidated Plan on April 1st in this room, and another on April 9th following the public advisory board in Hillsboro at 7 p.m.
- Gordon Teifel announced that he attended the Autistic Society of Oregon (ASO) Housing Workshop last Saturday. 143 people signed up for this day-long workshop, many of them families trying to figure out the puzzle of housing for their relative with autism. Non-profit and government agencies participated and described supports. Autistic people have a diverse set of needs.
- Katie Freeman announced that the Fair Housing Council of Oregon is having a contest for children grades 1 through 8, and if you have clients with children, please pass the information along.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:48 a.m. The next meeting is March 4, 2015 at 8:30 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Veronica Clevidence
Washington County Department of Housing Services

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